Transcribing Now
Means and Meanings in the Transcription of Spoken Interaction

A symposium in association with the
Conference on Language, Interaction, and Social Organization (LISO)
McCune Conference Room, 6020 HSSB, University of California, Santa Barbara
Sunday, May 15, 2005

Researchers from a broad range of fields find themselves compelled to (re-)consider the nature of their relationship to a common evidentiary practice: the transcription of recordings of naturally occurring spoken interaction. This workshop brings together scholars from an interdisciplinary range of perspectives to take stock of some of the key cross-cutting issues in transcription – theory and practice, representation and politics – that continue to have such important, if often unnoticed, implications for how we come to an understanding of the phenomena which are to be discovered in spoken interaction.

The invited speakers all share an orientation to the evidence of naturally occurring spoken interaction (as mediated through audio and/or video recordings), and yet maintain a variety of transcription practices that reflects the diversity of their goals, theoretical orientations, and analytical practices. Despite this diversity, or because of it, now seems an especially opportune moment in the development of our respective fields to come to terms with our common orientation to the challenges of transcription.

Program

Gathering
8:00   Coffee and morning refreshments

Introduction
8:20   Why transcribing this matters now
        Mary Bucholtz (UCSB, Linguistics) and John Du Bois (UCSB, Linguistics)

Transcribing as Practice and Performance

Presentations
8:30   The culture of transcription: Properties and paradoxes
        Alessandro Duranti (UCLA, Anthropology)
9:00   Transcribing across languages
        Robert Englebretson (Rice U, Linguistics)

Discussion
9:30   Transcribing within an ethnographic study: Text, context, and intertextuality
        Judith Green (UCSB, Education)
9:45   A Conversation Analysis perspective
        Emanuel Schegloff (UCLA, Sociology)
10:00   General discussion

10:15-10:30 Coffee break

Transcription Design

Presentations

10:30   Multi-modal representation of multi-modal interaction
       Charles Goodwin (UCLA, Applied Linguistics)
11:00   Adequacy, user-friendliness, and practicality in transcribing
       Wallace Chafe (UCSB, Linguistics)

Discussion

11:30   Contextualization in speech and its representation
       John Gumperz (UC Berkeley, Anthropology)
11:45   General discussion

12:00-1:30   Lunch break

Transcription System Comparison

Panel/Data Session

1:30-3:00 Comparison of transcription systems with a common recording
    1:30-1:40   Transcription practicum
    1:40-2:00   Prosody in a delicacy/granularity hierarchy for Discourse Transcription (DT)
         John Du Bois (UCSB, Linguistics)
    2:00-2:20   Transcribing intonation with Tones and Break Indices (ToBI)
         Matthew Gordon (UCSB, Linguistics)
    2:20-2:40   Conversation Analysis transcription
         Gail Jefferson (Independent Researcher, Rinsumageest) and Gene Lerner (UCSB, Sociology)
    2:40-3:00   Data session and general discussion

3:00-3:15   Coffee break

Transcription as Representation

Presentations

3:15   Variation in transcription
       Mary Bucholtz (UCSB, Linguistics)
3:45   Orthography, voice and other-representation in transcription
       Alexandra Jaffe (CSU-Long Beach, Linguistics)

Discussion

4:15   Transcription as writing
       Charles Bazerman (UCSB, Education)
4:30   Iconicities: a Linguistic Anthropology perspective
       Michael Silverstein (U of Chicago, Anthropology and Linguistics)
4:45   General discussion
5:00   Closing