ETHNOMETHOD OF THE INTERACTIONS THROUGH LONG-DISTANCE CALL, PANT-HOOT AND THE RELATION WITH THEIR FISSION-FUSION GROUPING PATTERN OF CHIMPANZEES AT MAHALE

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Chimpanzees form a multi-male/multi-female unit-group and the members of the group usually range in temporary parties. They exchange long-distance calls (pant-hoots) between parties or they utter pant-hoots in chorus within a party. This study aims to analyze how chimpanzees interact using pant-hoots in the M group at Mahale, Tanzania, by applying methods used in ethnomethodology. I observed the case of a lone travelling male who initiated pant-hooting intermittently many times, getting still for about 10 seconds every after utterances. Given that almost 90% of pant-hoots uttered within one minute after hearing pant-hoots by out-of-sight individuals converged within 10 seconds after hearing the pant-hoots, it appeared that he stayed quiet to listen for the response of others, and uttered pant-hoot many times because of no response. This means that hearer's behavior of non-responding can be a social event among them. Moreover, hearers, who turned face to the direction of an out-of-sight individual's pant-hoot, sometimes stayed still for about 10 seconds even after finishing the pant-hoot. These results suggest that not only vocalizers but also non-responding hearers practice same "call-answer" way for exchanging pant-hoots. Meanwhile, in some cases of chorus pant-hoots resulted from visual encounters or interactions among close individuals, they resumed their previous activity without stopping soon after pant-hooting. Although these cases suggest that they did not always utter pant-hoots to call out to out-of-sight individuals, such pant-hoots also could be answered by out-of-sight individuals. Therefore, the interactions through pant-hoot proceed depending on hearer's behaviors and each grouping contexts.

Keywords: chimpanzee, long-distance call, Interaction, fission-fusion