# CallHome

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Data transcription - General

All CallHome telephone conversations were transcribed using the general conventions described below. The finite set of "non-lexemes" (hesitation sounds) used in the transcripts are provided in section 6 below.

The transcription was carried out on Sun 4 workstations. The transcription was done using the emacs text editor which was linked to the visual and auditory soundwave from the telephone recording in an xwaves window. A program written at the LDC linked the xwaves signal to the emacs buffer so that a highlighted region of the soundwave could be brought into the emacs buffer as a timestamp via a simple keystroke. Similarly, the transcribers could listen to any timemarked turn in the transcript, and view the aligned soundwave as well. Thus, the transcribers had a visual as well as auditory signal that they were transcribing. Both the visual and auditory signal were broken into two separate channels that could be reviewed separately or together.

The transcribers were given the transcription conventions provided below as a guideline how to transcribe the telephone conversations.

CALLHOME TRANSCRIPTION CONVENTIONS - General

What to transcribe: 10 contiguous minutes (600 seconds) from the recorded telephone conversations. This should not include the beginning of the conversation where the speakers are getting permission for being recorded.

Definition of turns: Separate turns are defined by the following criteria:

(1) speaker change, e.g.

A: Well I was thinking about that

B: I know I talked to &Jan about it yesterday

(2) within one speaker's stretch of talk, a long

turn should be broken up in terms of what makes

grammatical/semantic sense, e.g.

A: And I told her %um I didn't I wasn't

setting you up to be a spiritual director or

anything {laugh} but I did say to her that if she

were to talk if she felt that she wanted to

talk about her prayer experience in Spanish

A: that you would probably be able to certainly

to understand her but to empathize a little bit

with what she was experiencing

(3) If there is an extra-long pause within a

single speaker's turn, break the turn up into two

turns, e.g.

B: When we were fishing out on &Lake &Travis last

August I thought I saw, %uh [[long pause]]

B: %uh, &George &Martin, but I wasn't sure it was him.

Timestamps: Each speaker turn is marked with a unique timestamp

(in seconds). The timestamps mark the beginning and

end time of each turn relative to the beginning of the

recording. Each timestamp is precise to the 100th of a

second, and is in the format: beginning time [space]

ending time, followed by the turn.

Some samples:

27.98 28.72 A: You know so

137.49 139.47 A: yeah {breath} (( )) [distortion]

284.54 286.79 B: %ah &Lydia &Van &Damme.

Special Conventions:

Acronyms Acronyms pronounced like a word are written in all caps with no spaces, e.g. AIDS NARAL

Acronyms pronounced like the individual letters are written in all caps with spaces between the letters: C I A H I V C E O

Numbers Write all numbers out, do not use digits: twenty-two nineteen-ninety-five

Interjections Use the most standard spelling (as given on the lexicon list, if it's there); don't try to represent lengthening by writing multiple consonants (like 'ooooh').

uh-huh mhm uh-oh okay jeez

Punctuation Transcribers are free to add any punctuation that they feel is helpful to someone reading the transcript.

Special symbols:

Noises, conversational phenomena, foreign words, etc. are marked

with special symbols. In the table below, "text" represents any

word or descriptive phrase.

{text} sound made by the talker

{laugh} {cough} {sneeze} {breath}

[text] sound not made by the talker (background or channel)

[distortion] [background noise] [buzz]

[/text] end of continuous or intermittent sound not made by

the talker (beginning marked with previous [text])

[[text]] comment; most often used to describe unusual

characteristics of immediately preceding or following

speech (as opposed to separate noise event)

[[previous word lengthened]] [[speaker is singing]]

((text)) unintelligible; text is best guess at transcription

((coffee klatch))

(( )) unintelligible; can't even guess text

(( ))

<language text> speech in another language

<English going to California>

<? (( ))> ? indicates unrecognized language; (( )) indicates

untranscribable speech

<? ayo canoli> <? (( ))>

-text partial word

text-

-tion absolu-

#text# simultaneous speech on the same channel

(simultaneous speech on different channels is not

explicitly marked, but is identifiable as such by

reference to time marks)

//text// aside (talker addressing someone in background)

//quit it, I'm talking to your sister!//

+text+ mispronounced word (spell it in usual orthography)

+probably+

\*\*text\*\* idiosyncratic word, not in common use

\*\*poodle-ish\*\*

%text This symbol flags non-lexemes, which are

general hesitation sounds. See the section on

non-lexemes below to see a complete list for

each language.

%mm %uh

&text used to mark proper names and place names

&Mary &Jones &Arizona &Harper's

&Fiat &Joe's &Grill

text -- marks end of interrupted turn and continuation

-- text of same turn after interruption, e.g.

A: I saw &Joe yesterday coming out of --

B: You saw &Joe?!

A: -- the music store on &Seventeenth and &Chestnut.