

Supplemental Material 1. Computation of FVMC, Errors/CU, and PGCU

Sample 1 demonstrates the computation of finite verb morphology composite (FVMC) and Sample 2 demonstrates the computation of number of errors per C-unit (Errors/CU) and percent grammatical C-units (PGCU). Although we transcribed and coded the data based on the SALT conventions (Miller & Chapman, 2000) in the present study, we do not apply the SALT conventions here for the ease of interpretation. The statements within the parentheses correspond to our coding for the target morphemes.

FVMC. In Sample 1, there were 10 obligatory contexts for the target tense morphemes. Six (i.e., Utterances E, F, H, I, J, K) of the ten contexts (i.e., Utterances A, B, D, E, F, G, H, J, and K) had a correct use of the target morpheme. Thus, the FVMC in this example was 60% (6/10). Note that Utterance C is not included for analysis because it has two contexts for using irregular past tense and does not have any obligatory contexts of past tense –*ed*.

(Sample 1)

- A. One day a dog **was* playing with a rabbit. (omission of auxiliary *was*; * indicates omission)
- B. And the rabbit **was* so hungry. (omission of copula *was*)
- C. The rabbit ate his bread and fruit and drank his juice. (no contexts)
- D. And the dog start eating his sandwich and his apple juice. (omission of past tense –*ed*)
- E. And the rabbit was full. (correct use of copula *was*)
- F. And he was very sick. (correct use of copula *was*)
- G. And the rabbit **was* laying down. (omission of auxiliary *was*)
- H. And then the dog pulled the lady to the rabbit. (correct use of past tense –*ed*)
- I. And the lady said “you are very sick.” (correct use of copula *are*)
- J. And you are full. (correct use of copula *are*)
- K. The dog said “my friend wants to go home.” (correct use of third person singular –*s*)

Errors/CU and PGCU. In Sample 2, there are 10 utterances (A, B, D, E, F, G, H, I, J, K) included for analysis. Utterance C is not included for analysis because it has no verbs. Utterance K, however, is included because utterances with the omission of copula *be* are included for the computation of the grammaticality measures in the present study. Among the 10 utterances, three of them (Utterances E, H, and I) do not have any errors and are counted as grammatical. Thus, percent grammatical C-units (PGCU) of this sample is 30% (3/10). In addition, there are 9 errors in the 10 utterances. Thus, there are 0.9 (9/10) errors per C-unit (i.e., Errors/CU = 0.9).

(Sample 2)

- A. The giraffe went close **to* talk to the elephant. (1 error: omission of infinitive *to*)
- B. They were play ball. (1 error: omission of present participle –*ing*)
- C. A very big ball. (not included for analysis because it has no verbs)
- D. And the ball went over there and went **in* the water. (1 error: omission of preposition *in*)
- E. And the giraffe and the elephant yelled. (grammatical)
- F. And the giraffe jump into **the* water. (2 errors: omissions of past tense –*ed* and article *the*)
- G. And he got the ball and give to the elephant. (2 errors: irregular past form was not used for the verb “*give*”; one required argument is missing for the verb “*give*”)

- H. The elephant said "thank you". (grammatical)
- I. The giraffe said "you're welcome." (grammatical)
- J. The elephant hug the ball. (1 error: omission of past tense -ed)
- K. The giraffe *was mad. (1 error: omission of copula *was*)