

Locating Latanya: The Situated Production of Identity Artifacts in Classroom Interaction

"Derogatory Terms" Focal Interaction

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Transcript Conventions

=	latched speech of different speakers
+	ongoing speech of the same speaker; line broken to permit display of overlaps
()	inaudible speech, relative to length of space
[overlapping speech of two or more speakers temporally linked by brackets
(talk)	questionable transcription
<u>because</u>	stressed word
NOW	emphatic stress
°sorry°	de-emphasized speech, spoken softly
ha::rd	lengthened sound or syllable
. . .	pause of one-half second or longer
((<i>italics</i>))	additional detail, including embodied activity

1. IAN: I just want to know, Latanya said, like those honky, I mean, but like if I said, yeah, those nigger--huh! ((*aspirated tone, hand over mouth*)) that would be like a whole different story I was wondering how that was=
2. LATANYA: No, see ((*rotating body in chair to face Ian, leaning toward him*)) I wasn't saying it like that, I mean, we was usin' the words, ((*extending hand out in front of her in direction of banner, palm up*)) and I was just--I wasn't tryin to say it like that
3. IAN: I'm just saying that when a Black person makes fun of a White ((*Sam slams hand down on desk and turns his head toward Ian*)) —like the White person's race=((*Ian facing toward teacher while speaking*))
4. LATANYA: It wasn't that, I was talking about the words
5. IAN: No no no--not now, ((*turns head toward Latanya*)) I'm just saying+
[
CALM DOWN
6. TONY:
THERE
7. IAN: that when a Black person makes fun of a White person's race--not in this case, I'm just saying White people don't get mad but if I just said, like, "nigger," HUH! ((*flicks pencil upwards*))

8. LATANYA: ((*orienting head and trunk more directly to Ian*)) NO, I'm not
 ()
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9. MAUREEN: Let me ask you someth-
10. ROBERT: ((*turning head toward Ian, body facing forward*)) °That's because you don't have to take it the way we do.°
11. MAUREEN: O.k., let me interject something, then Sam. Do you really think, it seems to me, and I'll throw this out as an idea for you to think about before Sam goes, like, certain-certain groups have been more historically repressed than others, right? It seems to me that there is no word that you can use to describe a White person that is as powerful as °nigger°. Like, you can call me a cracker, you can call me a honky, I'm not even gonna blink. I mean, it would be weird, it would be very weird, but it wouldn't really . . . hurt me. I think if I called somebody a nigger it would be very painful. Did you notice? ((*starting to point back toward banner*))
12. ROBERT: (Painful for who?)
13. MAUREEN: Well it would be very hard for me to do it, for one thing, ((*extending arm in back of her toward banner while speaking, still facing class*)) another thing is, I noticed there are lots of terms ((*rotates trunk and head quarter turn to face banner more directly*)) to describe sexually active heterosexual women up here.
14. X ((male): Yes.
15. Sam: Oh, yeah.
16. MAUREEN: Where are the derogatory terms that describe really sexually active heterosexual men?
 [
17. SAM: Pimp=
18. IAN: Pimp. ((*laughing, Sam laughing; much other laughter and talk, especially among males.*))
19. MAUREEN: I mean, I'm looking at the balance here ((*moving arms side to side*)). Are there are lot more terms, to describe, I mean, in the balance, ((*arms side to side, to gesture balancing*)) to describe women?
20. ROBERT: Yup. ((*nodding head up and down.*))
21. MAUREEN: Is it a good thing that a guy gets a lot?
22. SHAMEEN: Yeah! ((*others--"yeah"--and other talk*)) Matter of fact ()
23. MAUREEN: O.k., just something to think about. Some terms+
24. SHAMEEN: ((*talking during her talk, puts leg up on desk, MAUREEN puts her hand on his shoulder*))

25. MAUREEN: have more power. Sam ((*pointing to people around room*)) and I don't even know who else. Sam, Benjamin, Anthony, and Terrence and then we'll get to whoever
26. SAM: Oh, about the racial words and everything?
27. MAUREEN: M::: hm:::
28. SAM: I was gonna say the same thing that Ian said, but also like, for me there's like four or five Jews in this whole school, and so, I mean, there's a kid last week that called me a Jewish bastard, and I, I was like two seconds--I mean I grabbed him ((*gestures grabbing with one hand*)) and everything, and I was gonna fight him and everything, but I mean (. .)
29. STUDENT: Tsh:::.. ((*vocalizations from several others. ROBERT makes inaudible remark, shakes head and puts hand to head,*))
30. SAM: People don't think about calling me a kyke or anything because they don't know that kind of stuff. I mean, I'm even more of a minority than anyone else in this class but people don't think about that because I'm White.
31. MAUREEN: They don't have the vocabulary to--put you down?=-
32. IAN: Now we do. ((*raises hands up*))
33. SAM: It's like, it's like, for me to use like
- [
34. SHAMEEN: Would you like me to put you down more, Sam? ((*turning to SAM, others begin laughing after line.*))
35. SAM: What? ye::ah ((*low tones*))
36. SHAMEEN: He say, "What? Ye::ah." ((*mimicking tone and words*))
I can do it for you, Sam.
37. SAM: That's not what I'm sayin.' That's not what I'm saying.
- [
38. MAUREEN: O.k., somebody please use a derogatory term for Sam=
39. SID: No--Sam, could you tell, say--what are you saying?
40. SAM: It's just that there's a distinct difference between like, like a kyke, and a nigger, and a honky and that kind of stuff, ((*SHAMEEN raising hand, facing forward*)) and it seems to me like Ian says, just like the Black community is the only community that seems to like, really find like a pattern with that, and get offended to the point where they have to like, do something about it.
41. ROBERT: ((*Glancing back and speaking over shoulder*)) °But you got offended to the point where you were gonna do something when they called you a kyke°

42. SAM: No, I know, it's just like, it's the same exact thing, but since there's a bigger community of Black people in this classroom even, then there are Jews then it's just like a totally different bigger thing.

43. MAUREEN: Interesting. I know there's ()

44. SHAMEEN: ((to Maureen)) I want to go next

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45. SAM: ((to Robert)) That's not what I'm saying, it's like ()

46. MAUREEN: It goes Benjamin, Anthony, Shameen, then I think Catherine also had her hand up.

47. BENJAMIN: (*leaning back, putting left foot up on chair*) Ian was saying that, a:h, it's not okay to call--a White person cannot call a Black person a nigger, but a Black person can call somebody a honky, and=

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48. LATANYA: ARE YOU REFERRING TO ME BECAUSE I DIDN'T MEAN TO SAY IT, DANG, WHY EVERYBODY+

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49. SHAMEEN: TANYA

50. LATANYA: TRYING TO BLAME IT ALL ON ME—IT SLIPPED—WE SIT (*right hand pointing forward with words "we sit here being in the class"*)

[

51. SHAMEEN: (save your voice) (*leaning closer to Latanya, over desk. Vocalizations by at least two others are audible.*)

52. LATANYA: HERE BEING IN THE CLASS SAYING ALL THESE WORDS GOING AROUND IN MY HEAD (*circling right hand to side of head, leaning in direction of Ben*). SO NOW YOU'RE TRYING TO BRING+ (*Shameen beating hand on desk*)

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53. SHAMEEN: (Save your voice) (*beating hand on desk more forcefully.*)

54. LATANYA: IT ON ME--IF YOU GOT A PROBLEM WITH THAT, WE CAN+ (*With "on me," Latanya leaning in direction of Ben. Kareena puts hand over her face, leans sideways and whispers to Terrence.*)

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55. SHAMEEN: I'm gonna take this coat off and put it over her head. (*Looking toward Maureen, begins to remove coat.*)

56. LATANYA: (DANG) I DON'T CARE ()+

[

57. TONY: WHAT ARE YOU TALKIN ABOUT
((Terrence laughing))
58. LATANYA: I DON'T CARE () ALL Y'ALL
 [
59. TONY: STOP CHILLIN 'TANYA *((hitting cardboard tube on leg; Terrence laughing.))*
 [
60. TERRENCE: Chow-chow chow
 mein do::wn.
 [
61. MALE: TIME OUT
 [
62. SMITTY: WHAT'S REALLY GOIN' ON
 [
63. TONY: He ain't talkin' about you, Tanya+ *((Hooper leans back in his seat, folds arms; Tim begins laughing; after "GOIN' ON," Maureen takes position between Latanya and Ben; Heidi looks up at researcher [Kevin].))*
64. TONY: Tanya
65. MAYOOSHA: Straight up
66. SHAMEEN: (Stop acting ghetto) *((this line inferred and reported from interview data.))*
67. LATANYA: YOU TALK ABOUT THE GHETTO *((looking toward Shameen))* I
 AIN'T NEVER BEEN IN NO GHETTO, MY MAMA'S ALWAYS GOT A HOUSE AND
 WE AIN'T NEVER+ []
68. SHAMEEN: YE:::AH
((broadly swings left arm in air, toward Latanya, with "YE:::AH")).
 [
69. TONY: Alright, thank
you for the biography, Tanya *((Sid moves between Shameen and Latanya, places hand on Shameen's shoulder.))*
70. LATANYA: (BEEN NO BAG WOMAN) MY MAMA WORK AT KRAFT AND+
 []
71. SHAMEEN: YE:::AH
72. LATANYA: WE KEEP FOOD AND WE KEEP FOOD AND CLOTHES ON OUR
 BACK AND A ROOF+
 [

73. TONY: ALRIGHT TANYA, THANK YOU FOR YOUR BIOGRAPHY

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74. SHAMEEN: YE:::AH ((*broad arm swing*))

75. LATANYA: OVER OUR HEAD AND (BOOKS) IN OUR HOUSE AND NOT A () ((*Maureen moves toward Latanya, touches her right shoulder; Sid swings from position in front of Shameen and toward Latanya, places hand on her left shoulder.*))

76. TONY: THANK YOU FOR THE BIOGRAPHY (FRIEND) ((*at "THE BIOGAPHY," Rod falls off stool, laughing, rolling to side on floor.*))

77. MAUREEN: I a:h, I think we have a little problem here+

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78. ROD: He said "thank you for your biography" ((*stands, moves toward Tony. Catherine turns toward Marie, smiles, covers her face with a sheet of paper.*))

79. MAUREEN: I think when I call on somebody they have the right to speak without interruption.