

Call Grandma! **Collecting and analyzing intergenerational telephone conversations**

With the growing lifespan of our aging population, the need for studies of communication between generations is becoming increasingly important to permit improvements in intergenerational relations both within families and between seniors and those who interact with them. Furthermore, although the Hispanic community is becoming the largest minority community in the US, most US-based language corpora consist of English monolingual data (but see Carvalho 2012 and Toribio & Bullock 2015). In addition, most work in sociolinguistics has been carried out using data from what we now refer to as the ‘classic sociolinguistic/Labovian interview’. While the advantages of using this method are well known, there are also valid reasons for recording more spontaneous interactions, like those among family members (Cieri & Yaeger-Dror 2014).

Sixteen phone calls between college students and their same-sex grandparent were collected in the Southwest in English and Spanish. The LDC (Linguistic Data Consortium) at the University of Pennsylvania provided the sound system which permitted the calls to be made and stored. The data were transcribed and aligned using the Forced Alignment & Vowel Extraction suite (FAVE, Rosenfelder et al. 2011) and the Forced Alignment System for Español (FASE, Wilbanks 2015) to align the English and Spanish bilingual data, respectively.

As CallHome recordings have shown, collecting intrafamilial telephone calls permits access to linguistic behavior produced during casual intrafamilial interactions, minimizing the effect of the observer's paradox (Yaeger-Dror et al. 2011). This project adds to these previous initiatives by collecting intergenerational communication among English monolinguals and English-Spanish bilinguals, allowing for comparisons between age groups and across communities.

This poster will discuss step-by-step the process of collecting and analyzing spontaneous data collected during intrafamilial phone calls among both monolingual and bilingual speakers. We will examine the difficulties and solutions encountered during corpus development, and will show the results of forced alignment, demonstrating the advantages of having such a corpus force-aligned. Finally, we will make suggestions for carrying out future studies, to maximize the advantages and minimize the disadvantages which we encountered.

The poster will discuss problems that arose while seeking IRB permission, soliciting participants, and training transcribers and aligners, and will suggest how to minimize them. A poster slot will permit demonstrations of the FAVE/FASE alignment routines and the adaptations which must be made for alignment to work efficiently with bilingual data from speakers of Mexican descent.

During this poster presentation, in addition to explaining the process of building the corpus, we will present some of the recordings and their aligned transcriptions, and provide preliminary analysis of the predominant discourse features encountered. More specifically, we will show how linguistic convergence and divergence, both monolingual and bilingual, may function as a specific conversation develops.

References

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