

## Topicalising Mental Health in Ordinary Conversation

*The data come from a collection of interactions related to mental health in various settings. This example is an old-school audio-only ordinary conversation between a granddaughter and grandmother approximately one month after the grandfather's unexpected death. The basis of the conversation is the use of mental-health related vocabulary, in this case, the word "depressed." All analytic comments about any interactional feature or practice are welcome.*

**Recording details:** audio-only recording, basic Jefferson transcription, approx 2-minute clip, recorded 23 August 2013

**Content warning:** conversation mentions death, depression

**Participants:** Grandmother (GRA), granddaughter (JR = Jessica Robles [me])

**Person references:** Jack/grandpa (grandfather who recently died), Jim (the brother of Jack), Julie (anonymisation of the daughter of grandmother and mother of granddaughter)

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This clip starts around ten minutes before the end of a 55-minute conversation audio-recorded while participants were sitting on a couch at grandmother's house. Prior to line 01, grandmother has been describing that her daughter Julie's partner ("he") was taking photographs during the funeral, which were put onto a CD ("CeeDee" = compact disc) (line 01). This occasions the first reference to the grandfather's brother.

### "A little depressed" [44:43-46:30]

01 GRA: so that was nice=and then he put it on a CeeDee,  
02 (.)  
03 JR: ↑oh yeah.  
04 GRA: and then u::h (1.5) Jack's brother:  
05 (0.5) who's now in um,  
06 (2.0)  
07 GRA: °o::h.°  
08 JR: Ariz[ona?]  
09 GRA: [(Aust/Bost-)] or Boulder yeah  
10 I guess it is i- Bullhead(.)  
11 JR: [°okay°]

12 GRA: [City]=  
13 JR: =m:=  
14 GRA: =but yeah right across the border.  
15 JR: m:.  
16 GRA: so uh (0.5) Julie made a (.) copy  
17 and sent it to him because he=  
18 JR: =↑oh right,=  
19 GRA: =didn't get a chance to even come for  
20 his own brother's  
21 JR: ↑yeah.=  
22 GRA: =service (.) you know.  
23 JR: did you hear from him eventually? [00:27]  
24 GRA: yeah we did.=  
25 JR: =oh good.=  
26 GRA: =finally (.) [yea]h.  
27 JR: [yeah.]  
28 (1.5)  
29 GRA: yeah we couldn't get a number or  
30 anything (.) it was (.) (w:)weird=  
31 JR: =huh=  
32 GRA: >(he try to notify u-) it just goes  
33 to show you try tu- (.) hh and if he had  
34 not moved=  
35 JR: =ri:ght=  
36 GRA: =recently=  
37 JR: =yea:h=  
38 GRA: >we=woulda been fine< the same number  
39 that (edy)=u[:sed]=

40 JR: [r↑igh]t=  
41 GRA: =you know everything(d) be fine=  
42 JR: =yeah=  
43 GRA: =but because they moved(uh)=  
44 JR: =m:. yeah= [00:47]  
45 GRA: =couldn't even get a hold of him.  
46 JR m:.  
47 GRA: and he must feel really strange because  
48 he's the older brother.  
49 JR: ye↑ah,=  
50 GRA: =and then you hear that your younger brother,=  
51 JR: =right (.) [yeah]  
52 GRA: [you know] it's like uh oh.  
53 JR: ye:ah. (.) surprising [(huh)]  
54 GRA: [an-] and actually  
55 Jack was much [more (healthy shape)]  
56 JR: [o↑h much better shape]=  
57 GRA: =than Jim.=  
58 JR: =ye:ah=  
59 GRA: =Jim is in bad shape.  
60 JR: I mean I didn't know him that well=  
61 GRA =°yeah°=  
62 JR: =but I feel like I've always kind of known  
63 (.) that about him=  
64 GRA: =exactly=

65 JR: =yeah.=

66 GRA: =exactly.

67 JR: n- yeah sometimes people just get lucky [01:10]  
68 (.)or unlucky.

69 GRA: exact[ly]=

70 JR: [.hh]

71 GRA: =so (.) it'll be interesting to see how  
72 long he (.) makes it now.

73 JR: ri:ght (.) yeah=

74 GRA: he might even be (.) a little depressed  
75 about (.) the whole thing.=

76 JR: ri:ght. Well=yeah=

77 GRA: =and then you kind of give up on life and people=

78 JR: =n↑o::: .h=yeah=

79 GRA: =cough off. (.) [you know what I mean ( )]

80 JR: [right (.) yeah]  
81 =↑well <they'd started to be a little bit  
82 more in touch> in recent years hadn't they?

83 GRA: yea::h↑ because Grandpa thought that he [01:32]  
84 should uh (.) you know they're getting  
85 older in year:s and he should keep in touch  
86 and=

87 JR: =°yeah°=

88 GRA: =Jim really couldn't travel anymore t- to  
89 drive (.) they used to come over to the villas  
90 and see us=

**END [01:44]**