

# Intralinguistic variation in the audio description of a short film

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# Overview

- Audio description research
- Corpus studies and audio description
- The VIW project
- A comparison of students and professionals' audio descriptions
- Conclusions

# AD research

- Theoretical approaches (narratology, cognitive studies)
- Experimental research
- Research on technology, training, etc.
- Descriptive approaches mostly based on case studies

# Audio description and corpora

- TIWO (Salway 2007)
- TRACCE (Jiménez Hurtado et al. 2010)
- MPII Movie Description dataset (Rohrbach et al. 2015)
- Pear Tree Project (Mazur and Kruger 2012), inspired by Chafe (1980)
- Reviere et al. (2015)
- VIW (Matamala & Villegas 2016)

# The VIW project

- 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
- Professional audio descriptions (10 x 3) and students’ audio descriptions (10 + 7). Total: +30,000 words.

# The corpus

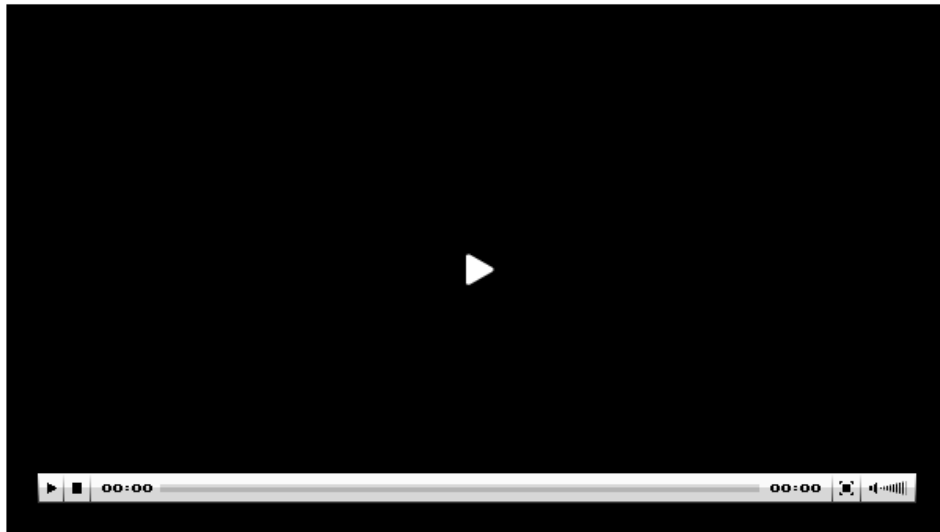
<http://pagines.uab.cat/viw/>

**Linked to UAB's open access repository**

[Home](#)

## The Film: WHW

"What Happens While", a short film directed by Núria Nia.



TRANSMEDIA  
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Departament de Traducció  
i d'Interpretació i d'Estudis  
de l'Àsia Oriental

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All materials generated by the project are available at [UAB open access repository](#), including the [director's commentary](#) (in Catalan).

 [Film in English](#)  [Film dubbed into Spanish](#)  [Film dubbed into Catalan](#)



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## The Corpus

The VIW corpus is made up of audio descriptions in different languages of the same short film, and it incorporate a **search engine** (forthcoming). It currently includes 10 professional audio descriptions in English, 10 professional audio descriptions in Spanish and 10 professional audio descriptions in Catalan. All 30 audio descriptions were commissioned to professionals, who were remunerated. It also includes 10 audio descriptions in Spanish and 7 audio descriptions in Catalan made by students (text only, not recorded audio/video files). We hope to expand it in the near future with more audio descriptions. You are invited to read the section "Contribute".

### Audio and video files with audio description by professional describers

[▶ English](#) [▶ Catalan](#) [▶ Spanish](#)

### Text files of audio descriptions by students

[▶ Catalan](#) [▶ Spanish](#)

### ACCESS TO THE CORPUS SEARCH ENGINE

All materials are also available at UAB's open access repository: <https://ddd.uab.cat/record/147267>.





# SPANISH AUDIO DESCRIPTIONS



English audio descriptions Catalan audio descriptions Spanish audio descriptions

All materials are also available at UAB open access repository: <https://ddd.uab.cat/record/147267>.

**Aptent:**



**Aristia:**



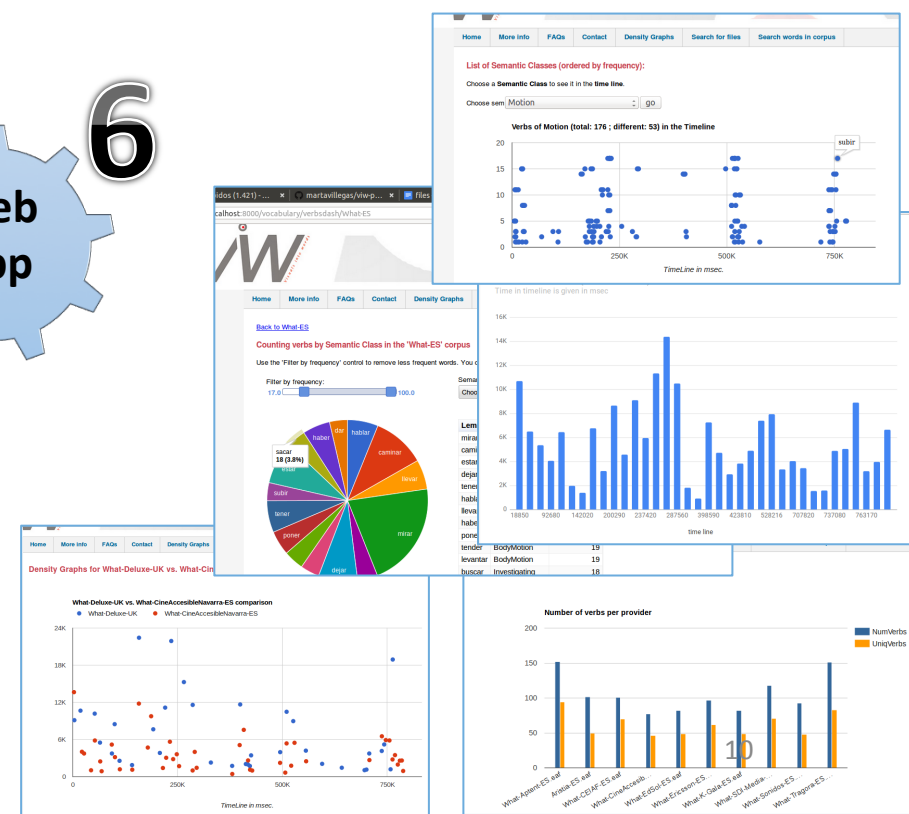
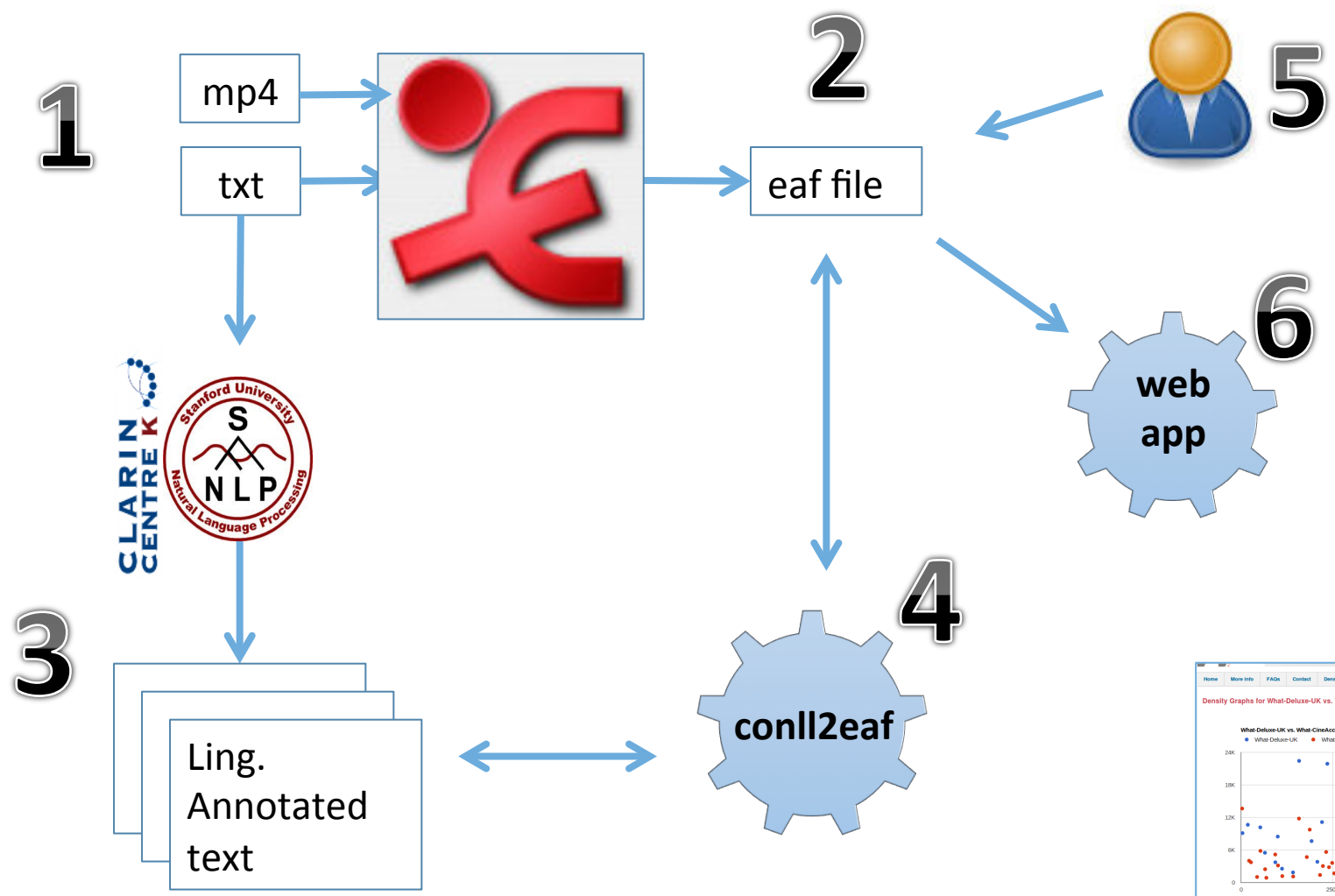
**CEIAF:**



**Navarra de Cine:**



# Processing the materials



# Segmenting and processing

- Linguistic tiers: AD-unit tier (sentences, chunks, tokens) and Credits tier
  - Token: parts of speech, lemma, and semantic values
- Filmic tiers: scene, shot, sound, character, text.

# The web app: source data

- Raw material per provider and per subcorpus to import into ELAN and into CQPweb. Also filmic annotations as eaf file.
- Visualizations for pre-established analyses.
- Access from previous page but also directly: <http://transmediacatalonia.uab.cat/web/>

## The VIW project

**VIW (Visuals Into Words)** is a project funded by the Spanish “Ministerio de Economía y Competitividad” (FFI2015-62522- ERC) that aims to research audio description (AD) from a multilingual and multimodal corpus perspective.

The VIW corpus is built upon the short movie “What Happens While”, available in English and dubbed into Catalan and Spanish. It contains audio descriptions in English, Catalan, and Spanish by both professionals and students, and follows an open access policy.

This website provides access to the corpus and allows for different types of searches and visualizations on the AD scripts (excluding final credits for the reasons set forth in the [technical documentation](#)).

For more information about the project, please visit the project website [here](#)

## List of available corpora

You can also use the [BROWSE facility](#) to look for a specific file.

- **WHW-EN-Pr:** The WHW-EN-Pr corpus contains professional audio descriptions in English for the short movie "What Happens While". [access](#)

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- **WHW-ES-Pr:** The WHW-ES-Pr corpus contains professional audio descriptions in Spanish for the short movie "What Happens While". [access](#)

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- **WHW-CA-Pr:** The WHW-CA-Pr corpus contains professional audio descriptions in Catalan for the short movie "What Happens While". [access](#)

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- **WHW-ES-St:** The WHW-ES-St corpus contains audio descriptions in Spanish for the short movie "What Happens While" made by students. [access](#)

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- **WHW-CA-St:** The WHW-CA-St corpus contains audio descriptions in Catalan for the short movie "What Happens While" made by students. [access](#)

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## Metadata for corpus 'WHW-ES-Pr'

- **title:** WHW-ES-Pr
- **description:** The WHW-ES-Pr corpus contains professional audio descriptions in Spanish for the short movie "What Happens While".
- **language:** ES
- **identifier:** <https://ddd.uab.cat/record/147267>

## Actions for corpus 'WHW-ES-Pr'

- **Filmic annotations:** you can get the [.eaf file](#) with all filmic annotations or the [html version](#)

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- **Simple string search:** this allows simple string searches on the entire WHW-ES-Pr corpus [access](#)

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- **AD unit, sentence and word countings:** this provides some figures about AD units, sentences and words in the WHW-ES-Pr corpus [access](#)

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- **AD distribution in the timeline:** you can get a [compact view](#) or an [expanded view](#) of the ADs distribution in the timeline

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- **Verb distribution in the timeline:** you can choose a verbal semantic class and see its distribution in the timeline. [access](#)

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- **AD similarity:** see text similarity among files in the corpus [access](#)

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- **Word frequency by part of speech:** you can see word frequency by part of speech tag [access](#)

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- **Word frequency by provider:** this gives the number of verbs, nouns, adjectives and adverbs per provider. [access](#)

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- **Verbs & semantic classes:** you can inspect verbal semantic classes [access](#)

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- **Nouns & semantic classes:** you can inspect nominal semantic classes [access](#)

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- **Adjectives & semantic classes:** you can inspect adjectival semantic classes [access](#)

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- **Adverbs & semantic classes:** you can inspect adverbial semantic classes [access](#)

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## Files in corpus 'WHW-ES-Pr'

- [Aptent-ES](#)
- [Aristia-ES](#)
- [CEIAF-ES](#)
- [NavarradeCine-ES](#)
- [EdSolProducciones-ES](#)
- [Ericsson-ES](#)
- [Kaleidoscope-ES](#)
- [SDI-Media-ES](#)
- [Sonidos-ES](#)
- [Tragora-ES](#)

# Analysing the data

- Multiple analyses (on-going)
- Focus for ALETI: comparison of the Spanish professional subcorpus and the Spanish students' subcorpus (and additionally to Spanish general language corpora)
- Quantitative approach on automatically tagged data

# AD units, sentences, and words

- Professionals use more AD units and show less variability
- Professionals use more sentences and words
- Mean number of words per AD unit: professionals 12.57, students 11.42
- Mean number of words per sentences: similar means (around 8.4), different from 20.89 words found in Cumbre corpus
- No statistically significant differences



# Word classes

- Similar percentages for word classes with slight differences
  - Professionals: more adjectives and verbs
  - Students: more nouns and adpositions
- Most frequent: nouns, followed by verbs.
- Higher presence than in general language corpus.
- More open-class words than closed-class words, in contrast with CREA corpus

# 20 most frequent lemmas

- 70% of most frequent lemmas shared.
- Professionals (all word classes): *el, uno, de, y, se, a, en, con, mirar, su, por, qué, James, Rick, caminar, móvil, lo, hacia, estar, playa.*
- Professionals (N, V, A, Adj): *mirar, James, Rick, caminar, móvil, estar, playa, alrededor), dejar hablar, no, vaso, Jess, tener, hombre, llevar, banco, haber, mano, sonido.*
- Students(all word classes): *el, uno, de, y, se, a, en, mirar, con, su, por, James, qué, Rick, caminar, Jess, no, hacia, estar, playa.*
- Students (N, V, A, Adj): *mirar, James, Rick, caminar, Jess, no, estar, playa, lado, café, dejar, hombre, buscar, año, arena, hablar, móvil, tener, alrededor, blanco.*

# Text similarity

- Ted Pedersen's Text Similarity Module  
([transmediacatalonia.uab.cat/web/similarity/WHW-ES-Pr](http://transmediacatalonia.uab.cat/web/similarity/WHW-ES-Pr))
- Most pairs (81.58%) between 0.30 and 0.39, with 10% or less at a lower or higher end
- Less similar (2 professional providers) and more similar (student-professional).

# Semantic classes

- Semantic tags from Suggested Upper Merged Ontology (SUMO)
- Selective annotation focusing on
  - Verbs linked to spatio-temporal settings, movements, communication, and character description
  - Adjectives linked to characters' mood, hearing and sight
  - Nouns linked to spatio-temporal settings and characters
  - Adverbs linked to spatio-temporal settings

# Semantic classes

- Most frequent semantic tags:
  - Location (professional = 12.09, students= 11.80)
  - Human, Object and Motion in the professional
  - Object, Aux and Seeing in the students' subcorpus
- Similar percentages.

# Possibilities of automatic tagging

- First approach to:
  - Location (70% most frequent location nouns shared, similar percentages)
  - Describing colours (students= 2.27%, professionals 2.14%, four most frequent shared, interesting description of a character as pelirrojo/rubio)
  - Describing characters (90% of the most frequent words shared)

# Conclusions

- Need for corpus-based research
- Need for open access data
- Possibilities of automatic tagging
- Interest in analysing variation but also contrast with general language corpora
- Quantitative followed by qualitative studies

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