

9. Discourse completion tasks

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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

A red circular graphic with a gradient, appearing as a partial circle on the right side of the slide, overlapping the light blue bar.

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

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

Acquisition in Interlanguage Pragmatics Anne Barron, 2003 The Longitudinal investigation which provides the basic material for this book consists of a corpus of requests offers and refusals of offers elicited from Irish learners of German over a ten month study abroad period using production questionnaires and a variety of metapragmatic instruments

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

Discourse Politeness in Japanese Conversation: Some Implications for a Universal Theory of Politeness Mayumi Usami, 2002-02

Second Language Instruction/acquisition Abstracts, 1997

Japanese Language and Literature, 2006

Pragmatics of Vietnamese as Native and Target Language Carsten Roever, Hanh thi Nguyen, 2013 The volume

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