

# Approaching the Problems: Capturing, Coding and Analysing Gesture in Multi-Modal Communication Data

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## Abstract

This paper addresses key methodological challenges and concerns faced by linguists in the development of the new generation of corpora: the multi-modal, multi-media corpus workbench (i.e. combining video, audio and textual records of naturally occurring discourse). The paper contextualises these issues according to a research project which is currently developing such a corpus, the ESRC funded 'Digital Record' project based at the University of Nottingham.

The paper primarily explores the questions of the *functionality* of the corpus, identifying problems faced in making multi-modal corpora 'usable' for the linguist. We focus upon the requirement for *proficiency* in the corpus, exploring the need for new methods for coding and tagging multiple streams of data. In addition, we consider the challenges faced when integrating and representing the data in a functional corpus tool, to allow for further synthesis and analysis.

The paper also investigates *ethical* problems faced in the development of this tool, exploring the key issues faced both when collecting data, and those relevant to the wider accessibility to, and future distribution of, video corpora.

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