

ENGLISH 1200—Final PROJECT

To get us out of the book and into the work that linguists do, you are going to do an investigation into language structures. This project will include the following steps: 1) recording natural language data from a speaker (or two speakers), 2) accurately transcribing the data, and 3) coming to a conclusion about it through analysis. You will select one from the three possible projects below.

A note: Be sure to have your subject include their age, where they live, where they were raised, and their permission to be recorded.

Phonemic Analysis

PURPOSE:

To isolate and analyze allophones in natural speech from at least two different speakers—preferably from different geographic backgrounds.

PROCESS:

1. Select an allophone set that you are familiar with from our class
2. Record your subject, first, reading a short story or passage that contains the variable. Then continue recording a natural conversation about the story's content.
3. Phonetically transcribe the examples of the variable and analyze its occurrence.

So, when you're done, you'll have three things to turn in:

1. Recorded tape of utterances (with your name on it)
2. Transcribed utterances (with demographic information of speaker).
3. Summary of analysis

Morphological Analysis

PURPOSE:

To describe morphological processes that generate new words in an language.

PROCESS:

1. Record someone's natural speech for approximately 15-25 minutes. Engage in a conversation about technology or jargon related to their work or a common hobby.
2. Select ten words or phrases that would not be found in a current college dictionary.
3. Determine the morphologic composition and process of each word or phrase.
4. Analyze the derivation of each word.

So, when you're done, you'll have three things to turn in.

1. Transcription of words or phrases.
2. Tree structures describing each word or phrase.
3. Analysis of derivation for each.

Syntactic Analysis

PURPOSE:

To describe a syntactic rule in natural speech.

PROCESS:

1. Record someone's natural speech for approximately 15-25 minutes.
2. Select at least five utterances from the last ten minutes of the recording and draw their trees to determine their phrase structure.
3. Describe one grammatical structure that you have observed in those utterances.

So, when you're done, you'll have three things to turn in:

1. Transcription of five utterances.
2. Tree structures for each utterance.
3. Description of grammatical feature.

Hints:

- Determine Deep Structure of the utterance.
- Look for transformations.
- Look for patterns in the utterances

HINTS for gathering data:

Avoid using reading speech. Reading speech will vary greatly from natural speech. To access the most natural speech, observe speech occurring very late in a recorded conversation. It is most natural several minutes in, when the subject has relaxed or when he/she is talking about something personal or emotionally charged.

While you must have their permission and awareness they are being recorded before you begin, not revealing details about the class that the project is for and the nature of what you intend to observe are typical practices for eliciting natural data.

Include signed copies of the release form (link) so that you can submit your subjects' recorded voices.

http://www.slcc.edu/studyabroad/docs/Talent_Release.pdf