

# VU Research Portal

## From police interrogation to police record

van Charldorp, T.C.

2012

### **document version**

Publisher's PDF, also known as Version of record

[Link to publication in VU Research Portal](#)

### **citation for published version (APA)**

van Charldorp, T. C. (2012). *From police interrogation to police record*. [PhD-Thesis - Research and graduation internal, Vrije Universiteit Amsterdam]. BOXPress.

### **General rights**

Copyright and moral rights for the publications made accessible in the public portal are retained by the authors and/or other copyright owners and it is a condition of accessing publications that users recognise and abide by the legal requirements associated with these rights.

- Users may download and print one copy of any publication from the public portal for the purpose of private study or research.
- You may not further distribute the material or use it for any profit-making activity or commercial gain
- You may freely distribute the URL identifying the publication in the public portal

### **Take down policy**

If you believe that this document breaches copyright please contact us providing details, and we will remove access to the work immediately and investigate your claim.

### **E-mail address:**

[vuresearchportal.ub@vu.nl](mailto:vuresearchportal.ub@vu.nl)

## TABLE OF CONTENTS

TRANSCRIPTION KEY	1
KEY TO SPEAKERS AND EXAMPLES	3
CHAPTER 1   INTRODUCTION	5
1.1 From police interrogation to police record: an introduction to this thesis	
1.2 From police interrogation to trial: an explanation of the bigger project	
1.3 From ethnographic research to conversation analysis: the theory	
1.3.1 Ethnography	
1.3.2 Conversation analysis	
1.3.3 Conversation analysis in institutional settings	
1.3.4 Conversation analysis and police interrogations	
- Technology and performing multiple activities	
- Text	
- Intertextuality	
1.4 From original recording to text: transcription, translation and anonymity issues	
1.5 From preliminary social talk to signing the record: the outline of a police interrogation	
1.5.1 Asymmetries in the police interrogation setting	
1.6 From police interrogation to police record: an example	
1.7 From beginning to end: thesis outline	
CHAPTER 2   COLLECTING POLICE INTERROGATIONS AND RECORDS	37
Introduction	
2.1 Gathering materials	
2.1.1 Entry into the field	
- Preparations	
- Entry negotiations	
- The first time	
2.1.2 Maintaining relations	
- How do you build up a good relationship?	
- Exit	
2.1.3 Fieldwork problems	
- Observer's paradox	
- The audio recorder	

- Seating arrangement
- Taking notes
- Role taking
- 2.2 A first listen: The suspects' cases
  - 2.2.1 Minors
    - Types of crimes
    - Background & family relationships
    - Friendships
    - Street life and gangs
    - Material objects (mobile phones, iPods, digital camera, scooter)
    - Parental or other forms of control
    - Future
  - 2.2.2 Adults
    - Types of crimes
    - Background & family relationships
    - Friendships
    - Money & drugs
    - Material objects (mobile phones, video cameras, GPS systems, MP3 players)
    - I'm innocent
    - Future
- Conclusion

**CHAPTER 3 | INITIAL OBSERVATIONS: CHOOSING THE RESEARCH TOPIC**

75

- 3.1 Initial observations while preparing materials
  - Transcribing
  - Transcribing typing
  - Transcribing text
  - The product & the process
- 3.2 The product: the police record structure, style and stories
  - 3.2.1 The police record structure
  - 3.2.2 The police record styles
    - Monologue style
    - Recontextualisation phrase style
    - Question-answer style
  - 3.2.3 Written stories
  - 3.2.4 Summary and research question 1: how are the suspects' stories elicited, told and written down during the interrogation?

- 3.3 The process: typing and talking in the various phases of the police interrogation
  - 3.3.1 Preliminary actions and social talk
  - 3.3.2 Form-filling
  - 3.3.3 The police caution
  - 3.3.4 Social interrogation
  - 3.3.5 Case-related interrogation
  - 3.3.6 Exit activities
  - 3.3.7 Summary and research question 2: how are talk & typing coordinated in the various phases of the police interrogation
- Conclusion

## **CHAPTER 4 | “WHAT HAPPENED?” FROM TALK TO TEXT IN POLICE INTERROGATIONS**

113

- Introduction
- 4.1 Storytelling literature
- 4.2 Story elicitations
  - 4.2.1 Shifting frames and framing the question
  - 4.2.2 Doing being ordinary
- 4.3 Suspects’ stories
  - 4.3.1 “Free” story, further questioning & typing and the written story
    - Free story
    - Further questioning & typing
    - Written story
  - 4.3.2 “Supervised” story & typing and the written story
    - Supervised story & typing
    - Written story
  - 4.3.3 “Imposed” story and the written story
    - Imposed story
    - Written story
  - 4.3.4 Summary
- Conclusion

## **CHAPTER 5 | FROM TALK TO TEXT: THE COORDINATION OF TALK AND TYPING IN POLICE INTERROGATIONS**

167

- Introduction
- 5.1 Typing and other activities in institutional settings
- 5.2 Managing multiple activities during the police interrogation: talking and typing

- 5.2.1 Basic QAT structure
- 5.2.2 A specialized skill: talking and typing simultaneously
- 5.2.3 Formulations and typing
  - Formulation before typing
  - Formulation after typing
- 5.2.4 Summary
- 5.3 Typing styles
  - 5.3.1 Typing in different phases of the interrogation
    - Form-filling
    - Social interrogation
    - Case-related interrogation
    - Exit activities
  - 5.3.2 Two police officers
  - 5.3.3 Summary
- 5.4 Typing as structuring and controlling action
  - 5.4.1 Police officer demonstrates selective interest
  - 5.4.2 How typing structures the talk and the text
  - 5.4.3 A comparison: story elicitation without typing vs. interrogating with typing
  - 5.4.4 Summary
- Conclusion

**CHAPTER 6 | CONCLUSION & DISCUSSION** **221**

- Introduction
- 6.1 Summary
- 6.2 Theoretical implications
- 6.3 Practical implications
- 6.4 Suggestions for future research

- APPENDIX** **233**
- REFERENCES** **243**
- SUMMARY IN DUTCH / SAMENVATTING** **253**
- CURRICULUM VITAE** **257**