**README**

Bowerman Diary Data files for Christy and Eva,

and listing of supplementary associated tape-recordings with their transcriptions

**Background**

Melissa Bowerman (1942-2011) kept a detailed diary record of her two children’s linguistic development in the form of notes on what was developing and changing in their speech. These have been compiled into ‘books’ comprising about 50-60 pages each. Bowerman focussed in particular on specific errors and patterns of errors the children made along the way, as they went through the early stages of normal language development in Lawrence, KS. While the bulk of the diary notes cover the age range from 1;0 to 5;0 for both children, Bowerman also made sporadic additional notes in later years. (Family names of friends have been changed to preserve privacy; first names have been retained.)

In the 1990s, Bowerman had all her diary notes transcribed for the computer: they appear in this archive as the diary entries for **Christy**, starting with general developmental observations from the age of 3 months on, in 1970, and for **Eva**, starting with the first observations of language at 1;0(9) in 1974. As the two children became older, Bowerman focussed on specific error-types she was interested in, and the diary entries became more spread out over age (see especially the age range in the last diary file for each child). One possible later influence on their language was the two years they spent in The Netherlands (from July 1978 to July 1980), before they moved there permanently in July 1982.

Bowerman also made a number of short supplementary tape recordings early on of Christy (between age 1;4 and 2;2) and Eva (between age 1;6 and 1;8). A listing of these recordings and their transcriptions is included here, with the nearest relevant set of diary entries for each recording marked with an asterisk in the listings given below.

The diary data Bowerman collected formed the basis for numerous insightful articles in which she addressed many theoretical issues in early language acquisition, including adherence (or not) to standard word order, agency in passive-like constructions, the emergence of causative and periphrastic causative verbs, the relation of argument structure and linking, and the semantics of motion verbs (see sources at the end of this file). Users should cite at least one of the sources listed.

**Diary entries: some notes on format**

Each diary entry begins with a circumflex mark ˆ, followed by the child’s age, listed in a year;month(day) format (e.g., ˆ1;4(12) for ‘one year, 4 months, and 12 days’), followed by the date of the observation (***in US month-day-year format***, e.g., 10-3-72 for October 3, 1972).

Contextual notes appear in angle brackets < >, and most linguistic notes in CAPS preceded by a percent sign %, at the end of the relevant entry. Early entries contain some approximations to phonetic notation, with at least the following symbols:

& sometimes schwa, or else short ‘a’

A for schwa (neutral central vowel)

V, v for vowel in *b****u****t*

N for the velar nasal at the end of *sa****ng***

G for hard ‘g’, as in ***g****athe*r

An apostrophe before a word indicates heavier stress on that word

The entries otherwise rely on English orthography and should be assumed to reflect standard American English pronunciation.

Linguistic notes found at the ends of diary entries are generally abbreviated as in the following:

ADJ adjective INTR intransitive PRT particle

AG agent META metalinguistic PP past participle

CAUS causative N noun REFL reflexive (pronoun)

CONFLA conflated NOV novel REL relative (clause)

DENOM denominal OBLIQ oblique RES resultative

EMBED embedded PASS passive SUBJ subject

ERG ergative PAT patient TRAN transitive

FG figure-ground PERC perception V verb

IMPERS impersonal PERI periphrastic WF word formation

INCH inchoative

**Tape recordings:** Like the diary notes, the supplementary tape recordings are identified by age (and date of recording) for each child. They cover Christy from 1;4(24) to 2;2(7), and Eva from 1;6(2) to 1;8(19). The transcript for each recording has been linked to its tape. These tapes are/WILL BE available from the Language Archive maintained by the Max-Planck-Institute for Psycholinguistics: For access, contact {ADD CONTACT INFO}

**Diary entries**

1. Christy: 21 files of notes made between age 0;3(4) and age 21;2

Chr01 0;3(4) – 1;2(22) Chr12 1;9(9) – 1;9(19)\*

Chr02 1;2(23) – 1;4(12) Chr13 1;9(20) – 1;9(29)\*

Chr03 1;4(17) – 1;5(26)\* Chr14 1;10(0) – 1;10(17)\*

Chr04 1;5(27) – 1;6(18) Chr15 1;10(18) – 1;11(26)

Chr05 1;6(5) – 1;6(16) Chr16 1;11(27) – 2;1(17)\*

Chr06 1;6(17) – 1:6(28)\* Chr17 2;1(18) – 2;3(11)\*

Chr07 1;6(28) – 1;7(10)\* Chr18 2;3(14) – 3;9(16)

Chr08 1;7(10) – 1;7(22)\* Chr19 3;9(18) – 4;5(17)

Chr09 1;7(23) – 1;8(17)\* Chr20 4;5(18) – 5;5(17)

Chr10 1;8(18) – 1;8(30) Chr21 5;5(18) – 21;2

Chr11 1;9(0) – 1;9(8)\*

(\* marks diary entry ages that overlap with tapes listed below)

2. Eva: 16 files of notes made between age 1;0(9) and age 16;11(24)

Eva01 1;0(9) – 1;4(20) Eva09 1;8(21) – 1;9(5)

Eva02 1;4(21) – 1;5(6) Eva10 1;9(6) – 1;9(30)

Eva03 1;5(7) – 1;6(6)\* Eva11 1;10(0) – 1;10(26)

Eva04 1;6(7) – 1;6(26) Eva12 1;10(27) – 2;4(25)

Eva05 1;6(27) – 1;7(11) Eva13 2;4(28) – 3;6(24)

Eva06 1;7(12) – 1;7(25)\* Eva14 3;6(27) – 4;2(24)

Eva07 1;7(26) – 1;8(7)\* Eva15 4;2(27) – 5;10(21)

Eva08 1;8(8) – 1;8(20)\* Eva16 5;10(27) – 16;11(24)

(\* marks diary entries overlapping with tapes listed below)

**Tape recordings**

1a. Christy: Short supplementary tape recordings, with transcriptions

C 1;4(24) 12-8-71 C 1;9(3) 4-17-72

C 1;5(3) 12-17-71 C 1;9(4) 4-18-72

C 1;5(5) 12-19-71 C 1;9(21) 5-5-72

C 1;5(26) 1-9-72 C 1;9(22) 4-6-72a

C 1;6(28) 2-6-72 C 1;9(22) 4-6-72b

C 1;6(29) 2-7-72 C 1;9(22) 4-6-72c

C 1;7(9) 2-23-72a C 1;9(23) 5-7-72

C 1;7(9) 2-23-72b C 1;9(24) 5-8-72

C 1;7(16) 3-2-72 C 1;9(26) 5-10-72

C 1;7(22) 3-8-72 C 1;10(1) 5-15-72

C 1;7(24) 3-10-72 C 1;10(2) 5-16-72

C 1;8(5) 3-19-72 C 1;10(3) 5-17-72

C 1;8(6) 3-20-72 C 1;10(4) 5-18-72

C 1;8(10) 3-24-72 C 1;10(20) 6-3-72

C 1;8(12) 3-26-72 C 1;10(23) 6-6-72

C 1;8(15) 3-29-72

C 1;8(28) 4-4-72 C 2;1(8) 9-22-72

C 1;9(0) 4-14-72 C 2;1(20) 10-4-72

C 1;9(1) 4-15-72 C 2;2(3) 10-17-72

C 1;9(2) 4-16-72a C 2;2(4) 10-18-72

C 1;9(2) 4-16-72b C 2;2(7) 10-21-72

(ages in year; month (day) format; dates in US month-day-year format)

2a. Eva: Short supplementary tape recordings, with transcriptions

E 1;6(2) 8-18-74 E 1;7(30) 10-16-74

E 1;6(5) 8-21-74a E 1;8(5) 10-22-74

E 1;6(5) 8-21-74b E 1;8(15) 11-1-74

E 1;7(12) 9-28-74 E 1;8(16) 11-2-74

E 1;7(29) 10-15-74 E 1;8(19) 11-5-74

(ages in year; month (day) format; dates in US month-day-year format)

[DELETE ANY RECORDINGS FOR WHICH THERE IS NO CORRESPONDING TAPE]

**Sources to cite**

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