DOCUMENTARY LINGUISTICS I
prof. Nicole Nau, UAM winter 2018/2019

Fifteenth lecture
22 January 2019

PRACTICAL LANGUAGE DOCUMENTATION (REVISION AND YOUR 2ND TASK)

❖ Planning a session/recording

❖ Recording and interaction with speakers

❖ Consent forms

❖ Handling of files and metadata

❖ Writing a report

Student	Language	Genre, description
Ainara	Basque, 2 varieties	Introducing oneself; 1 speaker + story; interview; elicitation (language use in various situations)
Alessandra	Italian, 3 varieties	Recipes
Bernard	English (L2)	Interview/conversation about Christmas
Denise & Giovanna	Italian	Interview; narrative; recipe
Fabiola	Basque, 4 speakers from 3 regions	? (talking about personal experiences)
Guilherme & Raquel	Portuguese	Introducing oneself; monologue about history; recipe
Justyna	Polish	Personal narrative/description of study choice
Piotr	Polish	Pear story, Frog story, Cut-and-Break-videos

Student	Language	Genre, description
Emre Zuzanna	Polish Turkish	story after a storyboard; re-narrating/describing Pear story film and A fish's life film
Marta C.	Catalonian	Free speech about the history of Catalonia and relation to Spain
Marta D.	Hindi	2 stories after treasure maps
Natika	Polish	3 recipes
Hanna	Polish, 2 speakers from Kuyavian dialect area	Interview
Maria	Polish dialect	Conversation with elements of narration and instruction

PLANNING

1. **What** do I want to record (which language, variety, genre)? Why?

➢   a good project is specific (not just "record someone talking in Lx")

2. **Whom** do I want to record? Why?

➢   too close a relation (wife, sister) can be problematic

3. **Where** can I do the recording?

4. **What** do I need?

➢   Films, prompts => check out **before** the recording!

➢   Does the speaker have to prepare before? (for example, recalling a story, a recipe)

PLANNING

5. **Which equipment**?

➤ good quality and not intrusive: mobile phone with application for recording in wave quality; recording into PC is often of bad quality

➤ check the equipment **before** the recording!!

6. Which **metadata** do I want to collect?

7. What kind of **consent** (form) do I need?

RECORDING

❖ Know your equipment!

❖ If possible, make a sound check.

❖ When is a good moment to ask for consent?

❖ Be aware of your role(s) in this interaction.

❖ Know your prompts (films, pictures) and what you want to use them for.

❖ Instruct the speaker properly to make sure you elicit what you want to elicit (examples: pear story, cut-and-break videos).

❖ Be open for changes of your initial plan.

RECORDING CERTAIN DISCOURSE TYPES

❖ Interview vs. conversation

❖ Narration vs. description

❖ Traditional narratives (stories, legends, myths)

❖ Instructions

❖ Monologues about a topic

Problems with recording dialect

CONSENT FORMS

❖ Consent in language documentation vs. consent for participating in experiment, studies

❖ Consent forms should be specific for a given project.

❖ A good consent form is clear, comprehensive, concrete but short ☺

❖ The name of the person signing the form must be contained (in legible form).

❖ The name of the researcher should be contained.

FILES AND FILENAMES

❖ Check the recording before storing and processing it! Note problems (e.g. background noises, unkown persons entering)!

❖ File formats for different purposes; original recording vs. cuts.

❖ About cutting and why it may be worth making longer recordings.

❖ File names

    a. Christmas.wav

    b. Typical Dish.wav

    c. Part 2 (hobbies).mp3

    d. history of catalunia and its relationship with spain.wav

    e. 1.Becoming-an-interpreter-a-personal-story.mp3

f. fabio.09-12-2018.wav

g. m1_au_1, m1_au_2

h. Maria Migdal_Recording1

i. Ys_intw.wav, Ys_nrds.wav, Mm_ds.wav

j. Barszcz – Dec.wav

k. FrogStoryWiktoria.wav

l. Eusk_Irat.mp3

m. POL_ZS_PearStory.wav, TUR_EK_PearStory.wav

n. Hindi_TreasureMapStory_NP_MP3_1.mp3

METADATA

❖ Be aware of different levels, and structure your metadata collection!

❖ It must be clear to what metadata apply (a project, a session, a file)!

❖ **The speaker(s)**
  o Name (real), abbreviation/nick (note demand of anonymity)
  o Age (or date of birth), sex
  o Languages, region of origin, occupation ...

❖ **The session**:
- Time and place, environment
- <u>Participants</u>
- Equipment
- Language(s)

❖ Each **file**
- Relation to <u>session</u> and participants (<u>speaker</u>)
- File name
- Type (audio recording, text, ...)
- Format – may be clear from extension (.wav, .txt...)
- Length (for audios)
- Content: genre, topic, description

HOW TO WRITE A REPORT (THAT WILL PLEASE THE TEACHER)

Filename

- bad: «ReportMetadata.pdf», «DocumentaryLinguistics.pdf», «Task2.pdf», «task 2 metadata n stuff.pdf»

- better: «Report – Alessandra Bartolacci.pdf», «Kasperek Task2.pdf», «Report_MartaDec_Task2.pdf»

Structure

- Title (what is this?) and name of the student on top of the page

- Introduction (may be just one sentence) – what is this about

- Logical structure, visible

CONTENT OF THE REPORT

- Purpose of the recording, plan
- Choice of speaker(s) and setting
- Equipment
- Elicitation technique
- Obtained discourse type(s)
- File naming
- Choice of metadata and consent form
- Evaluation of the result

FOR NEXT WEEK

Revision of the other course topics

see «Review questions» (handout and on the website)