Building an Audio Description
Multilingual Multimodal Corpus: the VIW project

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Overview

• What do we want to research?
• Previous work on audio description (AD) and corpora
• Project rationale
• Creating the materials
• Processing the materials
• Next steps
What do we research?

• Audio description within Audiovisual Translation Studies and Media Accessibility

• Translating images into words
  • What to select from a complex image?
  • How to transfer the visuals into words?
  • Inter- and intralinguistic variation?
Previous work on AD and corpora

• Small corpus (Piety 2004)
• TIWO (Salway 2007)
• TRACCE (Jiménez Hurtado et al. 2010)
• Pear Tree Project (Mazur and Kruger 2012), inspired by Chafe (1980)
Project rationale

- One small stimulus, allowing for increasing research
- Open access (copyright issues)
- Multilingual (Catalan, Spanish, English)
- Multimodal (audio, video and text)

- Funded by Spanish Government under Europa Excelencia funding scheme (October 2015-September 2016)
Creating the materials

• Short film commissioned to a film director (guidelines based on literature review)

• “What happens while---”, by Núria Nia, in English.
• Dubbed into Catalan and Spanish in professional studio

http://pagines.uab.cat/viw/
Creating the materials

• Audio descriptions by professionals (10 in English, 10 in Catalan, 10 in Spanish): recorded video plus text

• Additionally: audio descriptions by students (volunteers in Spanish and Catalan), only text

http://pagines.uab.cat/viw/
## The corpus

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>AUDIO DESCRIPTION</th>
<th>VERSIONS</th>
<th>WORDS</th>
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<tr>
<td>GLOBAL</td>
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</tbody>
</table>
Processing the materials

• ELAN (Sloetjes and Wittenburg 2008).

• Linguistic annotations: sentences, chunks, tokens, part of speech, lemma, and semantic annotations.

• Cinematic annotations: text, sound, and camera (ongoing). In a way, ADs are extended visual annotations.
The whole picture

AudioDesc.txt

EN
en1 en2 en3 en4 ...

ES
es1 es2 es3 es4 ...

CA
c1 ca2 ca3 ca4 ...

ShortMovie.mp4

Linguistic annotations

Filmic annotations
Workflow

1. mp4
   txt

2. eaf file

3. CLARIN CENTRE
   S
   NLP

4. conll2eaf

5. web app

6. Ling. Annotated text
Next steps

• Clean data and finalise web application
• Cinematic annotation
• Analyse the data: intralinguistic and interlinguistic analysis on AD (useful graphics) plus professionals versus students
• Involve other researchers and languages
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