

Contents

Series Editors' note	ix
Preface	xi
Acknowledgments	xv
Chapter 1	
An overview of oral language assessment	1
Introduction	1
Outcome-based research on oral language assessment	4
What are language assessment interviews?	4
Past research on oral language assessment	5
The ACTFL OPI	6
Empirical studies on the OPI	7
Research on other oral examinations	9
The need for process-based research	12
Discourse-based studies on oral language assessment	14
Background	14
Lazaraton's research on ESL course placement interviews	15
Participant behaviour in oral interviews	17
Comparisons of interview behaviour with conversation	21
Comparisons of test format	22
Comparisons of test scores with produced discourse	24
Rating scale construction and validation	24
Conclusion	25
Chapter 2	
Conversation analysis, institutional talk, and oral language assessment	26
Approaches to discourse analysis	26
Conversation analysis	29
Background	29
What is conversation analysis?	30
What is conversation?	32
Nonverbal behaviour in conversation	35
An evaluation of conversation analysis	36

Institutional talk	37
What is an interview?	38
The organization of the interview	40
Conclusion	45
Chapter 3	
Data collection and transcription	47
Data collection and selection	48
Introduction	48
Collecting audiotaped data	50
Collecting videotaped data	52
Selecting data for transcription/analysis	53
Data transcription	53
Understanding transcription philosophy	54
Understanding transcription goals	56
Learning the conversation analysis transcription system	57
Considering the mechanics of transcription	59
Using the conversation analysis transcription system	60
Transcribing languages other than English	69
Transcribing nonverbal behaviour	71
Conclusion	72
Chapter 4	
Data analysis and presentation	74
Reflecting on six methodological issues	75
Real, recorded data	75
Unmotivated looking	76
Units of analysis	77
Single cases, collections, and deviant cases	79
Sociological variables	81
Coding and quantifying data	82
Working with interactive data	87
Five ‘analytic tools’	88
A worked example	92
Working with monologic data	95
Rhetorical analysis	96
Functional analysis	98
Structural analysis	99

Presenting data and reporting results	101
Rationale	101
Guidelines for presenting data	103
A research report format	105
Guidelines for evaluating other studies	106
Conclusion	106
Practice problems	108
 Chapter 5	
Some speaking test validation studies using this approach	112
 Test validity	113
Background on Cambridge EFL examinations	116
Overview	116
The Cambridge approach	118
Interlocutor behaviour in speaking tests	124
Research on CASE	124
Research on CAE	139
Research on KET	144
Comparative research on CAE–KET	148
Candidate behaviour in speaking tests	152
Research on FCE	153
Research on IELTS	161
Conclusion	169
 Chapter 6	
Summary and future directions	171
 References	176
Appendices	200
Appendix 1: Glossary of CA terms	200
Appendix 2: Transcription notation symbols	203
Appendix 3: Guidelines for Chapter 4 practice problems	205
 Author index	211
Subject index	218