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Plenary talk The new London-Lund Corpus (LLC-2)

A window into natural speech in the 21st century

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The new London-Lund Corpus (LLC-2).

A window into natural speech in the 21st century

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This talk reports on the compilation of the London–Lund Corpus 2 (LLC-2)—a corpus of contemporary spoken British English, collected 2014–2019. The design of the corpus is the same as the world’s first corpus of spoken language, namely LLC-1, with spoken data mainly from the 60s. In addition to the fact that we have a corpus of contemporary speech (dialogue as well as monologue), the existence of LLC-2 also gives researchers the opportunity to make principled diachronic comparisons of speech over the past 50 years.

Not only does the new corpus allow us to detect change with respect to language use, but also with respect to how speakers behave in real communication. This is of crucial importance for the study of language itself, for the study of meaning-making and discursive practices, and as a basis for psycholinguistic research, where a corpus of spoken language, and in particular impromptu everyday conversation, is a window into the mental processes of speaking (production) and listening (comprehension).

An important novelty offered by LLC-2 is that the transcriptions of the recordings are time-aligned with the sound files, which, for instance, makes it possible to measure prosody and dialogue management between speakers with great precision. The benefits of spoken corpora in general and of LLC in particular will be demonstrated through examples of case studies in the talk.

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