



Assignment 3

Transcription Analysis

T-725-MALV, Málvinnsla - Natural Language Processing
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1 Natural Discourse

1.1 Transcription Task

This is the manual transcription made from this YouTube video from the *Impulsive* podcast by Logan Paul, available at this link <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=bYaUb6iSWGg>

1. **A:** If you don't mind I got an intro for you
2. **B:** All right
3. **A:** First off, ladies and gentlemen welcome back to Impulsive, the number one podcast in the world thank you for listening watching viewing subscribing if you're not subscribed you know what to do hit that button turn on the notifications Our Guest today is a beast he's an entrepreneur he's an investor he's the owner of an NBA team I can't believe it and uh he's the original Maverick and a billionaire with a B ladies and gentlemen it's Mark Cuban

4. **B:** What's up y'all

A (1-4)

5. **A:** Hey, are your headphones okay?
6. **B:** Yeah
7. **C:** Are they popping and cracking?
8. **B:** A little, a little bit but you know you can deal with it you know it's tough it's

B (5-8)

9. **C:** You did a podcast with Bobbi Althoff?
10. **B:** Yeah, that was an experience
11. **C:** Was that a hardship, was that tough?
12. **B:** You know it was in a garage and there was oil on the fucking floor but yeah but you know my my clothes don't cost more than 20 bucks a pop anyway so it's it's okay
13. **C:** That's that's her stick though like
14. **B:** Yeah, her stick is like awkward and different and weird
15. **A:** Did you find yourself struggling to get through it?
16. **B:** No, man, because I'm like you want to be different you want to be weird let's go I'm ready that was easy I mean I thought I was too weird for her so it was like a balance

C (9-16)

17. **A:** Oh, it was good?
18. **B:** Yeah, it was good
19. **A:** You guys are like sitting on the floor as well
20. **B:** Yeah, just sitting on the floor
21. **A:** I like how raw she makes it but you know she gets uh you know she gets like some heat for for, they think she's an industry plant
22. **B:** Oh, she talks about that shit right there, no, she's she's the industry plant that planted the industry plant stuff right
23. **C:** Whoa, are we talking about inception or the Matrix
24. **B:** Um, you know it's just a big old false flag right it's just like you know
25. **C:** It's a sight off, it's a sight off
26. **B:** Sight off that's exactly right
27. **A:** When someone's like quickly successful like that
28. **B:** Something's up
29. **A:** It comes
30. **B:** Something's up, yeah something's up

31. **A:** She definitely is
32. **B:** You lay in bed with Drake though shit happens
33. **A:** Yeah, what happened
34. **B:** *Laughs*
35. **A:** How's she get in bed with Drake so quick
36. **B:** You know that's not something I pay attention to
37. **C:** Well, she well she got in bed and out of bed with Drake right like there's there was some sort of major you know collapse there's a lot of speculation on what happened there
38. **B:** But she's a cool chick right I liked her right she was chill she wasn't like the minute the camera stopped rolling she changed right, that was just her
D (17-38)
-

1.2 Discussion

The transcription covers the initial two minutes of one episode of *Impulsive* podcast that operates without a predetermined script, as the guest and the hosts engage in spontaneous conversation without adhering to predefined questions or topics.

Specifically, in this initial part of the podcast, the host introduces the guest with a brief introduction, and then they start talking about the most recent funny facts that happened to the guest. Reading the transcription reported above, and thinking about not having the context of the dialogue, I would say that a good transcription is made of additional parts that explain to the reader what is going on outside the spoken part. For example, if in the scene someone stands up and does something it should be written in the text, and another important part of the transcription could be the punctuation that highlights pauses between a single sentence.

In the transcription provided earlier, I intentionally omitted certain elements to enhance the dialogue's readability. Specifically, I avoided including some punctuation marks. This decision was driven by the speakers' habit of repeating words consecutively during their conversation. Introducing punctuation in these instances might have seemed unnatural to the reader, as the spoken sentences were not consistently grammatical.

Transcribing this chat, I ran into quite a few incomplete sentences, especially when they were all talking at once. Some parts were even a bit hard to decipher, like that word in line 25, I had to replay it a few times. However, I decided not to clean up or fix what they were saying because leaving it in its raw form lets readers get a feel for how informally they're conversing.

In the video, all the speakers kept their positions throughout this entire spoken segment. However, one important aspect that might be missing in the transcription compared to watching the podcast is the facial expressions and the way they look at each other. For instance, in lines 37 and 38, when speaker C and B are having an interaction, speaker A is observing them. By looking at his face, we can get a sense of his opinions on this particular topic, which is not conveyed in the transcript. Concluding, such problems could be partially covered in a transcript by adding some additional details for each sentence (e.g.: "Speaker A is looking at them strangely.")

1.3 Reflection on Computation

Introducing a computer as a participant in this dialogue would pose a significant challenge, primarily in providing it with the broader context. In the transcription, there are references to another podcast hosted by Bobbi Althoff (line 9), and all three participants have a shared understanding of the subject. If an artificial host or guest were to generate text, it might struggle to construct fully informed and contextually conscious sentences, as certain facts being discussed might involve implicit or external events that occurred recently but aren't explicitly mentioned within the ongoing dialogue.

Assuming the existence of a language model with the ability to gather external information in response to the context provided, this hypothetical *computer* participant could enhance the dialogue’s quality significantly. Another advantage that such system could bring to the discussion is demonstrated fact in the middle of a controversial topic.

2 Discourse Structure

2.1 Segmentation Task

The designed segments are **A** from lines 1 to 4, **B** from lines 5 to 8, **C** from lines 9 to 16 and finally **D** from lines 17 to 38.

2.2 Segment Analysis

Table 1: Segmentation details and answers about *discourse connections*.

S.	Q. 1	Q. 2	Q. 3	Q. 4
A	A new question in the next segment introduce something different. It is unrelated with the context but it is related to a technical stuff in the environment. It doesn’t stand in a rhetorical relation with no other segments.	IF (condition)	none	It doesn’t follow a hierarchical structure since it is the first segment, and it is an introduction.
B	The strongest evidence is the question that asks for something different of what was spoken before. It is unrelated with the overall discourse but it is related to something happened in that specific moment (the guest wore the headphones). It doesn’t stand in a rhetorical relation with no other part of the discourse	none	none	It doesn’t follow a linear fashion from the previous segment since it asks for something unrelated (tech problem).
C	The strongest evidence that divide this segment from the others is the introductory question about the topic of the next spoken argument. Its aim is to bring a recent event (another podcast episode) in the dialogue. It doesn’t stand in a rhetorical relation with no other event.	none	none	It doesn’t follow a linear fashion from the previous segment since it introduce a new topic in the discourse (asking for the other podcast).
D	Also, this is a question that cuts the dialogue. Its purpose is to go in-depth and more specifically in the topic they were talking about. It is quite related to segment C since it asks more details about the same topic.	none	BUT (contrast)	It is streactly linked to segment C (even if there is a stop in the dialogue) since with a new question from speaker A, it talks more about the same argument.

2.3 Discussion

Reading again the transcription and the segmentation I’ve decided, I would say that another person would have divided the text the same as I did, because in this two-minutes transcription there are a few segmentations one can apply to it. We can see where the dialogue is more divided from the questions and from the change of the topics.

Moreover, this task could be accomplished by a software system (more specifically a ML model) that, after being trained to recognize dialogue segmentations through specific labeling, could be able to recognize one part of the dialogue from a different one from *discourse connective words* and from the change of the context.

3 Discourse Function vs. Discourse Device

3.1 Classification Task

Table 2: Labelling phenomena as discourse function or discourse device

Index	Phenomena	Device or Function
1	Saying “I totally agree”	Discourse function
2	Disagreeing	Discourse function
3	Indicating you are listening	Discourse function
4	Nodding	Discourse device
5	Uttering “mhm”	Discourse device
6	Using the word “Very”	Discourse device
7	Confirming you heard correctly	Discourse function
8	Repeating what you just heard	Discourse device
9	Avoiding eye contact	Discourse device
10	Requesting feedback	Discourse function

3.2 Spotting Examples

Table 3: Discourse devices and relative functions from section 1.1

Line	Discourse device	Discourse function
4	Saying “What’s up y’all”	Greet everyone
24	Saying “you know”	Seeking approval
26	B repeated what C said	Confirms what C said
31	Saying “She definitely is”	Support the thesis of speaker B
34	Laughs	Express fun about the previous statements