Developing a Coding Scheme for Interpreted Interviews

Sixth international Workshop on Comparative Survey Design and Implementation

ISR, University of Michigan

Presenter: Clarissa Steele

Contributors: Ana Villar, Janet Harkness, Yelena Kruse, Clarissa Steele, Ying Wang
Outline

1. Coding scheme development
2. Coding dimensions
   - Actors/Interview features/Impact
3. Coding template
4. Coding scheme
5. Coding challenges
6. Next steps
1. Coding scheme development

- Review of coding schemes
  - Conversation analysis; translation assessment
- Independent review of interview transcripts
  - Note-taking during review
- Team discussion of interview dimensions and features
  - Identification of typical features and problems
- Preliminary classification into categories
- A “work in progress”
2. Coding dimensions

1. Actors
   - Interviewer
   - Interpreter
   - Respondent
   - Fourth Parties

2. Interview features

3. Impact of assessment
   - Minor / Medium / Major
Coding scheme: Interview features

- Omissions
- Additions
- Inadequate interpreting
- Inadequate script presentation
- Interview metatalk
- Discourse “work” and characteristics
- Fourth-party contributions
- Language interference
Coding scheme: Interview features (2)

- Omissions
- Additions
- Inadequate interpreting
- Inadequate script presentation
- Interview metatalk
- Discourse “work” and characteristics
- Fourth-party contributions
- Language interference
### Inadequate interpreting

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Actor</th>
<th>Question</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>INTV</strong></td>
<td>How often does politica-politics seem so complicated that you can't really understand what is going on? ...</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>INTP</strong></td>
<td>Now, tell me sir about the polit—uh the politicians. Uh, how frequently would you say that mm uh you can’t really understand what they are mentioning or saying?</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Inadequate interpreting

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Actor</th>
<th>Question</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>INTV</strong></td>
<td>How often does politics seem so complicated that you can't really understand what is going on? ...</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>INTP</strong></td>
<td>Now, tell me sir about the politicians. Uh, how frequently would you say that mm uh you can’t really understand what they are mentioning or saying?</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Metatalk: Talk about what is happening in the interview

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Actor</th>
<th>Response</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>RESP</td>
<td>[in Russian] “Yes, yes, I didn’t understand.”</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>INTP</td>
<td>Okay, she never understood this question so I just repeat it. [in Russian] “The government should take measures to reduce differences in income levels.”</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Coding scheme: Interview features (5)

- Discourse work and characteristics
  - Hesitation or self correction
    - Uh, uh, mm, now tell me sir
  - Digressions
    - Interpreter mentioning that respondent’s birthday is the same as her sister’s birthday
  - Laughter
  - Burden
Coding scheme: Interview features (5)

- Discourse work and characteristics
  - Hesitation or self correction
    - Uh, uh, mm, now tell me sir
  - Digressions
    - Interpreter mentioning that respondent’s birthday is the same as her sister’s birthday
  - Laughter
  - Burden
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Actor</th>
<th>Question</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>INTV</strong></td>
<td>Modern science can be relied on to solve our environmental problems.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>INTP</strong></td>
<td>[in Spanish] The <em>este</em> the the atmosphere is making (being?) the difference in the world, do you think that must do people more with the atmosphere?</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Burden

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Actor</th>
<th>Question</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>INTV</td>
<td><strong>Modern science</strong> can be relied on to solve our environmental problems.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>INTP</td>
<td>[in Spanish] The <em>este</em> the the <strong>atmosphere</strong> is making (being?) the difference in the world, do you think that people should do more with the atmosphere?</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Coding challenges

- Metatalk
- Deciding codes
- Double coding
- Deciding Impact
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Actor</th>
<th>Question/Response</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>INTP</td>
<td>Okay. Uh um uh I'm so sorry. I'm- this is NAME OF INTERPRETER I'm no uh Mr. NAME OF RESPONDENT is uh talking in the background uh so when he is talking we keep on getting cut off so I wasn't able to hear everything.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
## Deciding codes / Double coding

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Actor</th>
<th>Question</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Interviewer</strong></td>
<td>Now, a few questions about politics. How interested would you say you are in politics? Are you (.). I’m sorry, go ahead and uh</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Interpreter</strong></td>
<td>Mm hm sir () the () questions about the politicians, sir.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
### Double coding / Deciding codes

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Actor</th>
<th>Question</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Interviewer</td>
<td>Now, a few questions about politics. How interested would you say you are in politics? Are you (.) I’m sorry, go ahead and uh</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Interpreter</td>
<td>Mm hm sir () the () questions about the politicians, sir.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Next steps

- Test and consolidate coding scheme
- Undecided codes
  - Special codes for answer scales
  - Current “outliers” (i.e. reformulations of what was said by one party by another party)
- We still have numerous sub-codes for
  - Metatalk, discourse features, inadequate interpretation/ interviewing, and more.
Thank you

We appreciate any suggestions