Coding for Demographic categories: 'Asian' ethnicity

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Challenges

- Goal: a coherent conjoined set of coding conventions on demographic data to be shared by all researchers
- Shared coding conventions are necessary for open-source data sharing and cross-study compatibility, *but*
- A coding strategy that only codes at the macro-social level (e.g. "white", "Asian American", etc) will always misrepresent the structure of ethnicity in a given community to one degree or another:
  - either with respect to speaker self-identity
  - or with respect to broader community ideologies
  - or both

Challenges

- Ethnicity, like other aspects of identity, will in part be constructed through the very segment of discourse that will be archived in the corpus.

  A speaker might orient towards different ethnicity/ethnic labels within a given interview.

- Our ideal coding system should find ways to capture these nuances.

Challenges

- 'Asian American'
  - What level of specificity?
    - e.g., various types of 'Asians' (Chinese, Filipinos, Koreans, Indians)
    - e.g., various types of 'Chinese'
    - e.g., immigrant generation + time period of immigration
  - What level of generality?
    - community-specific associations with 'Asian'
    - Mixed-race / Hapa as nonetheless 'Asian'

Goals

- endeavor to more accurately reflect both the social reality of speakers' own identities *and* the community's identification of those speakers in the corpora;

- while making such corpora more readily comparable for sociolinguistic analysis, across field sites,

Goals

- to build corpora that incorporate those ethnic groups that have traditionally been overlooked in large-scale dialectological work

  at the moment, little is known about 'Asian Americans' with respect to dialect studies. It is not entirely clear what levels of ethnicity and ethnic orientation matter sociolinguistically (*which is also the exciting part…*)

Solutions

- Recognize that the long-term goals of corpus archiving are different from immediate goals of sociolinguistic analysis.

- Therefore, for corpora archiving, tag metadata in as much detail as possible, both fine- & coarse-grained

  - e.g., recognize that every speaker may have multiple, variable ethnic identities which are intersecting and potentially negotiated throughout a given recording.

Solutions

- How to obtain this data?

    - questionnaires,
      E.g. [General Ethnicity Questionnaire](#) (GEQ)

    - meta comments of self-identification

    - close analysis of self-identification in the discourse

GEQ
(Tsai, Ying and Lee 2000)

Please use the following scale to indicate how much you agree with the following statements. Circl your response.

1	2	3	4	5
Strongly Disagree	Disagree	Neutral	Agree	Strongly Agree

1. I was raised in way that was American.   1 2 3 4 5

2. When I was growing up, I was exposed to American culture.   1 2 3 4 5

3. Now, I am exposed to American culture.   1 2 3 4 5

4. Compared to how much I negatively criticize other cultures,

    I criticize American culture less.   1 2 3 4 5

5. I am embarrassed/ashamed of American culture.   1 2 3 4 5

6. I am proud of American culture.   1 2 3 4 5

7. American culture has had a positive impact on my life.   1 2 3 4 5

8. I believe that my children should read, write, and speak English.   1 2 3 4 5

9. I have a strong belief that my children should have American names only.   1 2 3 4 5

10. I go to places where people are American.   1 2 3 4 5

GEQ – adapted

		0	1	2
15.	I celebrate Chinese holidays with my *family*.	0	1	2
16.	I celebrate Chinese holidays with my *friends*.	0	1	2
17.	*At home*, I often eat Chinese food.	0	1	2
18.	*Dining out,* I often choose Chinese restaurants.	0	1	2
19.	I often *cook* Chinese food at home.	0	1	2
20.	I often go to places where people are Chinese/Chinese Americans.	0	1	2
21.	I was/am a member of Chinese organizations (e.g. Chinese Student Associations, Chinese-language Church, etc.)	0	1	2
22.	I now live in/near a Chinese/Chinese American community.	0	1	2
23.	I would prefer to live in/near a Chinese/Chinese American community.	0	1	2
24.	When I was in elementary and high school, most of my close friends were Chinese/Chinese Americans.	0	1	2
25.	I would prefer to date Chinese/Chinese Americans.	0	1	2
26.	I believe that my children should speak, read, and write Chinese.	0	1	2
27.	Over all, I am Chinese.	0	1	2

Social Network Questionnaire (Wong 2007)

Who are the people, <u>other than your family members</u>, you talk to most often, either in person or on the phone, for business, for school, etc? These people can be your significant other, work/school colleagues, neighbors, friends, fellow members of clubs/church/organizations, etc. Feel free to use real or false initials.

Name as few or as many people as you like! Ask for extra forms if necessary!

	Initials	Ethnicity	Lives in	Sex	Education	Occupation	Relationship	How often do you TALK to this person?	How often do you SEE this person?
1.		Chinese Chinese American Asian American Other: _____	NYC (Area:_____) U.S. PRC/Taiwan/HK Other: _____	Male Female	Elementary school High school College Graduate	_____	S. O. Friend Acquaintance Roommate Work colleague Other: _____	Every day At least once a week At least once a month Once every few months At least once a year Less than once a year	Every day At least once a week At least once a month Once every few months At least once a year Less than once a year
2.		Chinese Chinese American Asian American Other: _____	NYC (Area:_____) U.S. PRC/Taiwan/HK Other: _____	Male Female	Elementary school High school College Graduate	_____	S. O. Friend Acquaintance Roommate Work colleague Other: _____	Every day At least once a week At least once a month Once every few months At least once a year Less than once a year	Every day At least once a week At least once a month Once every few months At least once a year Less than once a year
3.		Chinese Chinese American	NYC (Area:_____)	Male Female	Elementary school	_____	S. O. Friend Acquaintance	Every day At least once a week At least once a month	Every day At least once a week At least once a month

Social Network Questionnaire (Wong 2007)

- *Who would you contact in the hypothetical situations below?*

1. You are moving apartments to another part of New York City. You need people to help you move. Who do you ask?

2. You're becoming increasingly dissatisfied with your work/study situation and are thinking of looking for a new job/program. You want to discuss the pros and cons of changing jobs/programs with someone whose opinion you value. Who do you contact?

Ethnic Orientation
(The Toronto projects)

Sample Ethnic Orientation Questionnaire

Ethnic identification:

1. Do you think of yourself as Italian, Canadian, or Italian-Canadian?
2. Are most of your friends Italian?
3. Are people in your neighborhood Italian?
4. Are the people you work with Italian?
5. When you were growing up, were the kids in your school Italian? Were your friends? The kids in your neighborhood?

Language:

1. Do you speak Italian? How well? How often?
   If no: Can you understand Italian?
2. Where did you learn Italian? At home? In school?
3. Do you prefer to speak Italian or English?
4. Do you prefer to read and write in Italian or English?
   Do you read Italian magazines and newspapers? Which ones?

Taken from Walker and Hoffman (2010)

Ethnic Orientation
(The Toronto projects)

Partner:

1. Is your husband/wife/boyfriend/girlfriend Italian?
2. Does she/he think of her/himself as Italian, Canadian, or Italian-Canadian?
3. Does she/he speak Italian? Do you speak Italian to her/him?

Italian culture:

1. Should Italian-Canadian kids learn Italian? Italian culture?
2. Would you rather live in an Italian neighborhood?
3. Should Italians only marry other Italians?

Ethnographic Interview

- Basic demographic information
- Heritage language competence/frequency
- Childhood and schools
- Neighborhood – involvement, changes
- Friends
- Metalinguistic comments

Complex ethnicity/ethnic orientation

- "Mom was white, Dad was Filipino Chinese."
- "Dad…is of mixed background, so that's how the Filipino Chinese in me comes in."

Fluid ethnicity/ethnic orientation

- "With Asians sometimes they'll drop you off with relatives to be raised village style. And that's how I was done."

Fluid ethnicity/ethnic orientation

- "because he was born there, [Dad] knew a lot of … Filipino relatives. So as a youngster, five or so, I knew most of that side then I grew into my Chinese side."
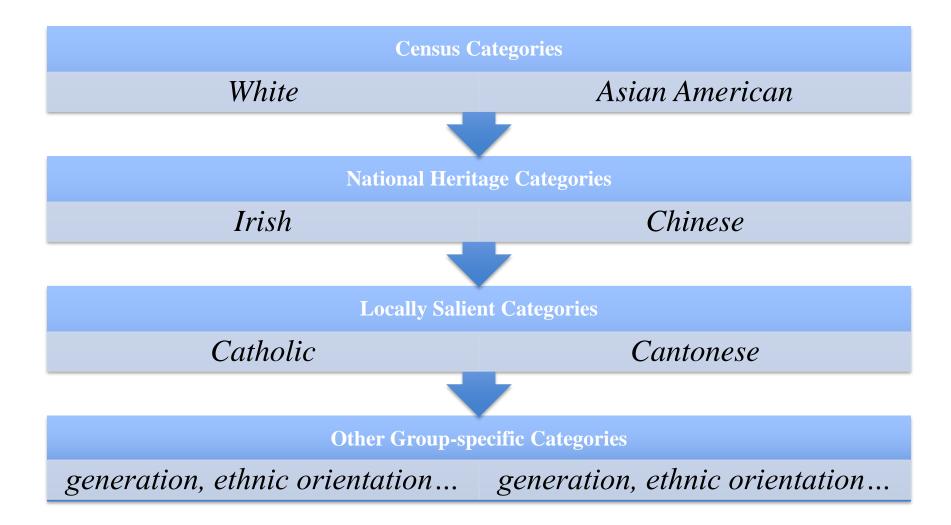
Fluid ethnicity/ethnic orientation

- [Interviewer: "How did that happen?"]

- "In the 50s there weren't many Filipinos here, there were more Chinese than there were Filipinos. And Asians tended to stick together in the fifties and sixties."

Fluid ethnicity/ethnic orientation

- "I go to China once a year (for) the last ten years … I I speak some Cantonese enough to get by."

- "that's what made our Chinese community"

Fluid ethnicity/ethnic orientation

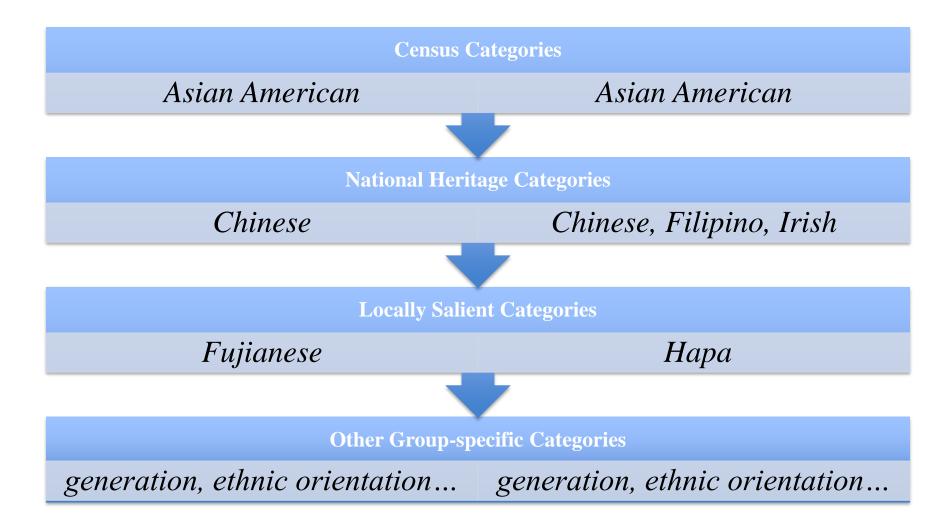- "Both groups in those days were still are isolationist from the rest of the world. Asians, that's the way we are, but not from each other."
- "moving up in the world, just like you and I Asians, moving up in the world"
- "a lot of Asians, we are conservative anyway."
- "[be]cause I'm Asian, I wanted to do something Asian."

Fluid ethnicity/ethnic orientation

- "a lot of Filipinos say they're half Chinese. I'm a quarter."

Aspects of Ethnicity

Census Categories

White   *Asian American*

⬇

National Heritage Categories

Irish   *Chinese*

⬇

Locally Salient Categories

Catholic   *Cantonese*

⬇

Other Group-specific Categories

generation, ethnic orientation…   *generation, ethnic orientation…*

Aspects of Ethnicity

Census Categories

Asian American   *Asian American*

National Heritage Categories

Chinese   *Chinese, Filipino, Irish*

Locally Salient Categories

Fujianese   *Hapa*

Other Group-specific Categories

generation, ethnic orientation...   *generation, ethnic orientation...*

Coding for ethnicity (Hall-Lew, ongoing)

	B	F	G	H	I	J	K	L	M	N	O
1	Pseudonym	Ethnicity (A)	Ethnicity (B)	Ethnicity (C)	Ethnicity (D)	Immigrant Gen	Father born	Mother born	Non-Eng, Active Heritage Lngs	HLng Fluency	HLng Use
2	Carrie	AsianAm	Chinese	Singaporean	Surinamese	2	Hong Kong	Singapore	Cantonese	1	0
3	Cindy	AsianAm	Chinese	Singaporean	Surinamese	2	Hong Kong	Singapore	Cantonese	1	0
4	Emiko	AsianAm	Japanese	--	--	3	San Francisco	San Francisco	Japanese	1	1
5	Emily	AsianAm	Chinese	Cantonese	--	2	China	China	Cantonese	2	2
6	Enid	AsianAm	Chinese	Cantonese	--	2	Fresno, CA	Hawaii/China	Cantonese ("Saam Heung" dialect)	2	1
7	Irene	AsianAm	Chinese	Taiwanese	--	2	Taiwan	Taiwan	Taiwanese Mandarin	2	2
8	Jenny	AsianAm	Chinese	Cantonese	--	2	China	China	Cantonese	2	1
9	John	AsianAm	Chinese	Hawaiian	--	2	Hawaii	Hong Kong	Cantonese	2	1
10	JoJo	AsianAm	Chinese	Cantonese	--	2	China	China	("Chinese")	Check transcript	Check transcript
11	Maya	AsianAm	Chinese	Filipino	--	3	Sunset	Sunset	Cantonese; Illokano	1	1
12	Mickey	AsianAm	Chinese	Filipino	Irish	2	Phillipinnes (half Chinese)	unknown	Cantonese	2	1

Related Issues

- Note other very closely related labels that we also need to code for:
    - Heritage Language
        - + Competence
        - + Frequency of Use
    - Generation in the U.S.
        - + time period of immigration

- Standardized sets of interview questions/questionnaires/terminology

- Protocols to include more qualitative information?
    - E.g. shifting identities, ethnicity of childhood peers, etc.