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## Peking University Linguistics Laboratory Spontaneous Speech Corpus, Volume 5

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### Abstract

Volume 5 of the Peking University Linguistics Laboratory Natural Spoken Corpus, containing annotated transcriptions for accession numbers PKU C071-PKU C080.

### Full Text

#### Preamble

The Peking University Linguistics Laboratory Natural Spoken Language Corpus (PKU C071-PKU C080) comprises natural conversational interactions in Mandarin Chinese. All dialogues are spontaneous, unscripted, and naturally occurring speech interactions. Participants were recorded for 1-4 hours across various settings, from which 4-10 minute excerpts were selected and transcribed by trained annotators using the Discourse Transcription (DT) system. For symbol conventions and further details, please consult the “Annotation Guidelines” included in this volume. Each annotated transcript faithfully reflects the original recording without editing, omitting interrupted utterances, or removing discourse markers such as “um” and “ah.” Special voice qualities and phonetic features with interactional significance are annotated, as are gestures and environmental information that may affect interpretation, presented as “researcher comments.”

The corpus is freely available for download. Users may access compiled transcripts via the Chinese Language Music and Prosody Preprint Platform or download individual transcripts and audio files from the “Dialogue Transcript Download Area” on the Peking University Linguistics Laboratory Natural Spoken Language Corpus website. Please adhere to the corpus citation guidelines; detailed information is available on the “How to Cite” page of the website.

## Annotation Guidelines

Transcription and annotation for the Peking University Linguistics Laboratory Natural Spoken Language Corpus employ the Discourse Transcription (DT) system, based primarily on:

Du Bois, John W., Stephan Schuetze-Coburn, Danae Paolino, and Susanna Cumming. 1992. *Discourse Transcription*. Volume 4 of *Santa Barbara Papers in Linguistics*, UC Santa Barbara.

The DT system shares similarities with the Jeffersonian Transcription System used in Conversation Analysis (CA), including markings for turn-taking, overlapping speech, pauses, and special voice qualities. A key difference is that DT segments speech into basic intonation units (IUs) based on prosodic criteria (intonation, pauses, speech rate, etc.).

The following symbol reference table is adapted from Du Bois et al. (1992: 210-211), providing original terms and Chinese equivalents. Symbols defined by interactional intent (e.g., “transitional continuity” markers “.”, “,”, “?”) and rarely used or ambiguous symbols are not employed in this corpus and are omitted here. Specific voice qualities and marking conventions highlighted throughout Du Bois et al. (1992) are included. An “Notes” column has been added to explain marking positions and usage.

### Symbol Reference Table

**Units** - Intonation unit: basic prosodic unit - Truncated intonation unit: --  
Word: {carriage return} - Truncated word: -

**Speakers** - Speaker identity/turn start: placed after speaker name - Speech overlap: overlapping content placed within brackets

**Terminal Pitch Direction** - Fall: placed at IU end - Rise: placed at IU end - Level: placed at IU end

**Accent and Lengthening** - Primary accent: placed before stressed syllable - Secondary accent: placed before stressed syllable - Booster: placed before target syllable - Lengthening: placed after target syllable (not used in Chinese transcription)

**Syllable Tone Contour** - Fall: placed before target syllable - Rise: placed before target syllable - Fall-rise: placed before target syllable - Rise-fall: placed before target syllable - Level: placed before target syllable

**Pause** - Long: duration indicated in parentheses - Medium: duration indicated in parentheses - Short: duration indicated in parentheses - Latching: no pause between turns

**Vocal Noises** - Vocal noises: general category - Inhalation: (H) - Exhalation: (Hx) - Glottal stop - Laughter: @ (one per laughter pulse) - Click: (TSK)

**Phonetics** - Phonetic/phonemic transcription: enclosed in slashes // (IPA)

**Transcriber' s Perspective** - Researcher' s comment: enclosed in double parentheses (( )) - Uncertain hearing: content placed between X markers - Indecipherable syllable: one X per syllable

**Specialized Notations** - Duration: indicated in parentheses - Intonation unit continued: & at end of first IU and start of second IU - Embedded intonation unit: content placed between | markers - Codeswitching: content placed between L2 markers with language specified

**Non-Transcription Lines** - Non-transcription line: placed at line beginning - Interlinear gloss line: placed at line beginning

**Reserved Symbols:** + \* # { } " ~ ; (user-definable)

**Quality** - Quality: content with specified quality placed between - Laugh quality: <@ @> - Quotation quality: - Multiple quality features: nested markers (e.g., <YY>)

**Loudness** - Forte; loud: - Piano; soft:

- Crescendo; gradually louder:
- Diminuendo; gradually softer:

**Pitch** - Higher pitch level: - Lower pitch level: - Widened pitch range: - Narrowed pitch range: - Parenthetical prosody:

**Tempo and Rhythm** - Allegro; rapid speech: - Lento; slow speech: - Rhythmic; stresses in beatable rhythm: - Marcato; each word distinct and emphasized: - Arrhythmic; halting speech:

**Voice Quality** - Whispered: - Breathy: - Husky: - Creaky: <% %> - Falsetto: - Tremulous: - Sobbing: - Crying: - Yawning: - Sighing:

## Corpus Files

### PKUC071: The Happiness of Eating

**Summary:** Recorded in 2025, this approximately 10-minute telephone conversation between Su Fan and Li Li, both faculty members at a college, discusses market shopping experiences, dietary customs from the Guangdong-Guangxi region, experiences with special foods, and requirements for faculty research grant applications.

#### Dialogue Content:

Su Fan: You don' t buy groceries much, do you? Li Li: …(.8) Um…There was a period when I really liked buying groceries…(.8) Like after dropping off the kids…Su Fan: ..Um=[.2] Li Li: [Then] I' d stop by the market on my way…[and just go buy stuff]

Li Li: @@@[(H) I] haven' t seen it once

Li Li: ..Actually it' s me= I go in the morning

Li Li: ..[I think] it' s especially...(TSK) especially good

Li Li: ...(.7) Um.. Oh= (H) It' s stable...Because the vegetables are so fresh, right (H) and you feel like they were just pulled from the earth...not bad oh [then]-.. pretty good

[...]

### PKUC072: Hot Pot Lamb

**Summary:** Recorded in 2025, this approximately 10-minute conversation among four participants centers on hot pot, covering ordering, regional food culture, and plans for a dormitory hot pot gathering. Note: indicates use of another language (English).

#### Dialogue Content:

Hippo: (H) Hey= ...(.9)(H) Xiao Ao' s thesis=.. is already over 100,000 words ...(.9) ...(.5.0)

...(.9.0)

Hippo: ...Um=.. I haven' t found it yet=.. this ji[a is called]-[Tan lamb]..<P Tan lamb[[meat]] P>...[3 ] [[t]]an lamb shuan=...[3 Oh= Tan lamb shuan 3]=

Xiao Ming: ...(.9.1)

Yinchuan: ...(.8) Let' s order a set meal...(.3.2) Spring water broth=...{Six} portions...(.7) Green shrimp=...Tan lamb Tan lamb rolls.. premium yellow cattle=.. shoulder blade.. hot pot vegetables=...(.7.1)

...

...Feels like this...three-to-four person meal=...(.1.8) Not enough for us=...(.9) Um= Then why not order the four-to-six person meal=

[...]

### PKUC073: Job Interview

**Transcriber:** Yuan Mingzhu **Summary:** Recorded in 2024, this 15-minute conversation among three participants (Xiao Ji, Xiao Hui, and Xiao Yang, classmates and roommates) discusses nail art effects, job seeking experiences, and political review processes.

#### Dialogue Content:

Xiao Ji: The color is <@very different from what I chose@>

Xiao Ji: ..Good-looking I y[i started]

Xiao Ji: ..Outside Wuyue.. several hundred bucks

Xiao Ji: <@Right@> [needs to be more luxurious]

Xiao Hui: [@@@@] [[@H]]

[...]

#### PKUC074: Sun Wukong

**Summary:** Recorded in 2018, this approximately 10-minute conversation among three participants (Dou Dou, a primary school student; Dan Zi, a middle school student; and A Yao, a university teacher and Dou Dou's mother) revolves around *Journey to the West* exam questions, with varying comprehension levels and humorous moments. **Transcriber:** Wang Yue

#### Dialogue Content:

Dou Dou: Privately changed rainfall timing and amount..(H) Yuan Shoucheng predicted the Dragon King would be executed by Tang's minister for violating orders...shawei...Tang= Taizong vs.-.. 10 ... (1.0)

A Yao: I can't even understand the question..(1.1) (0) Can't you even <@parse the sentence correctly@> [(H)]@@@

[...]

#### PKUC075: Thangka Painter in Beijing

**Summary:** Recorded in 2025, this approximately 10-minute conversation between Sang Guo (PhD student, Tianjin resident) and Suonan (Provincial-level master of arts and crafts) takes place at a private Thangka exhibition hall in Beijing. Discussion covers exhibition ideas, painting techniques, and the fact that three of Suonan's works have been collected by the National Art Museum of China. **Transcriber:** Sang Jiejia

#### Dialogue Content:

Sang Guo: Suonan=/The weather is really nice today=(Hx) Suonan: ...Right= ... (1.0) It's been warmer these past few days... (2.0) Sang Guo: Any plans for this afternoon?... (1.0) Suonan: ... (1.3) Go sit over there for a while.. rest a bit= have some tea=...chat.. and so on... (2.2)

[...]

#### PKUC076: Hair and Thesis

**Summary:** Recorded in 2025, this 12-minute conversation among three participants discusses hairstyles, hair quality issues, haircut experiences, and difficulties in experimental design for a graduation thesis. Note: L2 = Korean; L3 = Japanese.

**Dialogue Content:**

Mmii: (H) This hair-.. was cut really [stupidly] [no]-..<@Your@>-.. why is this tuft <@especially short=@> <@this tuft only [reaches here]@> [] -.. It was cut by a village elder for five bucks...five bucks [yeah=] [(H) And you know his haircut.. it' s just-.. the washing method is super primitive, he uses a basin=

Koka: @@...^{Scoops} water to wash=

[...]

**PKUC077: Electric Vehicle Charging**

**Summary:** Recorded in February 2025, this 15-minute conversation among three participants (Haqiware and Usaqi, PhD students; Chiikawa, Master' s student) occurs via Tencent Meeting between dormitories. Discussion focuses on electric vehicle charging experiences. **Transcriber:** Zhang Rujia

**Dialogue Content:**

Chiikawa: ...Sometimes I charge it in the afternoon when I come back to sleep ...for example [today]...(1.0)...(1.7) [Evening is] more suitable.. I can' t find a spot at six...then-.. then that=-...then yesterday=-.. at first yesterday

[...]

**PKUC078: Movie Theater Seat Conflict**

**Summary:** Recorded in 2025, this 10-minute online video chat among three lifelong friends covers shopping, favorite pastries, movies, and musical theater experiences. Conducted primarily in Mandarin and Sichuan dialect. Note: L2 = Sichuan dialect; L3 = Shanghai dialect; L4 = English.

**Dialogue Content:**

Keke: Yesterday I saw a pair of shoes= I think they' re pretty nice.. I' ll screenshot them for you guys

Keke: ...That.. Teenmix...[Don' t look] piss off=

Xiao Yu: ..That pair of mine-.. those gray Teenmix shoes 17...got ruined by that Rooster brand stuff

[...]

**PKUC079: Board Game Room**

**Summary:** Recorded in February 2025, this 10-minute conversation among three 26-year-old male Beijing residents (high school classmates) discusses a board game room converted from a 平房 (pingfang). Conversation covers renovation ideas and work experiences. Note: L2 = English.

**Dialogue Content:**

Umpu: [[This place really is that]] kind=...(2.3): (H) Pretty nice huh [(1)][[(.5)]]  
 [This]-secret base-secret base, my evaluation is=

Umpu: ...It' s just that-Mainly there' s also Wii, NS and a bunch of stuff=.. It' s the kind where if you...(1.8) after work (H) really don' t want to go anywhere, you can come here(H)

[...]

**PKUC080: Guqin Instruction**

**Summary:** Recorded in 2024, this 10-minute-4-second conversation between Shu Kai (guqin teacher) and Li Huan (student) occurs at Shu Kai' s practice room in Changsha, focusing on fingering techniques. **Transcriber:** Li Siyu

**Dialogue Content:**

Shu Kai: ..Um= how should I put it...Don' t let your palm-...don' t-...(8) collapse

Shu Kai: ..Look here...(2.2)...(.8) Ti-((Li Huan plays guqin))

Shu Kai: ((plays guqin))

Li Huan: ...Do you hear unwanted noise= right

((Li Huan plays guqin))

[...]

*Note: Figure translations are in progress. See original paper for figures.*

*Source: ChinaXiv –Machine translation. Verify with original.*