Gamst' Conversational Grammar

TABLE 1 Grammar Rules for Simply Dyadic Conversations			Conversation	
1) 2) 3) 4)	Conversation \rightarrow Encounter \rightarrow Interaction \rightarrow Departure \rightarrow Selectio	Encounter + Interaction + Departure Greeting** + [Inquiry] ^b + (Situation + Relationship) ^c Topic* + Topic Exchange* Abridgement + [Termination] n Restriction Rules on the Content of the Conversation	Encounter Interaction Greeting Inquiry Topic Topic Exchange Abrid	Departure gement Termination
1)	Situation \rightarrow	Time Place Occasion	Car Conversation	
2)	Relationship →	Age Sex Status Previous Interactions	1. M: Hello John. 2. J: Hi Mary. 3. M: How have you been doing? Inquiry	
3)	Topic →	Interests Needs Concerns Point of View	4. J: Oh, not too bad. 5. M: Did you get that Chevy of yours running?] Top 6. J: No, but I know what's wrong with it.	ic]
4)	Reciprocity Instructions \rightarrow	Dialogue will be of short duration Few topics will emerge Each topic will be relatively simple Each utterance will be relatively short	7. M: What's that? 8. J: The electrical system is all messed up. 9. M: Maybe you need a new battery? 10. J: No, I think it's the voltage regulator.	Topic-exchange
^a Asterisk (*) means the element may be repeated. ^b Brackets [] mean the element may be optionally included in the grammatical surface and deep structure. ^c Parentheses () mean that no particular sequential order is implied.			 11, M: Sounds pretty expensive. 12, J: t think I can get it replaced for under twenty dollars. 13. M: Well let me know how it works out. 14, J: Ok, I will. 	
			15. M: Bye, bye. 16. J: Bye. FIG. I. Example and structure of a simple dyac	lic conversation.

From: Glenn Gamst, Memory for conversation: Toward a grammar of dyadic conversation, Discourse Processes, 1982, 5, pp. 33-51.