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**REGULATIONS ON USE**

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**Background**

The field manuals were originally intended as working documents for internal use only. They were supplemented by verbal instructions and additional guidelines in many cases. If you have questions about using the materials, or comments on the viability in various field situations, feel free to get in touch with the authors.

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## Locally-anchored narrative

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**Relevant projects:** Gesture Project, Space Project (demonstrative, toponym subprojects)

**Priority within Gesture Project:** Medium

**Nature of the task:** natural conversation

### Background

Videotaped data of informal, animated narrative delivered to a native-speaker interlocutor is a kind of multi-purpose data everyone should collect – it can be fed into the space project, as well as the gesture project, and will repay work on the transcript for grammatical resources, reference-tracking, and so forth.

In addition to the general utility of the material, locally anchored gestures produced in such narrative is roughly comparable to the ones collected in another task in this manual, “Locally-anchored spatial gestures, version 2”. In some field sites, it is not possible to set up an “interview” situation. In such cases, locally anchored narrative may be easier to elicit.

Locally anchored narrative are already collected in the following languages: (a) Guugu Yimithirr and Tzeltal – historical stories; (c) Lao; traffic accident stories. These offer possibilities for cross-cultural comparison.

The “locally anchored spatial gesture” task has been administered in the following languages: Japanese (Tokyo suburbs), Lao (various locations, Laos), Dutch (Millingen, a small village near Nijmegen), Italian (Milano suburbs), Tiriyoó (Brazil).

### How to collect the data

- (a) get together two or three native speakers, who are in an informal social relation (preferably socially ‘equal’), but perhaps do not live in the same village (so they have something fresh to talk about). They may be men who have hunted together or women who have traded together or have had inter-village relations of some kind of over the years;
- (b) tell them you want to record some ordinary talk, and to please forget the camera (which you can busy yourself with, so they don’t address you, but rather each other);
- (c) suggest to them some themes:

1. Historical events that have happened in the neighborhood – earthquakes, storms, floods, plagues, revolts, local political rivalries, or just changes in the village over time;

2. To get animated conversation – which will be much more interactive and interesting – try asking about events that were associated with life and death conditions: so, again, natural disasters, political mayhem, accidents (e.g., traffic accidents, accidents during hunting or fishing, sport-related accidents)

3. It would be especially useful if two of the consultants were involved in the event in some way. This would make them more interactive: They may tell their own versions of the story. They may disagree with each other. They may embellish each other’s story.

### Length of narrative

If you have 15 to 20 minutes of narrative, it should be sufficient. Of course, you can let people talk longer if you wish. Note also that you probably need time to “warm up” consultants.

### How to record

Please consult the section, “Recording recommendations for gesture studies”.