

Corpus methods for sociolinguistics

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Overview

- Introduction
- Corpora of interest
- Software for accessing and analyzing corpora (demo)
- Basic programming tools
- Creating & publishing corpora

Introduction

Sociolinguistics IS corpus linguistics

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- Study naturally occurring data

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- ... in context

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- Study naturally occurring data
- ... in context
- ... including frequency of (co)-occurrence

Goals

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- What kinds of resources are out there

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- How to learn more about those resources

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- How to learn more about those resources
- How to find more resources
- Encourage you to create & publish corpora

Rules of thumb

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If you'll be doing much more of it, or doing it again later, it's probably worth figuring out how to get a computer to do it for you.

The only URL you need to know

`http://www-csli.stanford.edu/
~bender/corpora_sociolx.shtml`

Corpora of Interest

BNC

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- Some (limited) access is available for free online

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- Comes with SARA software for easy access

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- Core corpus: 100,000,000 words, similar genre distribution to BNC
- Plus potentially several hundreds of millions more words

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- Completion in 2004

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- 1,000,000 words in each corpus

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- CallHome (LDC): telephone conversations between close friends & family members. (speech files & transcripts)
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- CallFriend (LDC): like CallHome, more languages, not (yet?) transcribed

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- CHILDES (TalkBank): Language acquisition data (child and adult, first and second language)

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- The corpora mailing list

Software

Kinds of useful software

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- Transcriber: A tool for segmenting, labeling, and transcribing speech (free)

Basic Programming Tools

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Creating & Publishing Corpora

Why

- More value for effort

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- Comparative studies

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- Speech data paired with published ethnographic work particularly interesting

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- Comparative studies
- Speech data paired with published ethnographic work particularly interesting
- Video data also interesting

How

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- Preserve anonymity in both speech files and transcripts
- Consult committee for the protection of human subjects at your institution

Conclusion

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