It was a pleasure to read *Doing Conversation Analysis, a practical guide* by Paul Ten Have. The book will without doubt be welcomed and used by psychologists and others who want to try out new approaches in qualitative methodology, because it points to new ways in understanding and analyzing conversations. The book is first and foremost a practical guide, as its name implies, but it also contains important conceptual definitions about its subject matter, conversation analysis. From a general perspective, this book is an important contribution in the field of ethnomethodology and as such it applies to researchers in many different fields of qualitative enquiry including psychology.

Paul Ten Have has successfully accomplished a difficult task in writing this book. When reading it I had the recurrent feeling that the book was positively 'alive' with its vivid comments and explanations. The author approaches his subject matter in such a way that he appears to be having a conversation with the reader. This is admittedly a difficult task, and many pitfalls are possible in using this approach. It is to the credit of the author that he has done this in a superb way, and in my opinion his text will make people interested in trying their hand at conversation analysis. In any case, he made me deeply interested in the subject.

Paul Ten Have states that conversation analysis was originally developed as a 'pure' science that was intended to "discover basic and general aspects of sociality". But in later times conversation analysis has been used in applied research, aimed at analyzing institutional interactions. The book presents a historical overview of how conversation analysis has developed from being a 'pure' science to many and varied possible applications.

Although the perspective of the author is sometimes sociological, the book has adopted a general approach to the subject of conversation analysis. For psychologists engaged in research it offers a fresh approach to an important subject matter, namely the analysis of qualitative research interviews. Qualitative research interviews can be viewed as conversations where people interpret the meaning of what is communicated. But which methods should one use to analyse the interviews? The choice of method of analysis will certainly depend on the purpose of the research. It is my feeling that many would-be qualitative researchers using interviews are faced with a difficult problem of choice when it comes to plan their interview guides and choose and develop their own method of analyzing the data. It is for this group of readers that Paul Ten Have’s book is of special significance, because it points out how interviews can be fruitfully analyzed and approached as conversations.

*Doing Conversation Analysis* contains ten chapters in four main parts. Each chapter ends with practical exercises that are designed to be of help to people who want to 'learn by doing' conversation analysis. At the end of each chapter there is also an overview of recommended
readings. This structure is very helpful to the serious reader who wants to develop his skills gradually as he/she reads the book.

In the first part of the book the author introduces conversation analysis, presents three exemplary studies and discusses the ideas and evidence that are basic to the field. In the second part the focus is on data collection and transcription. It should be noted that the analysis of conversations is based on tape recordings and this book is not concerned with treatment of videotaped material. A later volume will be devoted to that approach.

In the third part, which is the core of the book, analysis strategies are described and presented in two chapters. Chapter six is concerned with general strategies and chapter seven is devoted to a more in-depth treatment of conversation analysis. In the latter chapter the author discusses such topics as data selection and treatment, generalization and codability of data. Throughout the book, examples are given about how to analyze conversations. The examples are discussed in depth and the author reflects about possible approaches to analysis. Paul Ten Have has as a main objective 'to put flesh on the abstract bones' of the general advice he offers about how to analyse conversations by giving numerous examples of excerpts from conversations and how they have been analysed. Some of the conversations are in Dutch, with English translations given immediately after each line. I found this practice somewhat surprising, and it is in any case rather unusual. However, it does not have any negative consequences. On the contrary, this approach is inspiring to people who do not speak English as their native language.

The fourth part of the book is devoted to the theme 'sharing data, ideas, and findings'. In this part the author discusses among other things the difference between 'pure' and 'applied' conversation analysis, how research findings can be used and how to communicate research findings to others.

Much valuable practical advice is contained in this book. It is stated in the preface that the main emphasis is not on being a general introduction or an overview of the subject but an invitation to the practice of conversation analysis. However, the author has managed to combine all three objectives, although the main emphasis is on practical application and methods of analysis.

In my opinion the main contribution of the book is as an inspiration to new and experienced researchers alike about methods of analysis that can be applied in qualitative interview research. The book is very 'user-friendly' and approaches its subject matter from a straightforward and common sense point of view. It contains the reflections of an experienced practitioner of conversation analysis that provide a useful starting guide to the novice as well as an inspiration to the more experienced researcher.

The book can definitely be recommended to students and practitioners alike as a valuable contribution in the field of qualitative methodology.