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| Page | Statement | Comment |
| Abs | recruit linguists to provide narrow phonetic transcription | I think that a lot of individuals working with endangered languages (EL) do not recruit linguists but rather work with native speakers. You mention native speaker transcription but not that many are now trained linguists. |
| 713 | or transmitting knowledge | I have always felt that EL documentation is very remiss in considering the importance of cultural documentation. I work on ethnobiology and am producing illustrated guides for 4 communities, with each guide > 600 pages and accompanied by hundreds of hours of experts talking about their knowledge (transcribed and translated). One point that is important is that to assemble and preserve this cultural knowledge it is important to be able to process audio (transcribe and translate). So with my Mixtec work I can work with a native speaker linguist and get transcriptions for 1 hour of audio in about 1 day of work. So if we assume a 6 minute discussion of each plant and there are 300 plants then that = 1800 minutes or 30 hours. This can be done in a long month. The point is that only with efficient ASR can we start to produce cultural encyclopedias with audio, transcription, and translation. |
| 714 | pronunciation lexicon or language model | This is not necessary. We are using end-to-end ASR with the ESPNet toolkit and in a matter of days can get very efficient (~7-8 % error in a very complicated tonal language) ASR |
| 714 | only linguists can provide phone transcriptions or graph-to-phone rules needed for training a phone recognizer | No need to build a phone recognizer as really the E2E seems agnostic on what the "end" is. Also, when you say "only linguists" you imply that they are not native speakers and seem to set up a straw man oppostion between illiterate native speakers and scientific, Western linguists. Not the case. |
| 714 | d'ya, do you see … | The transcriptions can be normalized |
| 714 | transcription bottleneck has been made more acute | Not so. I think we can say that for Mixtec we have reduced transcription effort by 75+ per cent. This is the result of experiments to this effect. |
| 714 | Transcribing phones | Not sure if this is what people are doing. |
| 715 | transcription is observation | Yes, which is why I suggest replacing phone, character, and word error rate (PER, CER, WER) with phone, character, and word discrepancy rate, trying to convey the idea that the difference is often one of opinion not fact. |
| 715 | transcribing first | OK. But I do make the argument that a good case can be made for translating first |
| 715 | leverage the data and skills that are usually available | Again, this is the argument I make in regard to prioritzing translation, as it effectively involve semi- and passive speakers in documenting their language and culture. |
| 715 | sparse transcription | Not really. I HATE when I read a transcription and only the \_\_\_\_ (fill in the blank) are transcribed (e.g. relative clauses, statements about birds, two word lemmas, etc.) I think that rather the goal should be to provide material that is of potential use to the widest number of potential stakeholders. |
| 716 | re-transcribe | I use PowerGrep (a windows-based grep program) to continually revise my corpus. So if I change "catte" to "cat" in year 3, I can do regex searches and update changes. I agree that this is a problem and that few people update their corpus as their knowledge of the language changes. |
| 717 | preservation and acceess are best served by transcribing fully | Promise is how to drop this requirement! |
| 718-- |  | I agree with everything about how hard it is to transcribe, how things change, and how writing conventions will continue to change, etc. |
| 719 | Prioritizing translation over transcription | I made this point in an article I sent, though in a different context. |
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