Narrative SSS – Database Description

Database	Context (Subgroup)	Age Range	Grade in School	# Samples	Location	Special Coding
Narrative SSS	**Nar (SSS)**	**5;2 – 13;3**	**K, 1, 2, 3, 5, 7**	**330**	**WI**	**SI**

Participants

The Narrative SSS (student selects story) database consists of narrative samples from typically developing speakers drawn from the Madison Metropolitan School District, and rural areas in northern Wisconsin. Speakers were from a variety of economic backgrounds and ability levels. "Typically developing" was determined by normal progress in school and absence of special education services. Economic background was determined by eligibility for the free lunch program. Ability level was determined by teacher rating. Age, gender, and grade data is available for all participants.

Sample Elicitation

This elicitation protocol provides an opportunity for the target speaker to produce a narrative sample based on a story of their choosing. The speaker is asked to select a story and then tell the examiner about it.

Refer to the elicitation protocol for details.

Transcription Notes

Utterances were segmented into Communication Units (C-Units) as defined in the SALT documentation. All transcripts were timed, and pauses, within and between utterances, of two or more seconds in length, were marked.

Coding Notes

- [EO:word] marks overgeneralization error
- [EP:word] marks pronoun error
- [EW] marks an extraneous or unnecessary word in the utterance that, if omitted, would make the utterance syntactically correct, e.g., C And he shout/ed and[EW] to the frog.
- [EW:word] marks other word-level error
- [EU] marks utterance-level error (*utterances with 3 or more errors*)
- [FP] marks filled pause words such as *like*, e.g., *You (like[FP]) get six card/s.*

Subordination Index (SI)

All transcripts were hand-coded and scored for Subordination Index (SI) as defined in the SALT documentation.

SI is a measure of syntactic complexity that produces a ratio of the total number of clauses (main and subordinate) to the number of C-Units. A clause, whether it is main or subordinate, is a statement containing both a subject and a predicate. Grammatically, a subject is a noun phrase and a predicate is a verb phrase. Main clauses can stand by themselves. Subordinate clauses depend on the main clause to make sense. They are embedded within an utterance as noun, adjective or adverbial clauses.

Using SALT to Compare Transcripts to the Narrative SSS Database

Use SALT's Database menu to compare your transcript with age or grade-matched transcripts selected from the Narrative SSS database. SALT looks at the plus lines in your transcript to determine which database to pre-select. To pre-select the Narrative SSS database, include the following plus lines in your transcript.

> \+ Language: English
> \+ Context: Nar
> \+ Subgroup: SSS

Although you can type these plus lines into your transcript, the easiest way is to select the correct language (English), sampling context (Nar), and subgroup (SSS) when first creating a new transcript using the New Transcript Header information dialogue box in the software.

Acknowledgements