

Comparing speech samples: On the challenge of comparability in panel studies of language change in real time

FRANS GREGERSEN
TORBEN JUEL JENSEN
MARIE MAEGAARD
NICOLAI PHARAO
University of Copenhagen

The central problem to be addressed by all panel studies of language change in real time is that of comparability. This is most readily seen in the use of different technical apparatus (Foget Hansen and Pharao under revision) but it is a challenge which goes much deeper. In the LANCHART Study at the University of Copenhagen, we have addressed the challenge of comparability

1. by developing a coding scheme known as the Discourse Context Analysis so that certain factors may be held constant across recordings (Gregersen et al. 2009; Gregersen and Barner-Rasmussen 2011, Juel Jensen and Gregersen f.c.)

2. by developing new methods of data collection while still holding on to the centrality of the sociolinguistic interview (Wedel Schning and Spindler Miller 2009) and

3. by checking data from sociolinguistic interviews by comparing them with data from other types of setting but with the same informants (Gregersen, Jrgensen and Miller under revision)

In our contribution to the panel we shall also briefly sketch a solution to the problem of giving access to data while still respecting informants' confidentiality.