Project 4. Interview and Transcription

• Due February 14, 2007
• Goals:
  – To learn how to conduct an interview, and transcribe an audio recording.
  – To learn about the structure of natural talk.
  – Provide data for Project 5: Cultural Models in your Interview.

Main Steps

• Set up an interview
• Conduct an interview
• Index and Transcribe your interview

Technique

• Getting ready
  – Choose a good informant
  – Check your equipment
  – Arrange an appropriate time and place
  – Compose some questions in advance
  Obtain informed consent

• Interviewing
  – Set the right tone: relaxed by not frivolous
  – Get started with a general question
  – Pay attention
  – Let the informant lead (but not to personal relationships)
  – Try not to interrupt
  – Be patient

Index and Transcribe

1. Listen through your interview and make an index of what the entire interview contains. A list of topics discussed with some indication of where they appear on the tape (time, tape index #).
2. Choose one or two passages – about 15 minutes total – to transcribe. Consult our notation for doing detailed transcription before you attempt to transcribe the interview.
3. Write up the index for your entire interview and the transcription of selected passages in clean form.

Two types of Transcription

• Do about 100 words of detailed transcription using the notation for doing detailed transcription.
• Do the remaining transcription of 15 minutes using more relaxed technique as shown in the Lave paper or the Holland and Skinner paper.

Detailed transcription example

9 (2.0) 10 Ann: See so if it's fairly flat
11 I'll need one where it stops being fairly flat.
12 Sue: Okay.
13 Ann: =Like right there.
14 Then I'll need one there. (points to dirt)
15 Then I'll need one there.
16 Sue: (0.3) All right.
17 Ann: And then one at the-
Grade elements

- Interview technique
- Index
- Transcript
- Notation
- Informed consent
- Total: 75 points

Midterm Scores

- 142 possible
- Approximate letter grade correspondences
  - 114 – 126  A
  - 111 – 112  B+
  - 105 – 110  B
  - 97 – 104  C
  - 83 – 93  D