

Homework #1

Due: 8 September 2015, 13h (bring a printout to class)

Preliminaries. The aim of this exercise is to bring you face to face with the kind of phenomenon we are interested in modelling: actual conversation. You will often work with written corpora consisting of dialogue transcriptions. A transcription, however, is not the raw data itself — it is a representation of it. It is therefore important to experience first hand what creating such a representation involves.

Exercise. Transcribe 1 or 2 minutes of a conversation between two human interlocutors. You can choose an existing conversation available on the Internet or record one yourself (if you opt for the latter, make sure the conversation is spontaneous). On the course website, you will find a document with transcription conventions and a couple of sample transcriptions. You don't need to use all the transcription conventions listed there. For this exercise, pay special attention to conventions that can help to characterise the turn-taking behaviour of the dialogue participants, such as pauses and speech overlap.

You need to hand in one document typeset using font size 11pt and 2.5cm margins (in L^AT_EX you may use `\usepackage[margin=2.5cm]{geometry}`). Your document should including:

- Some information on the context of the conversation (gender/age/social relationship of the participants, activity they are engaged in, topic of the conversation... whatever seems relevant). If the conversation is available online, give the link.
- The transcription itself (make sure you use Courier font for this: `\ttfamily` in L^AT_EX). This should be no more than 2 pages.
- A brief report analysing the turn-taking behaviour you observe in the transcribed conversation, with examples when appropriate (this can essentially be a summary of observations and it shouldn't be longer than 1 page).

Submission. Make sure you bring a print out to class on Tuesday 8 September. Julian will collect the hard copies at the beginning of the lecture.