

Experiment – Picture naming

Description: the speakers name objects that are shown on cards.

Objectives: elicit the pronunciation of the named objects in isolation, particularly in order to obtain data about the lexical accentuation system of the language spoken and relevant prosodic domains. In order to accomplish this, the words that are to be elicited must be chosen according to a metrical control (see below). With minimal adaptations, the experiment can also be used to investigate lexical variation.

Participants

Speakers: 1 or 2

Researchers: 2 (“technician” + “moderator”)

Materials and preparation

Cards: paper cards, size about 15 cm x 15 cm. On each card there is a simple picture (sketched by hand, for example) of one of the objects whose names are to be elicited. Because of that, as many cards are needed as there are words to be elicited. We recommend laminating the cards in order to make them more robust. One set of cards is needed for the indigenous language and another for the contact language (Spanish or Portuguese).

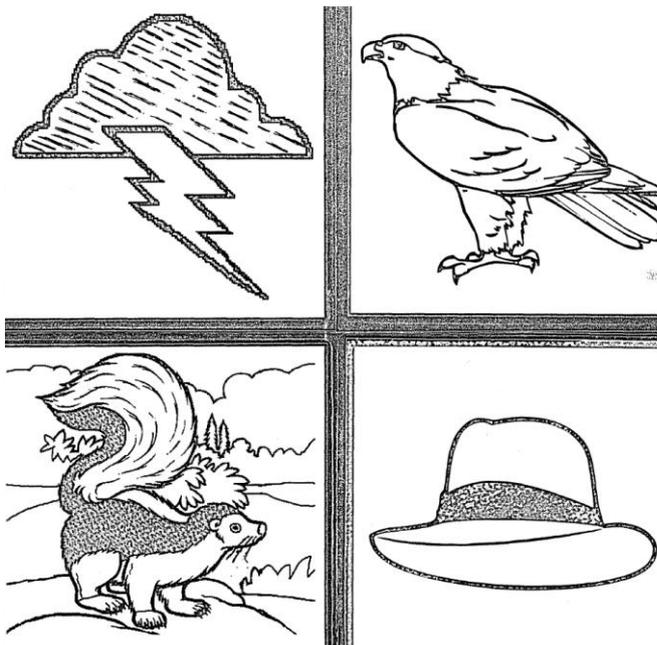


Figure 1: Example images that we used to elicit the words *tillaku* (CV.CV.CV) ‘lightning’, *anka* (VC.CV) ‘eagle’, *añas* (V.CVC) ‘skunk’, *tsuku* (CV.CV) ‘hat’

Metrical control: the objects depicted on the cards are chosen according to the metrical and prosodic properties that their names have in the language to be elicited. They need to obey the combinatorics laid out in *metrical control* (see that document).

After completing the set of words that follow the metrical control, appropriate images for each of the words must be found or created to put on the cards. Keep in mind that that objects must be well-known and their pictures easily recognizable to the speakers.

Before starting the first experiment session, it is of vital importance to check the chosen objects and words together with a local consultant, to make sure that all the objects are really called (and pronounced) as thought. It is quite possible that changes need to be made after this step so that the words most likely to be elicited by the cards will indeed be in accordance with the metrical control.

How to do it:

The moderator presents each card to one of the speakers individually, asking them what the depicted object is called. The speaker responds by naming the object. This is repeated with the next card, and until all the cards have been shown and objects named. After completing the sequence, the moderator (or the first speaker as moderator) repeats the same procedure with the second speaker in the same fashion. Everything is recorded from beginning to end.

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