

# Fieldwork Workshop

Homework

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## Introduction

For tomorrow's session, you will need an audio(visual) recording 3-5 minutes in length. This recording should be in a language which you are comfortable transcribing and analysing, such as German or English.

## 1 Plan Your Session

Having a plan of what to do before working with your consultants is invaluable. It helps you think through what data you need to test and collect, making the time you spend together more worthwhile.

Plans can also help you if you do not have any idea of what to do. Having a few 'back-up' sessions planned, e.g., collecting word lists or topics for an interview, means that you always have something to fall back upon if you do not have any other hypotheses to test.

### 1.1 Choose Your Technique

We explored two elicitation techniques today: the storyboard technique using Jackal and the Crow, and the elicitation of a word list. You could choose to use alternative techniques, such as the sociolinguistic interview or asking someone to read a pre-prepared text.

### **1.1.1 Jackal and Crow**

Prepare the pictures ahead of time. Your consultant will tell a story based on these pictures, which you show one at a time. You can do this using a screen or using printed-out pictures.

To start the task, use wording like: “I have some pictures here that tell a story. I’m going to show you the pictures, one at a time, and I want you to tell me the story.” Afterwards, ask them to retell the story, using wording like: “Now we’ve seen all the pictures, I would like you to tell me the whole story together.”

You can find the full set of instructions and pictures [here](#).

### **1.1.2 Word List**

Prepare a list of 10 or more words you wish to ask after. It is generally easier for a consultant if you ask after words from the same semantic field, such as body parts, kinship terms, or foods. You can then ask them directly how they would say a word via translation (“How do you say X?”), via pointing at something (“What would you call this?” + pointing), or via a more roundabout questioning style (e.g. “What do you call the mother of your husband?” = mother-in-law). Try to get them to repeat the word within a ‘frame sentence’, to mediate intonational effects and isolate the word. Ideally, the frame should have stops either side of the target word.

A good frame sentence for English could be: “I wrote/said X just now.”

A good frame sentence for Standard German could be: “Du hast X gesagt/beschrieben.”

### **1.1.3 Sociolinguistic Interview**

Begin with talking about social factors you need for your data analysis such as where and when they were born. Think about what topics you may want information around and structure your interview from more general impersonal questions and then move to more specific personal questions.

These questions may include: “Did you have a chance to go to school?” “What was your favourite subject?” “Did something ever happen on the way to school?” “Did the teacher ever punish you for something you didn’t do?”

Finally, if you wish, you can ask language-related questions: “How did the children from X speak? How was it different to how you speak?”

### 1.1.4 Reading a Text

Prepare a text for the consultant to read out loud. The text you choose ultimately depends on your research question. The most common ‘parallel’ text recording in linguistics is the fable North Wind and the Sun, which is often used in phonetic and phonological comparison work.

Here is a version which was used for the phonetic elicitation of American English:

*The North Wind and the Sun were disputing which was the stronger, when a traveler came along wrapped in a warm cloak. They agreed that the one who first succeeded in making the traveler take his cloak off should be considered stronger than the other. Then the North Wind blew as hard as he could, but the more he blew the more closely did the traveler fold his cloak around him; and at last the North Wind gave up the attempt. Then the Sun shined out warmly, and immediately the traveler took off his cloak. And so the North Wind was obliged to confess that the Sun was the stronger of the two.*

Here is a version which was used for the phonetic elicitation of German:

*Einst stritten sich Nordwind und Sonne, wer von ihnen beiden wohl der Stärkere wäre, als ein Wanderer, der in einen warmen Mantel gehüllt war, des Weges daherkam. Sie wurden einig, dass derjenige für den Stärkeren gelten sollte, der den Wanderer zwingen würde, seinen Mantel abzunehmen. Der Nordwind blies mit aller Macht, aber je mehr er blies, desto fester hüllte sich der Wanderer in seinen Mantel ein. Endlich gab der Nordwind den Kampf auf. Nun erwärmte die Sonne die Luft mit ihren freundlichen Strahlen, und schon nach wenigen Augenblicken zog der Wanderer seinen Mantel aus. Da musste der Nordwind zugeben, dass die Sonne von ihnen beiden der Stärkere war.*

## 2 Informed Consent

In the EU, we are required to abide by the GDPR. This means we must be careful when dealing with personal data, which inevitably impacts how we go about data collection. Even anonymising counts as processing personal data. Unfortunately for us, recording audiovisual data is something we rarely anonymise. As such, it is incredibly important to collect the explicit consent of those who you work with when applicable.

Consent is not explicitly required under the GDPR for archiving or scientific research. However, it is ethically wrong to archive recordings of people without their consent. People involved in the data collection process should understand what their rights are before recording.

You can get informed consent either orally or written, depending on what is most appropriate. All

forms of taking informed consent should be done in clear and simple language. Consultants should know how personal data will be processed and how long it will be stored for, as well as which purposes the personal data will and will not be used for. Additionally, in Germany, anyone who you record also obtains joint rights to the recording under German copyright law as either an author or as a performer. This could include rights of reproduction, distribution, and use, and various moral rights.

If you are intending to archive your recording, I ask that you use the informed consent form on my site.

## **3 Recording**

### **3.1 Recording Device**

You will need something to record with. The easiest option is to record with your computer, using Audacity or Praat. I have made a short video of how to record in Audacity [here](#). A good introduction to recording in Praat can be found [here](#).

You could also record using your mobile phone. In this case, you must make sure you can save it in a compatible file format, like .wav or .mp3. For example, Voice Memos (iOS) creates .m4a, which is a lossy format and incompatible with many programs. In this case, you may want to download a third-party app to record, such as those suggested [here](#), or convert the .m4a file using Audacity.

Alternatively, if you have access to one, you can of course use a dedicated recorder! If you use a video recorder, make sure that you create a separate .wav or .mp3 file, so you can use it to work with in ELAN.

### **3.2 Recording the Session**

To set up the recording, test that everyone has good gain levels and is seated comfortably. Press the recording button, then clap next to your microphone and detail the metadata for the session. Introduce the purpose of the session to your consultant.

Monitor the session when you can by making sure that the sound stays clear throughout. Feel free to take notes during the “recording”, noting down the timing of anything linguistically interesting.

At the end of the session, briefly summarise the session and thank the interviewee for their time. You can now stop the recording. After you have finished recording, make sure to transfer the file to your computer.

## 4 Metadata

Gold practice for metadata is to fill it out as soon as you can!

For this workshop, I would like you to do the following:

1. Rename the file using the format: ISO Code-Your Initials-Date-KeyWords.FileType
2. Give your session a short title.
3. Pick a genre into which your recording would fall.
4. Write a short description of what the recording contains (less than 100 words).
5. List up to five keywords which you think would apply to your recording.
6. Note which languages were spoken during the recording.
7. Write down any other factors which may be relevant to anyone wishing to use the recording.

## 5 Archiving

If you wish to archive your recording and annotations, please use the informed consent form from my website. This will ensure that whoever you record understands what is entailed in the archiving of their data.

The deadlines for inclusion in the archive are the following:

1. Telling me that you wish to archive: **21 August 2022**
2. Submission of primary data and metadata: **31 August 2022**
3. Submission of secondary data: **30 September 2022**

Please send me an email ([naomi.peck\(at\)linguistik.uni-freiburg.de](mailto:naomi.peck(at)linguistik.uni-freiburg.de)) if you are interested and I will give you more details about what is required.