

"Texts at work: Working with texts"

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Hand-out

Quotes

From **Eric Livingston**, *An anthropology of reading* (1995):

Texts are usually thought of as physical things, their properties assured independently of the act of reading. Reading, on the other hand, is construed as an operation performed on such objects, the “processing of information” found in a text. Yet, whatever a text’s properties, it takes on its observed properties from within the work of reading. Reading consists of work that is always done in conjunction with a particular text. Rather than having two separate things – texts and reading – the two together constitute one object – a “text/reading” pair. (14)

Reading is neither in a text nor in the reader. It consists of social phenomena, known through its achievements which lie between the text and the reader’s eye, in the reader’s implantation of society’s ways of reading, in reading what a text says.’ (16)

From **Bruno Latour**, *Science in action: How to follow scientists and engineers through society* (1987),

... in the case of economics, the history of a science is that of the many clever means to transform whatever people do, sell and buy into something that can be mobilised, gathered, archived, coded, recalculated and displayed, One such means is to launch *enquiries* by sending throughout the country pollsters, each with the same predetermined questionnaire that is to be filled in, asking managers the same questions about their firms, their losses and profits, their predictions on the future health of the economy. Then, once all the answers are gathered, other tables may be filled in that summarise, reassemble, simplify and rank the firms of a nation. Someone looking at the final charts is, in some way, considering the economy. (227).

Data extracts concerning survey interviewing

Extract 1 Part of interview instructions; first opening questions

Hello, I'm [fill INAM] calling from the University of Wisconsin as part of our national public opinion study. We are trying to reach people at their home telephone numbers. Is this a residential number?

To be sure I reached the number I dialed, is this [fill PRFX]-[fill SUFX:0] in Area Code ([fill AREA])?

Extract 2 AW03 - opening

1 FR: he:lla
 2 IV: **hello?** my name is (sue smith) **i'm calling from the university of wisconsin as part of**
 3 **our national public opinion study?** `hhh we're trying to reach people at their home
 4 **telephone numbers is this a residential number?** {qcnf}
 5 (0.9)
 6 FR: ye[s
 7 [#
 8 ??: ((cough))
 9 IV: ↑**and to be sure I have reached the number I di:aled is this** (five two five (.) seven
 10 one seven three?) [and=
 11 FR: [(yes)
 12 IV: =**area code** (four one seven?) {qcnfr}
 13 FR: YE:[S
 14 [#

Extract 3 AW02 - opening

1 MR: >hello<
 2 IV: `hhh **hell↑o** my name's: (jane smith?) **i'm calling from the university of wisconsin as**
 3 **part of our national public opinion study** `hhh [we're trying to reach=
 4 MR: [(mmhmm)
 5 IV: =**people at their home telephone numbers? is this a residential number?** {qcnf}
 6 (0.5)
 7 MR: yes it is
 8 IV: `hh okay great a:nd **to be sure I reached the number I dialed is it** (five five five) eh-
 9 five seven seven four and **area code** nine one two? {qcnfr}
 10 MR: yes ma'am
 11 IV: `hhh okay

Extract 4 AW01 - opening

1 FR: he:llo:
 2 IV: `hh uh ↑hi: my name's: (jane smith) an' i'm **calling from the university of wisconsin?**
 3 **as part of our national public opinion study?** `hhh we're trying to reach people at
 4 **their home telephone numbers?** `hhh **is this a residential number?** {qcnf}
 5 (0.4)
 6 FR: yes
 7 IV: `hh okay: a:nd **to be sure I reached the number I dialed is this area code** three oh
 8 three
 9 (0.5)
 10 IV: (five five five) [seven (0.5) five one seven]{qcnfr}

- 11 FR:→ [what are you calling about?]
 12 IV: **i'm calling from the university of wisconsin?**
 13 'h [as
 14 FR:→ [fo:r what.=
 15 IV: **=part of a national opinion study?**
 16 (1.0)
 17 FR:→ 'h uh concer:ni:ng what.
 18 IV:☞ 'hh well it's:- it's a broa:d study it's what we call a mo:dular study so they're a bunch of
 19 different segments of questions each about (0.2) different things 'hhh >some of the<
 20 things: in-volve things like politics: economic conditions and expectatio:ns: 'hhhh jst (.)
 21 different things >like that< — mostly: politics and government type [thing]s:
 22 FR: [okay]
 23 IV: 'hhh a:nd just to confirm your number it **i:s** (five five five) seven five five seven and
 24 **area code** three oh three {qcnfr}
 25 (0.3)
 26 FR: Uh huh?
 27 [#
 28 IV: [Oh kay:

Extract 5: Summary overview of caller's instructions for a substantive question:

And now some questions about government agencies. As you know, every 10 years there is a census of the population of the United States. How confident are you that the Census Bureau protects the privacy of personal information about individuals and does not share it with other government agencies - very confident, somewhat confident, not too confident or not at all confident ?

- <1> VERY CONFIDENT
 <2> SOMEWHAT CONFIDENT
 <3> NOT TOO CONFIDENT
 <4> NOT AT ALL CONFIDENT
 <8> NOT SURE / DON'T KNOW
 <9> NOT ASCERTAINED / REFUSED

Extract 6: an enacted questioning

- 1 IV: 'hhhh okay(gh): **a::[:nd? now we have some questions=**
 2 [##
 3 IV: **=about government agencies.** 'hhh as you know: every ten year there is a census of
 4 **the population of the united states.** 'hhh how confident are you: (.) that the census
 5 **bureau protects the privacy of personal information about individuals and does not**
 6 **share it with other government agencies.** 'hhh very confident (0.4) somewhat
 7 **↑ confident (0.5) not ↑ too confident? (0.2) or not at all ↑ confident.** {q5}
 8 (1.0)
 9 FR:→ share it with what other governments

- 1 IV: (tch) 'hh well the question doesn't specify: but (0.3) it just says **other government**
 2 **agen[ci]s**
 3 FR: [oh]
 4 FR: probably very confident
 5 (0.5)
 6 IV: °oh kay° **people have different ideas about what the ...**

Extract 7: another enacted questioning

- 1 IV: 'hh two a:nd now we have some questions about government agencies 'hhh ↑ **as**
 2 **you know every ten years (.) there's a census of the population of the united**
 3 **states 'hhh how confident are you that the census bureau protects the privacy**
 4 **of personal information about individuals? 'hhh and doesn't share it with**
 5 **other government ↑ agencies? 'hh are you very confident (.) somewhat**
 6 **↑ confident (.) not too confident (.) or not at all ↑ confident? {q5}**
 7 (2.1)
 8 MR:→ oh kay yer- you're talkin' (rapidly here you-)
 9 IV: 'hh o[kay
 10 MR:→ [protect information from
 11 (1.8)
 12 MR:→ keep (things) confidential?
 13 (0.7)
 14 IV: (tch) well um 'hhh the:: question actually asks **how confident are you that the**
 15 **census bureau 'hh protects the privacy of personal information about**
 16 **individuals and doesn't share it with other government agencies {q5}**
 17 (2.0)
 18 IV: so:: do you think the census bureau keeps thee information that people give them?
 19 do you think they keep that private? and they don't share it?
 20 (2.0)
 21 MR: eh:: i think they'd- they'd have to share it if
 22 (0.6)
 23 MR: gatherin' information
 24 IV: 'hhh okay:? so:: **how confident are you that (.) they:: don't share it(h) huh 'hh**
 25 (0.8)
 26 MR: uh::m not very con[fident]
 27 IV: [hhh] o[kay (.) **A:ND people have=**
 28 [#
 29 IV: **=different ideas about what the census is ...**

Data extracts from one GP consultation

Extract 8 [P = Patient; A = physician]

- 73 P: maar ik denk ja↑:↓ je kunt er toch ↑nie mee blijven ↑lope
but I think well you cannot keep walking around with that
 74 → [(sounds of writing))
 75 [(5.1)

- 76 P: ↑en↓ dan (de) voe↑t
and then (the) foot
- 77 (0.9)
- 78 P: ↑die wil (ook) niet
that doesn't go also
- 79 (.)
- 80 P: u weet daar ben ik- [(°vorige keer-)
you know I came with [(last time)
- 81 A: [die voorvoet
that forefoot
- 82 (0.6)
- 83 P: ↑ja↑
yes
- 84 (.)
- 85 P: (diezelfde voet.)
(that same foot)

Extract 9

- 199 P: dat dat is toch niet in ↑orde
that that is just not right
- 200 (.)
- 201 A: nee
no
- 202 (.)
- 203 (daar) ben ik helemaal mee e[ens
I agree with (that) complete[ly
- 204 P: [maar ik wou graag
[but I would like to
- 205 wel weer 's 'n end lopen
walk some distance again
- 206 maar ik zit aan ↓huis↑ gekluisterd
but I'm all tied up at home
- 207 (0.3)
- 208 als je (niet eens meer) in je schoen [kan
if you can not even get into your shoe
- 209 → [((sounds of writing))
- 210 [(0.6)
- 211 → [((sounds of writing))
- 212 P: [dat is lastig
- 213 → [((sounds of writing))
- 214 [(10.3)
- 215 → [((sounds of writing))
- 216 A: ·hhh en u zegt 't wordt ook <↑roo:d↓ dan hè?<
and you say it also gets red then right?
- 217 (.)
- 218 P: ja

- 219 ()
 220 eh zacht rood u:=-
 uh soft red uh
 221 A: =ja 'n beetje ro:zeachtig.=
 yes a bit rose like
 222 P: =ja
 yes

Extract 10

- 239 P: maar as ik dan ook even in de schoen
 but when I then also just in the shoe
 240 vooral z:: 's zondagavond
 especially Sunday evening
 241 [·hh dan is 't echt-
 242 [(0.3)
 then it's really
 243 (0.4)
 244 heb ik ↑moeite mee om d'er in te komen [(want) dan
 it's difficult for me to enter it (because) then
 245 A: [ja
 yes
 246 P: wordt 't te ↓dik↑
 it becomes too thick
 247 (0.9)
 248 P: dan zet 't ↓op↑
 then it swells up
 249 (5.0)
 250 A: → [·hhh ik heb vorige keer,
 251 [(0.5)
 → *I have last time,*
 252 (0.7)
 253 A: → hier gezet op vijfentwintig oktober,
 noted here on the twenty-fifth of october,
 254 (0.7)
 255 P: [ja
 yes
 256 A: → [is dit toch niet een ra:re vorm van ji:cht.
 is this [after all] not a strange kind of gout.
 257 (0.9)
 258 P: [·hh ik kan 't nie zeggen.
 259 [(.)
 I can't say it.
 260 (.)
 261 A: nee, >dat begrijp ik,
 no, I understand that

- 262 (.)
- 263 A: maar:
but
- 264 (0.4)
- 265 P: (°dank [u])
(thank you)
- 266 A: → [da(n) zet ik nu-
then I note now-
- 267 → [m::: is dit jicht op- =
- 268 [(0.8)
m:::is this gout on-
- 269 =ik had er niet naar gekeken=
I hadn't looked at it
- 270 → =is dit jicht op 'n
is this gout at a
- 271 (0.35)
- 272 → niet specifieke ↑plaats↓ zet ik nu neer
not specific place I note now
- 273 dus dat komt twee keer bij mij [(toch)
so that occurs to me two times actually
- 274 P: ['t zit in
it is
- 275 hoofdzaak hier=
mainly here
- 276 A: =ja ↑ :=
yes
- 277 P: tussen deze te[nen en da is 't] net of 't op ↑deze teen
between these toes and there it seems like on this toe
- 278 A: [ja precies]
yes exactly
- 279 (0.6)
- 280 P: die is oo[k] iets dikker as de andere,
that one is also a bit thicker than the other
- 281 A: [drukt]
presses
- 282 P: [van (die 'k al) voet
of (that) foot
- 283 A: [ja
yes

Extract 11

- 379 P: ·hh a' je zegt
when you say
- 380 (.)
- 381 ik heb 'n grote blaas onder me voet,=
I have a big blister under my foot

- 382 =maar ik heb gekeken=
but I have looked
- 383 =dat heb i[k niet
I don't have that
- 384 A: [die zīt er niet.=
that is is not there
- 385 =(nee) die voel 'k ook niet.
(no) I don't feel that either
- 386 (0.5)
- 387 P: ja=
yes
- 388 A: [·hhhh=
 389 [(1.3)
 390 [=hhhh ((sighs))
 391 → [(1.2)
 392 → [((sounds of writing))
 393 → [((sounds of writing))
 394 → [(.)
- 395 P: en (niets) dan tobben
and (nothing) but worrying
- 396 (1,2)
- 397 P: (je moet wat, °maar,)
(you got to do something, but)

Extract 12

- 544 P: =en ik kon juist heel goed lopen
and I could on the contrary walk very well
- 545 (.)
- 546 [·hhh
- 547 [(0.4)
- 548 (0.6)
- 549 van hier (vandaan naar de handbal) daar zie ik niks tegen op
from here (to the handball) I wouldn't dread that
- 550 [·hhhh
- 551 [(0.7)
- 552 maar nou laat ik 't wel
but now I leave it off
- 553 ()
- 554 stukje naar 't dorp is (...) nog te veel.
a bit to the village is (...) even too much
- 555 (2.3)
- 556 dus dat is eh-
so that is uh
- 557 (1.6)
- 558 't zit alleen maar(r) in in dat plekje.
it's just only in in that small spot

- 559 → [((sounds of writing))
 560 → [(4.4)
 561 A: → ik schrijf hier 's op,
I am writing here
 562 (.)
 563 → pee e(m)
 → *pee em.*
 564 (0.7)
 565 dat ik eventjes
that I have to
 566 (0.5)
 567 over nadenk,
think about it
 568 ()
 569 of althans dat we dat 's in gaten houden,
or at least that we keep an eye on it
 570 laat 'k 't zo maar zeggen,
let me put it that way
 571 [·hhhh
 572 [(0.7)
 573 → om dokter Pereboom toch 'ns te laten kijken=
to have doctor P. take a look at it
 574 =de ortho[pedische chirurg=
the orthopedic surgeon
 575 P: [oh
 576 A: → dat ie gewoon 's kijkt van ↑hee
that he just takes a look like gee
 577 (.)
 578 A: → i[s-
is
 579 P: [°jah,
yes
 580 A: → is die ↑voorvoet niet te veel doorgezakt,
is that forefoot not to much sagged,
 581 (.)
 582 P: (°ne[e)
(no)
 583 A: [ik:<>v:°oel 't niet ↓maar:
I don't feel it but
 584 A: >ik ben wat dat betreft 'n leek.
I am a layman in that area
 585 (2.3)
 586 P: (°n↑ou!)
(°well)
 587 (1.1)
 588 P: (ik weet niet)
(I don't know)

- 589 u zegt ('t maar wat u't [beste vindt)
you can say what you think is best
- 590 A: [ja↑ A:, dat lijkt me 't beste,
yes, that seems best to me
- 591 [-hHh
 592 [(0.5)
- 593 A: maar ik ga u wel e:hm:
but I will give you uhm
- 594 (0.4)
- 595 A: ik gaat:-
I go
- 596 (0.2)
- 597 een ding nog probere,
try one more thing
- 598 (0.6)
- 599 of 't dat inderdaad is,
whether it's that really
- 600 ()
- 601 en as dat ook niet helpt,
and if that doesn't help either
- 602 [hhhh
 603 [(0.6)
- 604 dan=
then
- 605 → =<en daarom zet ik (dat) hier op de kaart<=
and that's why I'm putting that on this card
- 606 =dan wil ik graag dat u toch 'n keer naar
that I would like you to go one day to
- 607 dokter Pereboom gaat.
doctor P.
- 608 (.)
- 609 P: ja
yes
- 610 ()
- 611 maar
but
- 612 ()
- 613 u wilt eerst nog wat anders [proberen?
you want to try another thing first?
- 614 A: [ja
yes
- 615 (0.4)
- 616 ja
yes
- 617 (.)
- 618 P: goed.
alright

- 619 (0.5)
 620 en as dat niet helpt,
and if that doesn't help
- 621 (.)
 622 A: ja
yes
- 623 (.)
 624 dan dacht ik d'rover om do[kter Pere[boom te vragen
then I am considering asking doctor P. about it
- 625 P: [ja [ja
yes yes
- 626 (3.1)
 627 maar dat spreken we dan later af.=
but in that case we will arrange that later
- 628 A: =[↑ja↓:↑
yes
- 629 P: [we handelen eerst dít af [(hè)
we will settle this first right
- 630 A: [↑ja precies↓
yes exactly
- 631 →[(18.1)
 632 →[((sounds of writing))
 633 en dat (de volgende) week of drie vier,=
and that the next week or three four
- 634 =en as u dan zegt 't helpt me eigenlijk ↑niks,
and if you say it doesn't help me at all really
- 635 (.)
 636 P: ja
yes
- 637 (0.4)
 638 A: dan eh:
than uh
- 639 (0.4)
 640 gaan we dokter Pereboom inschakelen.
we are going to enlist doctor P.
- 641 (.)
 642 P: j[a
yes
- 643 A: [ja?=
yes
- 644 P: =krijg ik daar tabletten voor?=
do I get tablets for that?
- 645 =of-
or
- 646 (0.5)
 647 A: eh:: ja () twee per dag.
uh yes two a day

- 650 (0.5)
- 651 P: twee per dag.(.)
two a day
- 653 A: ja=
yes
- 654 P: =en dat moet ik (eh) () voor die blahh- blaasontsteking
and that I have to uh for that bladder infection
- 657 ook weer een ku[ur ()]?
also again a course
- 658 A: [ja: <daar grijgt u wat anders (voor)=
yes for that you get something else
- 659 =maar ik heb 't nou even over de voet.=
but I am nou talking about the foot
- 660 P: =ja [dat begrijp ik
yes I understand that
- 661 A: [daar krijgt u een ↑kuurtje voor. () ja ()
for that you get a course yes
- 665 P: ja dat begrijp ik.
yes I understand that
- 666 →[(24.5)
- 667 →[((sounds of writing))
- 668 A: dus ↑twee dingen=
so two things
- 669 =die voor die blaasontsteking die kuur vier tabletten per dag
that for the bladder infection that course four tablets a day
- 671 =die moet u opmaken met veel drinken,=
you have to finish that with drinking a lot
- 672 =[dat zult u
that you will
- 673 P: [↑ja↓ja dat weet'k
yes yes I know that

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