

9. Discourse completion tasks

Eva Ogiermann

Abstract: The present chapter examines Discourse Completion Tasks (DCTs), a data elicitation method that generates large amounts of contextually varied and comparable cross-linguistic speech act data, used predominantly in cross-cultural and interlanguage pragmatics. It discusses different features of DCT design, including the formulation of scenarios, the incorporation of social variables and format choice. The chapter then reviews studies comparing DCTs to other data elicitation methods and to naturally occurring data. It shows that while the different data collection methods generate similar speech act realisation strategies, the reported differences – mainly regarding directness, mitigation, and politeness marking – are largely inconclusive, with the results depending on the speech acts and groups of speakers under study.

1. Introduction

The Discourse Completion Task (DCT) is probably the most widely used data collection instrument in cross-cultural pragmatics, a field of enquiry that compares different speech acts across languages, and in interlanguage pragmatics, which examines learners' pragmatic competence and development. What makes DCTs particularly valuable for these areas of investigation is that research aiming to establish culture-specific patterns in speech act realisation or the pragmatic features of a specific interlanguage needs to draw on large quantities of data, and the DCT is the only available data collection instrument that generates sufficiently large corpora of comparable, systematically varied speech act data. Since DCTs can be translated into any language and distributed to large groups of informants within a short period of time, they are the ideal instrument for the contrastive study of speech acts (Aston 1995: 62; Barron 2003: 85).

Although DCT responses do not fully resemble naturally occurring data, the administrative advantages make the DCT a valuable and effective data collection method (Johnston, Kasper and Ross 1998: 157; Billmyer and Varghese 2000: 521; Kasper 2000: 325; Barron 2003: 85), in particular for large-scale projects (Sasaki 1998: 479). DCTs can be designed to elicit multiple occurrences of any speech act across a variety of situations, thus documenting a wide range of semantic formulae by which a given speech act can be implemented (Beebe and Cummings 1996: 80; Johnston, Kasper and Ross 1998: 158; Kasper 2000: 325; Barron 2003: 84). This is particularly useful "when investigating languages which have not yet been

Discourse Completion Task Dct Assessment

Klaus Peter Schneider, Anne Barron



Discourse Completion Task Dct Assessment:

Studying Speaking to Inform Second Language Learning Diana Boxer, Andrew D. Cohen, 2004-05-11 In a series of studies specially written for this volume *Studying Speaking to Inform Second Language Learning* offers the applied linguist research on spoken interaction in second and foreign languages and provides insights as to how findings from each of these studies may inform language pedagogy The volume offers an interweaving of discourse perspectives speech acts speech events interactional analysis pragmatics and conversational analysis

Pragmatics of Chinese as a Second Language Shuai Li, 2023-11-14 This book brings together a collection of high quality empirical studies which examine multiple aspects involved in the acquisition teaching and assessment of pragmatics in Chinese as a second language L2 The studies collectively address some of the most cutting edge issues in the field of L2 pragmatics such as the acquisition of key pragmatic features methodological innovations in pragmatics assessment individual difference factors and virtual learning contexts The majority of the chapters include detailed descriptions of the instruments used and additional material in the appendices making it a truly valuable collection for researchers and students alike Furthermore the publication includes the most comprehensive state of the art review of empirical research in L2 Chinese pragmatics published bilingually in English and Chinese between 1995 and 2022 along with a supplemental annotated bibliography While the empirical studies all focus on Chinese as the target language the issues they address have implications for L2 pragmatics research in general and this book will appeal to those interested in the latest developments in the field

Interlanguage Pragmatic Competence of EFL Learners in China's University Xu Lan, 2019-12-01 *Interlanguage Pragmatic Competence of EFL Learners* Post hoc Scheffe

Variational Pragmatics Klaus Peter Schneider, Anne Barron, 2008 This collection of papers is designed to establish variational pragmatics This new field is situated at the interface of pragmatics and dialectology and aims at systematically investigating the effect of macro social pragmatic variation on language in action As such it challenges the widespread assumption in the area of pragmatics that language communities are homogeneous and also addresses the current research gap in sociolinguistics for variation on the pragmatic level The introductory chapter establishes the rationale for studying variational pragmatics as a separate field of inquiry systematically sketches the broader theoretical framework and presents a framework for further analysis The papers which follow are located within this framework They present empirical variational pragmatic research focusing on regional varieties of pluricentric languages Speech acts and other discourse phenomena are addressed and analysed in a number of regional varieties of Dutch English French German and Spanish The seminal nature of this volume its empirical orientation and the extensive bibliography make this book of interest to both researchers and students in pragmatics and sociolinguistics

Resources in Education, 1996

Pragmatics & Language Learning, Volume 11 Kathleen Bardovi-Harlig, J. Cesar Felix-Brasdefer, Alwiya Saleh Omar, 2006 This volume features cutting edge research on L2 pragmatics from a wide range of theoretical and methodological approaches It offers fresh

perspectives on standard topics such as the use and learning of speech acts and the pragmatic meanings of linguistic resources and the effect of planned intervention on pragmatic development in language instruction The chapters also document researchers increasing attention to different forms of computer mediated communication as environments for using and developing L2 pragmatic competence and of conversation analysis as an approach to different aspects of interaction in a variety of settings Publisher s website nflrc hawaii edu

Second Language Instruction/acquisition Abstracts ,1997 **Japanese Language and Literature** ,2006 Requests in Professional Discourse Hilikka Yli-Jokipii,1994 **Linguistics and Language Behavior Abstracts** ,2006-04 **Pragmatics of Vietnamese as Native and Target Language** Carsten Roever,Hanh thi Nguyen,2013 The volume offers a wealth of new information about the forms of several speech acts and their social distribution in Vietnamese as L1 and L2 complemented by a chapter on address forms and listener responses As the first of its kind the book makes a valuable contribution to the research literature on pragmatics sociolinguistics and language and social interaction in an under researched and less commonly taught Asian language *Conversational Interaction Between Venezuelans and American L2 Learners of Spanish* Anne Edstrom,2000 *Working Papers in Educational Linguistics* ,1996 □□□□□□□□□□□□□□□□ □□□□,□□□□,□□□□,2002 Exploring Japanese Ray T. Donahue,2002-04-30 Today the Japanese nation faces an identity crisis as it attempts to contend with the misfortunes endured in the 1990s This collection of essays attempts to address the contemporary state of what it means to be Japanese It provides a multidisciplinary perspective **Mraṇ' mā Nuiṇ'" ṇaṃ Vijjā rhaṇ'" Sippaṃ Paññā rhaṇ' 'A phvai' chu ra pāragū kyam'" sutesana lup' naṇ'" 'a cī raṇ' khaṃ cā myā"** ,2010 *Discourses in Search of Members* Ronald Scollon,2002-03-04 *Discourses in Search of Members* is a festschrift in honor of Professor Ron Scollon on the occasion of his sixtieth birthday in May 1999 The 25 contributions which vary from conventional research based articles to essays to poetic genres all reflect the significant scholarly influence Professor Ron Scollon has had on his students and colleagues The contributors come from various regions including Finland Australia Japan and the UK and truly represent an international community **Contrastive Semantics and Pragmatics** Katarzyna Jaszczolt,Ken Turner,1996 Selection of papers from the First International Conference in Contrastive Semantics and Pragmatics held at the University of Brighton from 6 to 9 April 1995 **A Festschrift for Prof. Chin-Cheng Chen and Prof. Shu-Huei Sun** ,2002 **Tests in Print** Jane C. Conoley,Impara James C.,Linda L. Murphy,1994

Decoding **Discourse Completion Task Dct Assessment**: Revealing the Captivating Potential of Verbal Expression

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