

Week 5

Edwards

- Can the transcription of discourse be considered credible, in terms of nonverbal communication, if each transcriber can understand it (nonverbal communication) in a different way and thus can create a distinctive transcription of the meaning intended?
- Did people need a special education for doing transcription of speeches in ancient times?
- To what extent is e.g. a defendant's transcription done in a criminal trial identical with his spoken discourse, when we may consider spoken language more unlimited and written more discrete; or e.g. when we take into account his gestures not recorded in the process of transcription (or just a pause used in the transcription)?
- There are several features that are considered important, when dealing with a record (e.g. pause, nonverbal aspects, prosody, etc.). The way I see it, there is no application that would manage to deal with all these features at once. What are the chances of such software to be created? Is it even possible?
- Can we consider transcription to be an accurate representation of discourse and to be reliable in analysis of language data if transcripts are only subjective representations of the data and they are inherently selective and interpretive? Isn't it true that the choices researchers make about transcription enact the theories they hold and constrains the interpretations they can draw from data?
- Why is readability of the transcript of such a great importance and for what reasons language researchers and computer scientists engaged in speech recognition?
- Can computers become as much "sophisticated" in terms of the intonation, recognizing the accents, stress patterns, natural distribution of pauses, etc. as to being able to replace humans? E.g. in call-centers. Is there a chance to create a corpora including e.g. eastern accent ("rusnácky") and the computer to apply it in conversation?
- Which layout is the most suitable for discourse analysis? (Keeping in mind we want to somehow maintain the aspects of spokenness, the reciprocity and immediateness of utterances in a discourse etc.)
- Some dialogue lists (transcripts of the utterances of a film) for dubbing production do not contain individual utterances of people talking simultaneously. Therefore, the translator of the dialogue list has to listen to each person separately to be able to translate all the sentences. Is there a software system that would distinguish individual speeches in a situation where more utterances overlap?
- Wouldn't it be more effective and easier using in transcription some more understandable and commonly known signs? (for example using capital letters to emphasize stress,...)
- Are there any special symbols for gestures in transcriptions or are words used? Do they also mark that a laugh for example was meant ironically?
- What is the practical use of the transcription except the scientific research of the language?

- spoken language has many specific features (such as intonation, stress and so on). Is it possible to transcribe the spoken utterance with all the details it has? When we take for example irony or sarcasm, is it possible to decipher it from the transcript?