

The Case Of Interview Data: A multidisciplinary approach to the use of technology in research using interview methods

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Stef Scagliola

Workshop DH19
The Case Of Interview Data
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Speakers

Louise Corti: Data Curator, Methodologist at UK Data Service/Qualidata GB

'I want researchers to do something different than read!'

Stef Scagliola: expert in Oral History, Military History and DH in NL and Luxembourg

'I want oral history to be more strongly represented in DH'



“[O]ral history certainly can be a means for transforming both the content and the purpose of history. It can be used to...

change the focus of history itself

open up new areas of enquiry

can break down barriers between

- teachers and students
- generations
- educational institutions
- the world outside

...It can give back to the people who made and experienced history, through their own words, a central place.”

Paul Thompson (1988)



Landscape

What do social scientists do with interviews?



Dimensions of an interview

Focus	Research question topics
The Interview	Identity (e.g. race, ethnicity, gender, age, etc.), experience and "truth"
Recording of the interview	Power, performance
Transcription of the interview	Narratives, memory
Interpretation of the interview	Subjectivity and intersubjectivity; emotion; cultural representation

Abrams (2010)

	Research questions	Approach
Content analysis	What is the amount and nature of attention/reporting on a subject in a specific media?	Largely quantitative
Conversation analysis	How social order is accomplished in and through interaction in everyday life?	Ethnography and conversation analysis
Discourse analysis	What is the discourse doing? Why some meanings become privilege or taken for granted and others become marginalized?	Study of well-established meanings/ideas around a topic which shape how we talk about it
Narrative analysis	How do people make sense of what happened and to what effect?	<p>Interpretation not dependent on veracity of the account</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • narrative thematic analysis - focus on content and sequence - what is said/not said • structural analysis - focus on language and linguistic practices - how is the story told • Interactional context - focus of co-construction of narratives - why, when, to whom, in what context
Thematic analysis	What are recurrent ideas and topics in the data?	Look at patterns across interviews. Veracity of the account important. Can be combined with narrative analysis



Landscape

What do oral historians do with interviews?

Slides by **Norah Karrouche** and **Max Broekhuizen**

Oral history as interviewing practice

- Oral history textbooks mostly deal with oral history as a **practice** and as an **approach** to history (minority groups, voice)
- Weak tradition of reflecting on analytical frames

Key questions **Oral History**

What can this person tell me about the past that I cannot find in the archive? (narrative is treated as a factual source)

After the linguistic turn (mid 1980s)

How does this person perceive his or herself looking back on the past?

How does he or she attribute meaning to his or her experiences in the past?

(narrative is treated as an interpretation of a memorized personal past)

Oral history as testimony and as identity

- Stories of events, people (and places)
- Testimonies
 - Interviews **complement** archival sources
 - Historians (oral history, social history, cultural history)
 - Mediation of memory of **events**
- Life stories
 - Interviews
 - Historians (oral historians, biographic approaches, ethnographic approaches)
 - Construction of **identity**, intersubjectivity

Ideal-typical analytical approaches

Holistic

- One or more interviews
- Interpretation of a completed sequence of events or a **whole** life story
- *Life story of an immigrant*

Categorical

- Parts of one or more interviews
- Identifying and interpreting **specific parts** of one or more interview
- *Leaving home in life story of an*

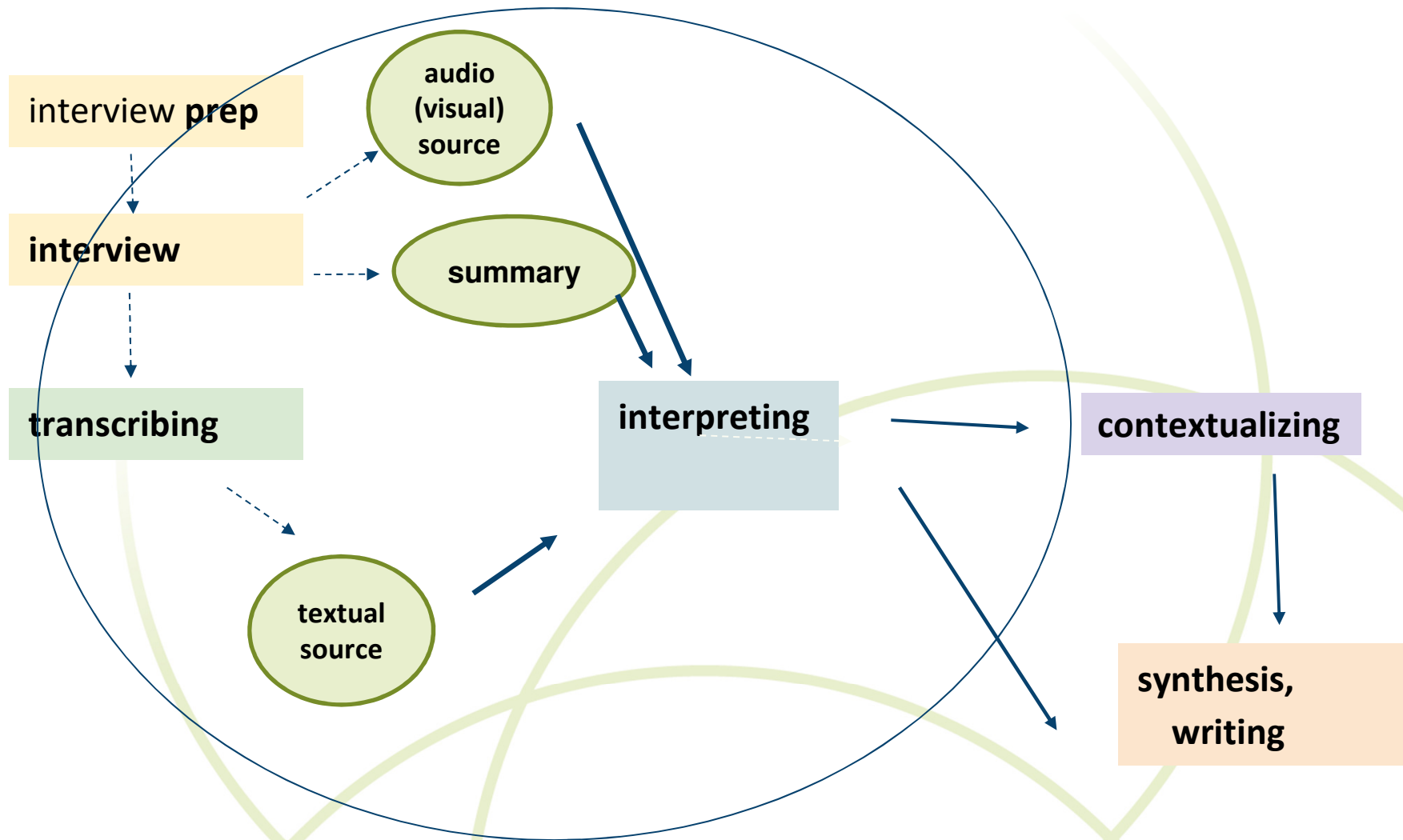
Thematic

- (Parts of) one or more interviews
- Content: **what** is being said?
- *The experience of leaving home*

In practice, we use combinations of these approaches ('bricolage')

- (Parts of) one or more interviews
- Form: **how** is it being said?
- *The way in which the experience of leaving home is narrated (e.g. traumatic, heroic etc.)*

What do oral historians do with interviews?





Landscape

What computational linguists do with spoken corpora?



What computational linguists do with spoken corpora?

- **Formulating**

- research **questions**
- **hypotheses** to be confirmed/disconfirmed

- **Exploring**

- and selecting **data** on certain criteria (representativity, language, availability, format, quality, etc.)
- testing and selecting **tools** for analysis

- **Pre-processing** (when needed)

- data **transformation** (e.g. speech to text, transcription), cleaning (e.g. errors correction), conversion (one format to another)
- data **enrichment** (identification of speakers, roles, characteristics - age, gender, language -, uncertain and missing elements, etc.)
- data **structuring/grouping** (chronology, language, typology of spoken data, etc.)

What computational linguists do with spoken corpora?

• Analysing

- applying methods/tools for **part of speech tagging, lemmatization**, frequency counts, **comparing, clustering, parsing, disambiguation**, computing **semantic similarities**, recognition of **named entities, sentiment analysis**, etc.

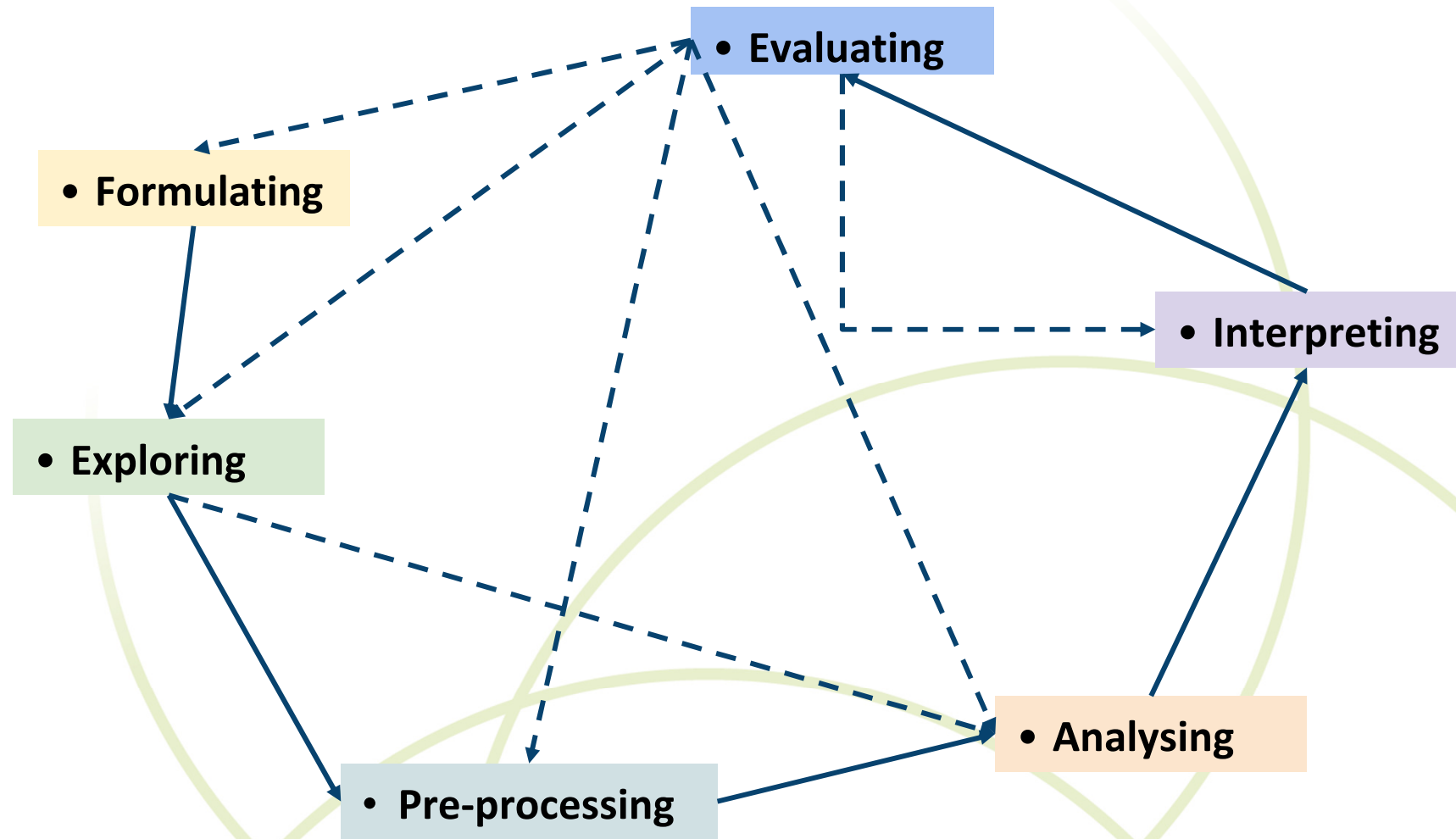
• Interpreting

- analysis results taking also into account the **context** (geo-historical, social, political, linguistic, methodological - in collecting and processing the data, etc.)

• Evaluating

- **added value, limitations, biais**, possibility of **generalisation**, range of **errors**, formulating further **questions/hypotheses** to be studied, etc.

What computational linguists do with spoken corpora?





Landscape

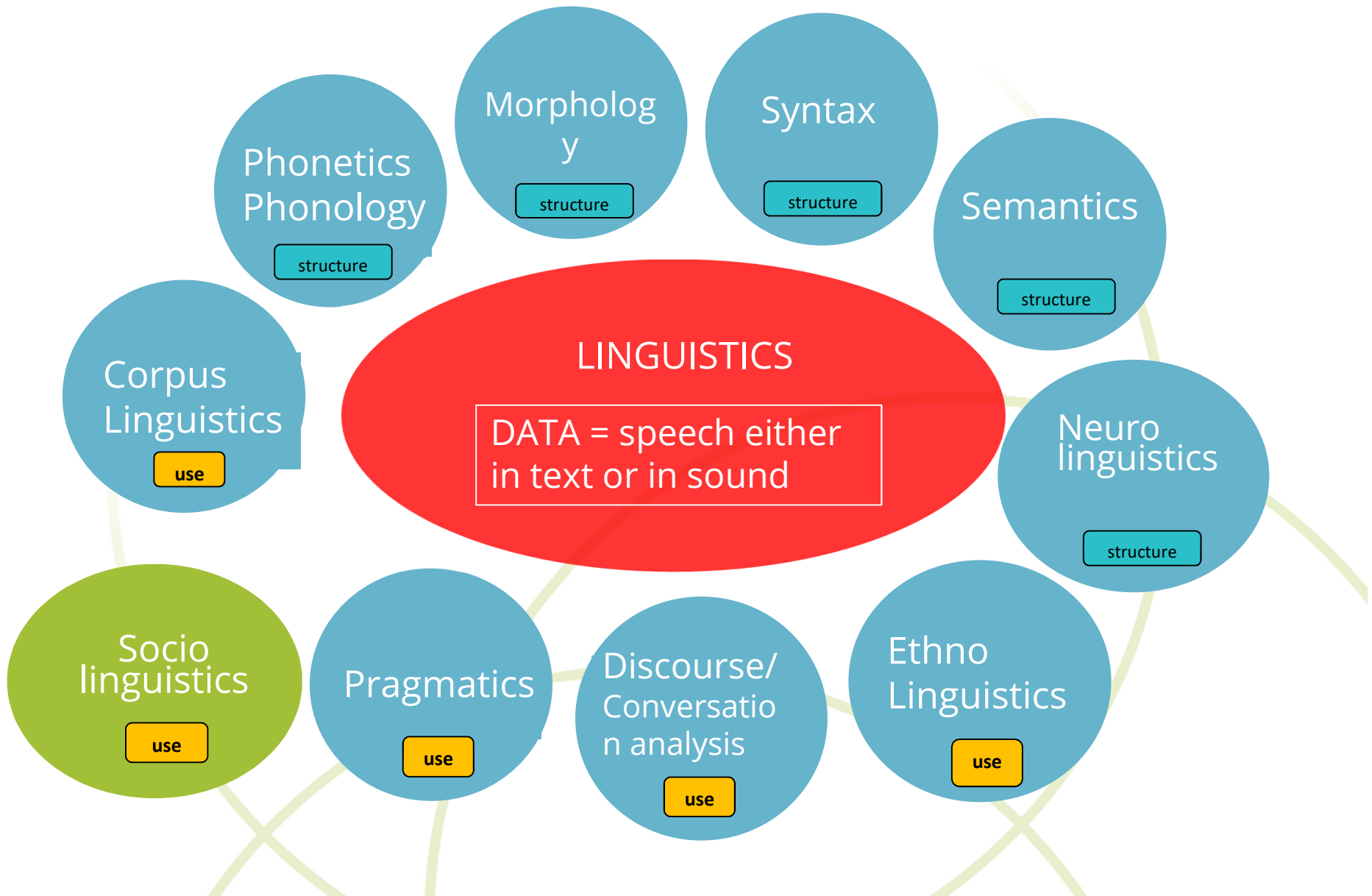
What do sociolinguists do with spoken corpora?

Slides by Silvia Calamai

Sociolinguists meets
qualitative research?

What do sociolinguists do?

- **What** is their interest when analyzing how people talk to each other?
- **Why** would interview data be relevant for sociolinguistics and sociophonetics?



Key questions Sociolinguists

WHO IS SPEAKING ?

- How long? How do they take turns?

(concepts: *overlap/interruption; dialogic repetition; free indirect discourse; polyphonic monologues...*)

WHAT AND HOW?

- What are the topics of the interview, semantics, **frequency** of words
- What are the styles? What does **style** tell us about the speakers?
- Why do the speakers speak the way they speak?
- Why do they change style and when?

(concepts: *accommodation, entrainment, linguistic repertoire*)



Landscape

What affective social sign processing scholars do with spoken data



Social Signal Processing

“How can emotions be generated in computers, **recognized** by computers, and expressed by computers?”

“SSP is the computing domain aimed at the modeling, **analysis**, and synthesis of social signals in human-human and human-machine interactions.”

“How can we automatically **analyse** and **interpret** human behavior in human-human and human-machine interactions?”