

Handout I.6**EXAMPLE OF TRANSCRIBED SPEECH (VS. WRITTEN ENGLISH)**

This attempt to faithfully record spoken English in visual form is provided to illustrate the degree to which writing differs from spoken language.¹ Although we say that writing represents (or depends on) speech, it is not simply a mechanical transfer of speech into visual form.

LENORE: .. [So you have your] own equipment, but,

LYNNE: .. (TSK) (H) No. I don't have my own equipment at all. ... Da=d, ... you know, has done some of it. That's another thing too, is I kinda had a b== general idea=, .. (H).. of kinda how to do it, just watching hi=m. or= -- and watching, .. (H) people come to our place, and doing it and stuff you know. (H)= .. and, ... (TSK) ... I don't know. then%, ... down there=, um=, it's mandatory=. you have to % -- to graduate, you know, or well, to get the degree, you know, (H) .. you have to take this class. (H) And you can only take- -- if you want to, you can only take it for eight weeks. (H)= And, ... if you wanna go on in it, you n- -- then, you can go on. you know. .. And I decided to go ahead and go on in it. .. And the first part of it, .. is like, (H) well we have lecture, .. then we have la=b. (H) .. And like, the first part of it, .. we just go into the classroo=m, and he like, (H)= .. In the beginning of the year there was a lot of classroom work. .. I mean, ... it-- that's just kinda= how it happens, you know, because he kinda has to tell you, (H)= ... they go over=, .. the who=le, ... the who=le part .. of the horse. .. I mean, (H) .. all the skeleton= .. part of it you know=, and- -- and they go through .. %every kinda ligament. and I mean, there's, ... (H) millions of ligaments, and millions of .. tendons, you know, well not millions, but, .. I mean,

LENORE: yeah, [I bet].

LYNNE: [(H) and], so we had to know these tendons, and ligaments, (H) and then, all the bones, ... and, .. you know, all the way up- from the shou=lder down, and then from the hip down. .. You know, all the way down to the hoof, (H) and then, % the bo=ne in the hoof, and, (H)= .. then all the .. wall, and, % you know, of the hoof, and, what everything was called there, and then, (H) he went over on how= to trim it, and where you- -- th- there's a white line, that you go by, and a horse .. has this little white line, (H) and you clean it out with the -- ... (TSK) with the hoof knife? you know? (H) and then there- -- % and then you can see this little white line? (H) and that's kinda where you go by, to -- <SM % .. you know, the horse kinda helps you out, because it, .. has that .. little white line right there. and that's where you kinda SM> -- ... (H) kinda need a little guide, of where you trim.

[see page 2 for explanation of transcriptional symbols]

¹ This transcript and recording were downloaded from the Santa Barbara Corpus of Spoken American English at <http://www.linguistics.ucsb.edu/research/santa-barbara-corpus>. The transcript and recording are titled “SBC001 Actual Blacksmithing”. “This is a conversation recorded in rural Hardin, Montana. Mae Lynne is a student of equine science, and is the main speaker. She is telling Lenore (a visitor and near stranger) about her studies.” The excerpt on this handout, about trimming a horse hoof, covers from time stamp 60.73 to 170.46, a total of about 110 seconds.

The transcription makes use of ordinary English spelling of words, supplemented by symbols to represent other meaningful aspects of speech that are not part of the standard English writing system. A full explanation of the “Discourse Transcription” (DT or DT1) can be found at <http://www.linguistics.ucsb.edu/projects/transcription/representing>. A few of the most commonly seen symbols are:

<u>Symbol</u>	<u>Meaning</u>
..	short pause
...	long pause
-	word is cut off
--	utterance is cut off
[]	utterance inside brackets overlaps with utterance of another speaker
(H)	breathe (inhale)
(Hx)	exhale
(TSK)	click sound
@	laugh pulse (thus @@@ would be a three-pulse laugh)
=	lag (length of word is stretched out)
%	creak in voice
<SM SM>	smile quality detected on the words inside the angle brackets

What would a version of this spoken passage rendered in written English look like? Perhaps something like this:

No. I don't have my own equipment at all. Dad has done some hoof trimming. That's another thing, I had a general idea of approximately how to do it, just from watching him or watching other people come to our place and do it. And in order to graduate, you have to take a class on this for a minimum of eight weeks. If you want to go further on in the field, you can. And I decided to go on in it. The course had a lecture and a lab. At the beginning of the year there was a lot of classroom work. The instructor goes over the whole anatomy of the horse: the skeleton, the ligaments. There's an enormous number of ligaments and tendons in the legs, and we had to learn them all, as well as all the bones, from the shoulder and hip all the way down to the hoof. We had to learn all the terminology for the parts of the hoof. Then he went over how to trim it. You trim the outer parts away with the hoof knife. And you stop when you get to this little white line on the hoof. The horse kind of helps you out, because it has that little white line right there, and that's the guide indicating how far to trim.