Acquisition Sketch Project Meeting 4: Ethics

13th December 2023

Discussion points

- How to ensure that consent is *informed* consent?

- Who participates?

- Who can give consent for whom?

- How to obtain consent?

- Who has access to what?

How to ensure that consent is *informed* consent?

- How to communicate to community/families what to expect?
- How to ensure that participants are aware of the kinds of data involved? and that they understand the implications of collecting and possibly making them available to others?

> Kinds of data and metadata:
> - Recordings capture everyday family life.
> - Metadata captures information on the linguistic and non-linguistic development of the focus children and on their social networks.
>
> Consent to *participate* in the recording – consent to *archive* the data.

Who participates?

- Who decides who participates, and on what basis?
  - how can we make transparent the criteria for in-/exclusion (as well as their purpose)?
  - what is the role of the community & individual community members in this process?
- What if families feel community or other pressure to participate?
  - how can we create opportunities for family members to voice their concerns? to enable them to refuse to participate?
- What if families would like to participate, but do not meet the inclusion criteria?
  - are there alternative ways for them to be involved? e.g. contributing to interviews on socialization practices, helping with transcription ...

Who can give consent for whom?

- Children
  - cannot give informed *consent*, but can *assent* to participate
  - what happens when they come of age?
- Family/parents for their children
  - who gives consent for non-focus children who happen to participate in the recordings (cousins, foster children, neighboring children ...)?
- Local leaders for the community
  - also for individual families?
- Somebody else?

How to obtain consent?

- How? Written, recorded verbal, implied …

- When? Before/after recording, after/during transcription …

- Procedure for withdrawing consent (for all/part of the data)?
  - creating opportunities for participants to review recordings and decide what to do with unwanted scenes
  - creating opportunities for participants to leave the scene whenever they do not want to be recorded
  - …

Who has access to what?

- Families – for their own record, but in which form?
- Other community members (e.g. when recruiting new participants)?
- Transcribers?
- Archives?
  - access for specific scientific and/or community-related purposes only?
  - access to parts of the data (e.g. only the transcript)?
  - anonymization or pseudonymization?

The sketch corpus contains valuable data that will be useful beyond the acquisition sketch itself and that should be archived.

Further reading (daylong audio recordings)

DARCLE Ethics Repository

What is the DARCLE Ethics Repository?

We are a group of researchers and practitioners who have been using longform (including daylong) recordings for some years. This repository compiles some of our know-how and tips, particularly with the aim of helping newcomers navigate the complexities of ethics surrounding this novel technique.

What resources can you find in this repository?

There are two mai...

Read More

- Cychosz, Meg, Adriana Weisleder, Rachel R. Romeo, Melanie Soderstrom, Alejandrina Cristia, Camilla Scaff, Janet Y. Bang, Marisa Casillas, Hillary Ganek & Kaya der Barbaro. 2020. *Daylong Audio Recording of Children's Linguistic Environments (DARCLE) Ethics Repository*. Open Science Framework Project: https://osf.io/u3tfv/

Website

Universität zu Köln

Philosophische Fakultät
The Acquisition Sketch Project

Frequently Asked Questions

On this page, we have listed frequently asked questions about the scope of the project, corpus construction, and publication. Please click on the questions to display the answers.

Regarding ethics approval, is there anything specific that needs to be included in the informed consent forms?

How can we prepare the families for what to expect, so that their consent is, indeed, informed consent?

When recording children (and especially when recording for an entire day), we cannot foresee what will happen, and the camera is likely to capture private moments and/or participants who are not aware of the recording - how can we deal with this?

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Ethics

One of our future bi-monthly seminars will address ethical concerns in more detail. In the meantime, Caroline Hendy has kindly agreed to provide us with her approved ethics application as an example. Please click here for a modified version of this application (with personal information removed or altered).