

LAS 6292: TRANSCRIPTION & TRANSLATION

updated: 2021-03-19

Pre-Class Preparation (Instructor):

Send in an email to students:

- content of any pre-class emails.

Bring to Class:

- Snacks
- Flip charts and markers
- Dry write markers
- Tent cards for student names

Objectives and Competencies:

- Become familiar with software for automated translation via direct upload and api
- Learn to use the different types of automated and manual transcription tools
- Understand the strengths and weaknesses of automated translation
- Be able to describe the metadata required for transcription files

Pre-class Preparation (Students):

Readings

1. Bakker, Rebecca. "Transcription Tools and Software" (2017). Works of the FIU Libraries. 62.
[\[read online\]](#) [download pdf](#)

Online Lectures:

1. Watch "The Text Wash team discusses text anonymization" [link](#); related blog post [link](#)

Class Outline

Topic 1 Overview: Intro to Efficient Data Collection (20 min)

Part 1: translate written text

1. Add text to MS Word, Translate, save

2. Add text to Google, Translate, save
3. Import both into R using googledrive package
4. Save as .txt or .csv
5. check differences with <https://www.diffchecker.com/diff>. Make sure spacing is right in advance.

Part 2: translate audio text

1. Upload to ____; save to Folder
2. Upload to ____; save to Folder
3. check differences with <https://www.diffchecker.com/diff>. Make sure spacing is right in advance.

Part 3: transcription (and why different from translation)

Breakout & Return Results

1. **Breakout (15 min):** Process Audit of Data Forms
2. **Returning results & Take-home message (15 min)**

Topic 2 Overview: Lessons from UI/UX (30 min):

Break (10 min)

Breakout 2: In-class Assignment (45 min)

Free Time

There are 45 min remaining that can be used to —

TRANSLATION

Text: Upload or In-File (Free)

1. [Google Translate](#) and [help documents](#).
2. [DeepL](#)
3. Google Docs: [in-doc translation](#)
4. MS Word: [in-doc translation](#)

Audio: Upload (Limited Free + Paid)

Top-Tier

1. [Otter.ai](#). English only; free (600 min/mo) and paid plans. Can transcribe zoom meetings (e.g., if you do interviews via zoom) and can [integrate with Dropbox](#). Phone app is available for [iOS](#). **English-only**
2. [Happy Scribe](#). 40+ languages. 30 min. free then paid; [student pricing available](#). Can integrate with Zapier to up/download files from [Google Drive](#) and [Dropbox](#) **Multiple languages**
3. Online (free demo) version of [Watson](#); note the “detect multiple speakers” option.

Second-Tier

5. [Temi](#). English Only, less accurate than Otter.ai and Happy Scribe.
6. [Spext](#). Speech-audio-text editing; free and paid plans.
7. [Comparison Video](#)

Text or Audio via API or Command Line (free, paid)

1. [googleLanguageR](#). Uses the Google Cloud machine learning APIs for text and speech tasks. The [Cloud Translation API](#) does detection and translation of text.
2. [aws.translate](#) uses the Amazon Web Services to do transcription via API. Has program for NGO/non-profits.
3. [translate](#) Another translator via Google API
4. [translateR](#) Yet another translator via Google API.
5. [Watson \(IBM\)](#) 500 minutes free
6. [DeepL](#)
7. [Translate Shell](#) via API
8. [Zoom](#)
9. [Translate Shell](#)

Manual Transolation with Computer Assisted Technology (CAT) Software

1. [Tools](#)
2. [OmegaT CAT Software](#). Free software
3. [WordFast Anywhere](#) is free, online (desktop version are paid)
4. [Across.net](#). Basic version is free

Translation Resources

1. [Linguee](#) Good for slang and expressions; searches different ways in which one word has been translated. Can also enter several words or even a sentence to find different translations.
2. [Thesaurus.com](#); equivalent in foreign language.
3. Side-by-Side [Text Comparison Website](#)

TRANSCRIPTION: AUDIO

Automated via upload (limited free, paid)

2. [Otter.ai](#) and [online tutorial](#)
3. [Amazon Transcribe](#)

Automated via API (paid)

1. [transcribeR](#) uses HP IDOL OnDemand's Speech Recognition API. You can read a tutorial [here](#)
2. [googleLanguageR](#). Uses the Google Cloud machine learning APIs for text and speech tasks. The [Cloud Speech API](#) transcribes sound files to text and the Cloud Text-to-Speech AP
3. [AWS transcribe](#) uses the Amazon Web Services to do transcription via API. Has program for NGO/non-profits.

Manual via software (free, paid)

1. [oTranscribe](#) Incredibly easy, web based, with time stamps, variable speed.
2. [Express Scribe](#) and [a tutorial](#). There is a free version.
3. [Transcribe](#)
4. [Nvivo](#)
5. [Listen N Write](#)
6. [InScribe](#)

TRANSCRIPTION: TEXT (via dictation)

1. [Google Docs](#)
2. [SpeechNotes](#)

RESOURCES & TOOLS

1. Guide to capturing and processing [images for archiving](#)
2. Examples of Transcription Notes
 - [Sample 1](#)
 - [Sample 2](#)
3. Guide to [Transcription Coding](#)
4. Style Guides
 - Samuel Proctor Project [Style Guide](#)
 - Library of Congress [Transcription Guide](#)
 - Smithsonian Archives of American Art [Style Guide](#)
 - Smithsonian Volunteer Transcription Program [Guide](#) and [Expert Tips](#)
5. Foot Pedals
 - [Infinity](#)
 - [Kinesis](#)
6. Text Shortcuts
 - [Google Docs](#)
 - [MS Word](#)

Sources

1. Michael Henry Heim & Andrzej W. Tymowski. [Guidelines for the Translation](#) of Social Science Texts. American Council of Learned Societies
2. Jennifer Marie's YouTube channel on [Transcription Tools & Tips](#)
3. Sophie Chabeda, Jane Kahindi, Manya Van Ryneveld. [Preparing data: the not-so-simple stage of transcription and translation](#)
4. Squires, A. (2009). [Methodological challenges in cross-language qualitative research: A research review](#). International Journal of Nursing Studies, 46(2), 277-287.
5. Hepburn, A., & Bolden, G. B. (2017). [Transcribing for social research](#). Sage.
6. McLellan E, MacQueen KM, Neidig JL. Beyond the Qualitative Interview: Data Preparation and Transcription. Field Methods. 2003;15(1):63-84. [doi:10.1177/1525822X02239573](#)
7. MacLean LM, Meyer M, Estable A. Improving Accuracy of Transcripts in Qualitative Research. Qualitative Health Research. 2004;14(1):113-123. [doi:10.1177/1049732303259804](#)

8. Hughes, M. [Are Online Transcription Services Safe and Private?](#). How-to-Geek.