Sign Language Acquisition: Annotation, Archiving and Sharing (SLAASh project) – Status Report

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Introduction

GOAL

- Prepare corpus of previously-collected data on ASL acquisition to share with other researchers

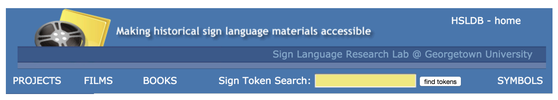
WHY?

- Shared data will permit more researchers to conduct studies of ASL acquisition and use

What kind of corpus?

"a collection of
(1) machine-readable,
(2) authentic texts which is
(3) sampled to be
(4) representative of a particular language or language variety" (McEnery, Xiao & Tono 2006: 5)

Existing shared ASL data include



Reconsenting

(Chen Pichler et al. 2015, 2016)

- Need to request consent for data sharing from all participants
- Seek ethically-sound, community-supported practices for decision-making
- Focus groups for input from various types of stakeholders
- Protection of individual rights primary concern; research potential important but secondary
- Give participants option for different levels of sharing
- Policies for special cases: segments to be edited out; faces blurred

Dataset

UConn CLESS Child ASL Data (Lillo-Martin & Chen Pichler 2008)

- Spontaneous production data from 4 Deaf children of Deaf parents, ages 1;04-4;01
- Interlocutors: Deaf parents; hearing, signing experimenters

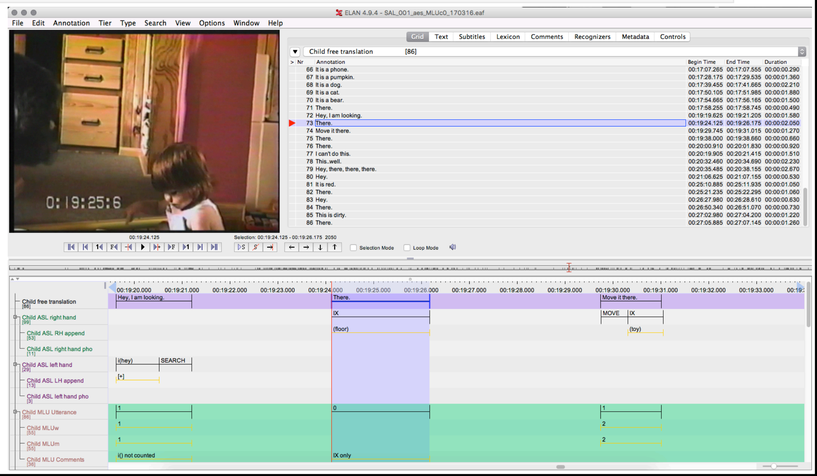
Child	# Sessions	Age begin	Age end	Time observed (hrs:mins)	Est. # gloss tokens	Est. # child utterances
ABY	79	1;04.22	3;04.07	73:43	130,000	16,600
JIL	83	1;07.03	3;07.09	79:16	119,000	17,800
NED	44	1;05.28	4;01.28	40:00	60,000	9,000
SAL	18	1;07.18	2;10.01	17:11	23,000	3,900
Total	224			210:10	332,000	47,300

Tools (with Onno Crasborn)

ASL SignBank – Lexicon of ID glosses (cf. Johnston 2001) – currently ~2200 signs

ELAN bridge – Connection between ELAN and SignBank

- SignBank fields visible in ELAN
- Pop-up window with gloss options
- Edit SignBank from within ELAN
- Automatic updating of SignBank glosses
- Automatic POS tagging
- Other ELAN improvements for ease of use



Progress Report

- Continuing to revise annotation conventions for internal/ external consistency, partnered with ASL-LEX (Caselli et al., 2016)
- Currently converting old annotation files to new system
- Completing annotation of previously unfinished files
- Populating ASL SignBank with new signs and search aids
- Conducting basic descriptive analyses (MLU, IPSyn)
- Completed two focus groups to establish re-consenting process guidelines
- Completed "bridge" linking ASL SignBank to ELAN allowing for direct, controlled annotation of our glosses

Future Plans

- Release each data set as it is prepared
- Share tools open source
- Share video only when annotations not available

Literature cited

Caselli, N., Sevcikova, Z., Cohen-Goldberg, A., Emmorey, K. (2016). ASL-Lex: A Lexical Database for ASL. *Behavior Research Methods.*
Chen Pichler, D, Hochgesang, J & Lillo-Martin D (2015) Digging Workshop
Chen Picher, D, Hochgesang, J, Simons, D & Lillo-Martin, D (2015) TISLR
Chen Pichler et al. (2016) LREC
Johnston, T (2001) *Sign Language & Linguistics 4*
Lillo-Martin & Chen Pichler (2008) LREC

Websites of some existing SL corpora

http://hsldb.georgetown.edu/
http://blackaslproject.gallaudet.edu/BlackASLProject/Welcome.html
http://www.auslan.org.au/about/corpus/
http://www.bslcorpusproject.org/
https://signbank.csc.fi/
http://www.sign-lang.uni-hamburg.de/dgs-korpus/
http://www.ru.nl/corpusngten/

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