ICOP-L2 Survey on Approaches to Transcription and Video Editing

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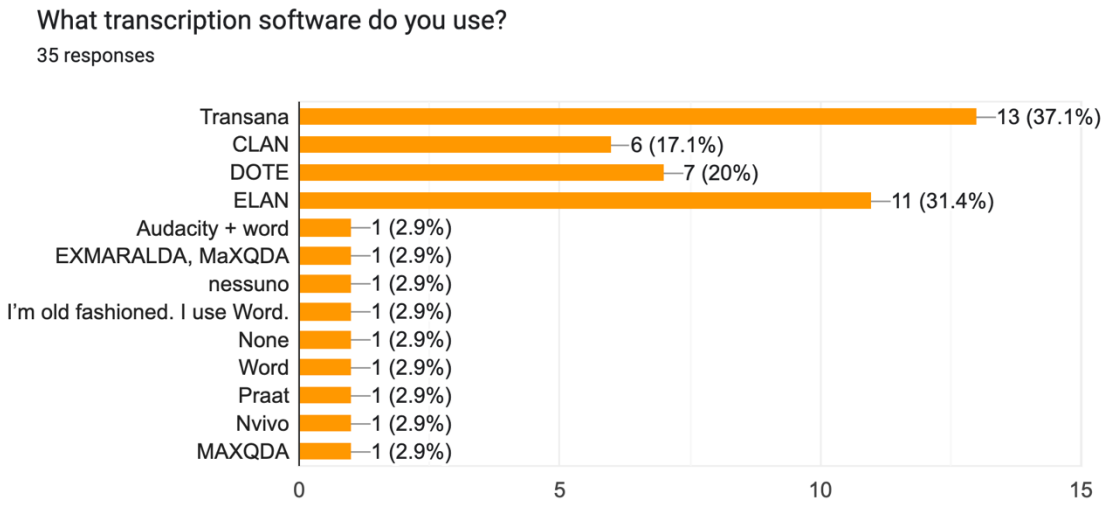
In a brief survey directed to former and future ICOP-L2 attendants, as well as the larger CA-SLA community, we asked researchers to provide some information about their work routines and habits around transcription and video editing. We here summarize the answers to the survey and offer some practical tips and recommendations for technology use in interaction research.

Transcription software

The first question concerned the respondents' use of software for transcription. 35 people answered the question; some of these indicated that they use several different software. The most frequently deployed software were Transana (N=13, 37.1%) and ELAN (N=11, 31.4%). An almost equal number of respondents reported to use CLAN (N=6, 17.1%) and DOTE (N=7, 20%), whereas the remaining respondents used Word (N=3), MaXQDA (N=2), EXMARaLDA, Nessuno, Nvivo, and Praat (1 respondent each). See Figure 1 (unedited, copied directly from respondents' submissions).



Comparing paying vs. free software, it seems like most respondents (N=22, 62.9%) use free software (ELAN, CLAN, Word, Praat, EXMARaLDA), although Transana and DOTE[1] are quite popular paying options (used by N=20, 57.1% respondents). The relative popularity of DOTE despite its recent release suggests that it is rapidly gaining popularity in the community.

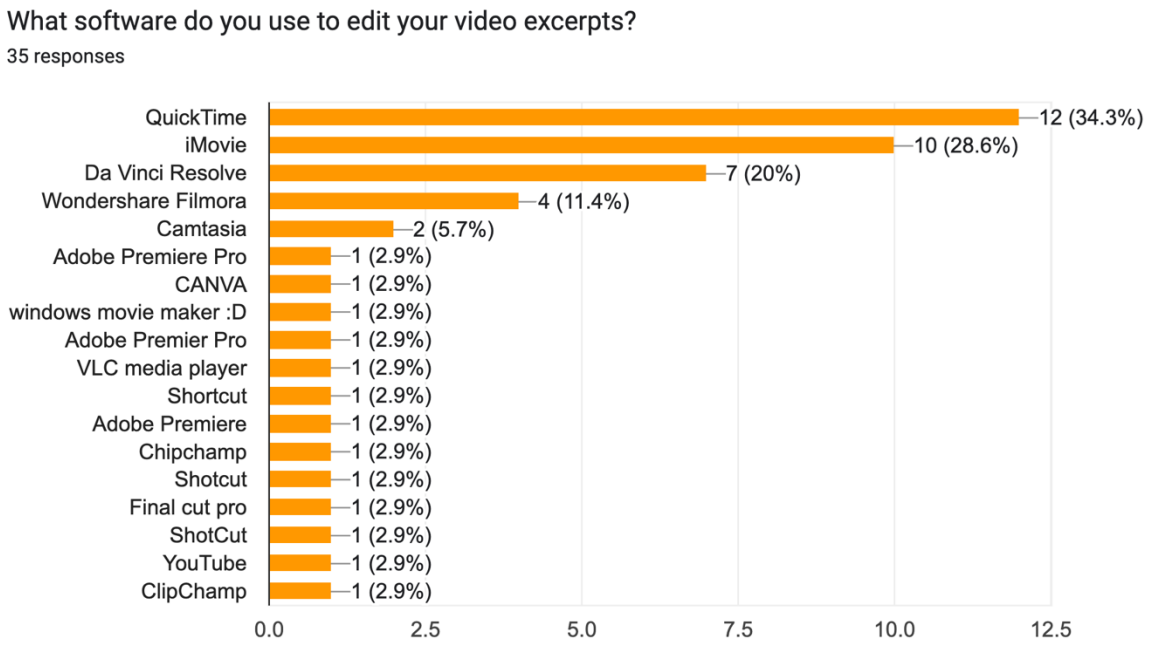
[1] DOTE has a free trial version, which is limited to max. 200 lines of transcript, which is why we have counted it as a paid software here.

Anonymization procedures

The second question asked respondents to describe any procedures they use for anonymization of data. 20 people answered the question. Besides mentioning that they replace participants' names with pseudonyms (one person also reported to use 'avatars' and to ask participants to name these themselves), several people described practices for changing voices and for blurring images and videos in various video editing software, often using different kind of filters. Named software for image- and video-editing included Gimp, CANVA, iMovie, QuickTime, Windows Movie Maker, Microsoft Powerpoint and other Microsoft Office programs, Adobe Premiere Pro, PhotoSketchers, Photoshop, and DaVinci.

Software for video editing

The third question asked respondents to indicate which software they use to edit their video excerpts. There were 35 responses, with some people choosing several options. The most popular video editing software seems to be QuickTime, which 12 respondents (34.3%) reported using, closely followed by iMovie (N=10, 28.6%). 7 people (21.2%) reported using DaVinci Resolve (20%), and 4 people (11.4%) Wondershare Filmora. Other software that were mentioned include ShotCut, Camtasia, Clipchamp, CANVA, YouTube, Adobe Premiere Pro, Windows Movie Maker and VLC media player (1-2 responses each). See Figure 2 (unedited, copied directly from respondents' submissions).



The three most popular software (QuickTime, iMovie, DaVinci Resolve), used by 29 people (82.9%), are either free or offered through a freemium model.

Software for creating subtitles to video excerpts
The fourth question pertained to the respondents' use of software for creating subtitles for their video excerpts. 19 people answered the question. The following software were mentioned (listed in alphabetical order):

Adobe Premiere Pro
Aegisub + Handbrake
Camtasia
Chipman
DaVinci Resolve
DOTE
Handbrake
iMovie
Movie Maker (not supported anymore)
Nikse.dk (https://www.nikse.dk/subtitleedit/online)
Notes + VLC media player
Wondershare Filmora

Some additional tips and described procedures included:

"Srt-file creation in notes-app, adding srt-file in VLC media player".

"I use Aegisub to time the subtitles and Handbrake to burn the subtitles onto the video".

"Mostly Shotcut, although I wouldn't recommend others doing so, it's a very painstaking procedure. However, recently I've been experimenting with DOTE and its function to generate an .srt file which I can then link with the video file in Shotcut".

Other tool suggestions
One respondent offered an additional suggestion for a tool that may be useful for the ICOP-L2 community:

"Giphy Capture is a free download and really simple for making GIFs for your presentation".

Additional remarks for video editing, subtitling, and excerpt preparation
The final question asked respondents if they had any additional comments related to video editing, subtitling, or the preparation of excerpts. We have included the three answers below, with our own comments:

Comment 1: "The budgets of early career professionals sometimes cannot afford to use better versions of this software, any recommendations? Which one is the most affordable one?"

> Response 1: As the authors of this report, we fully understand the concern. One of the goals with this survey was in fact to discover the range of software used for

editing, subtitling etc. in order to be able to spread some more knowledge about available open source solutions. Please see below for some tips, in addition to the other respondents' recommendations included above. Additionally, let us point out that we share this comment also as a call for software developers to devise solutions for early career professionals.

Comment 2: "It's great that this will be problematized, especially with automated transcription tools, the ethical aspects are super important."

Response 2: Thank you for this remark, and for bringing up ethical concerns. We have not touched upon them much here, but would be happy to follow up on this issue at future ICOP-L2 events. We want to stress that we share this comment also to invite future discussions concerning the interface of automated transcription and ethics.

Comment 3: "I have experienced problems in the past (and have seen other presenters experiencing problems) with inserting video into PowerPoint. It seems to be the case that if you insert the video files quite early and then go through multiple saves of the presentation, the size of the presentation file can cause the presentation to glitch or freeze when trying to play the videos. My solution is to keep all video inserts out of the presentation until the final save. I use placeholder slides while I am finalizing all of the other content and then insert the video files as the final step before doing a final save of the file. The problem seems less prevalent in Keynote on Mac."

Response 3: Thank you for sharing your experiences and possible solutions. Sometimes closing all other applications on the computer also helps, as playing heavy PowerPoint presentations seems to use a lot of working memory. We also experienced problems regarding the connection between the presenters' own devices and screens at the conference venues. We invite the community to test the compatibility prior to their conference talks in the future, and future conference organizers to devise solutions to enable pre-testing of devices to minimize video playing problems and other potential technical troubles.

Resources and recommendations

Based on our own experience and the respondents' reports, we have put together a few recommendations and listed some potentially useful resources for dealing with transcription and video editing here:

Resources for learning more about technological use in data collection, transcription, and editing

- Numa Markee's webpage (https://numamarkee.com/) is an excellent starting place for tips about all of these issues. See particularly the pages "Resources" and "How to". Besides Markee's own recommendations, the Resources page includes a number of "technoblurbs" written by other researchers working on social interaction, where you can read about their procedures for dealing with technology in their work.

- The EMCA wiki page “Transcription Resources” (https://emcawiki.net/Transcription_Resources) is another great starting place regarding transcription software, with detailed information about many of the software mentioned in this survey.
- The EMCA wiki page “Data collection” (https://emcawiki.net/Data_collection) offers useful ‘packing lists’ and other tips for the data collection procedure in EMCA.

Free and less expensive transcription solutions

- Some people find well-known free transcription software (e.g., CLAN, ELAN) rather difficult to use, or not quite appropriate to the kind of transcripts they need. In our experience, a common solution is to use an audio player like Audacity (only audio) or a software that supports video clips (like ELAN) to play the media file while simultaneously transcribing in Word (or another text editing software). This allows you to measure pauses, select shorter segments to play again, etc., while maintaining the flexibility of editing the text freely.
- Among the paid transcription software, DOTE is likely the version that is least expensive and most adapted to our transcription needs. The new feature DOTEbase seems to allow for the creation of collections of shorter clips in a similar way as Transana has for long allowed (this is usually a highly appreciated feature of Transana, which together with its user-friendly layout might compensate for its slightly higher cost).

Free and less expensive image and video editing and subtitling software

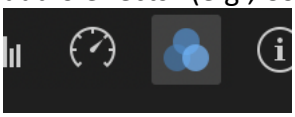
- iMovie (free for Mac users) and DaVinci Resolve (freemium solution)

Below are three step-by-step Video Editing Protocol samples for iMovie and DaVinci Resolve created by Hasan Felat Kocahal (MA student at TED University, Türkiye) for the editing of classroom interaction videos within the scope of the EU-funded DigiLTE project (https://digilte.org/). The ICOP-L2 Executive Committee sincerely thanks Hasan Felat for the accessible tutorial.

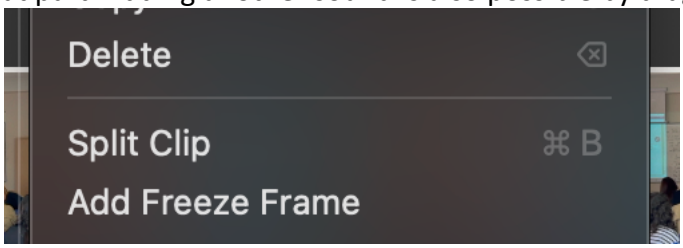
DigiLTE project video editing/subtitling protocol by Hasan Felat Kocahal

Protocol 1 (iMovie): Editing videos, adding subtitles, and altering person names/places

1. Import the video into iMovie.
2. From the upper right corner, click the circles icon and choose the “clip filter and audio effects” (e.g., Comic Basic).



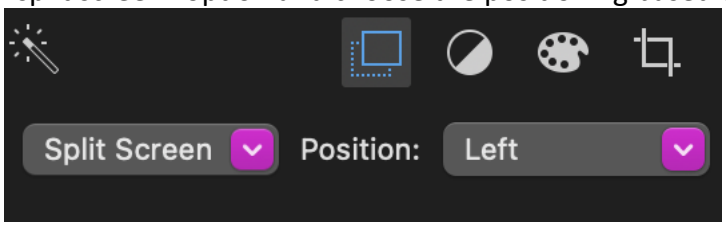
3. Identify the parts where there is talk. Use the sound waves in the audio timeline for a precise identification. Then click “Titles” in the upper left corner.
4. Select “Lower” and align it with the parts where you want to add subtitles. To ensure timing accuracy, use the play head to match subtitles with talk.
5. Edit the subtitles by double clicking on the title you have added.

6. To anonymize participant identifiers, locate the scenes to be edited and right-click on the video to select “cut video”. Cut the part to be anonymized (names/places) etc. and mute that part. Adding another sound is also possible by dragging it into the muted part. 

7. Once you are done, export the project as a single video.

Protocol 2 (iMovie): Combining two videos into one

1. Import both videos into iMovie, drag one video above the other one.
2. Adjust the positions if there is an inconsistency between the sounds of the videos. You can also detach and delete the sound of one of the videos by right clicking on it and continue with one audio source only.
3. Click the video above and click the icon with two overlapping squares. Then, click the “split screen” option and choose the positioning based on your preference



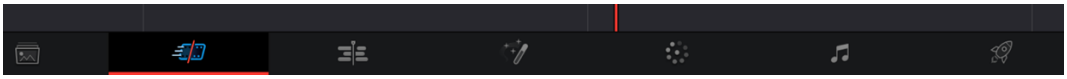
4. Once you’re done, export the project as a single video.
5. You can now import the edited project into iMovie, and follow Protocol 1 above to add subtitles.

Report Authors’ Note on Protocol 2: These steps can be rather demanding because it requires doing it manually. Alternatively, in Adobe Premiere, the software does it automatically by scanning the different sound files. If you prefer to follow Protocol 2 as it

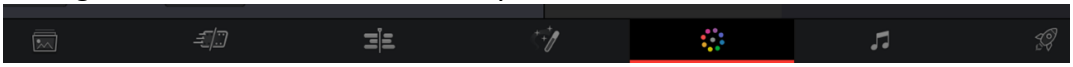
stated above, we recommend to identify a particularly loud segment to use as starting point by starting the recordings with a loud clap or similar reference points easy to identify in loud recording contexts.

Protocol 3 (DaVinci Resolve): Blurring faces

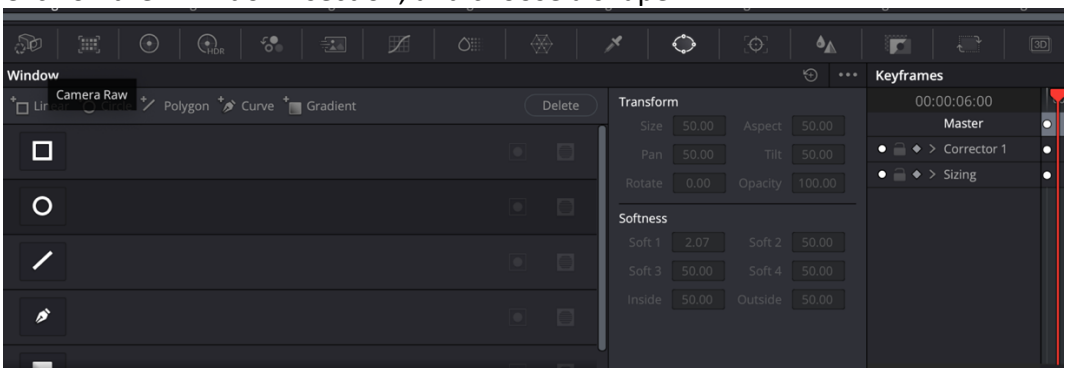
1. Import the clip into DaVinci Resolve.
2. Go to the "Cut" section.



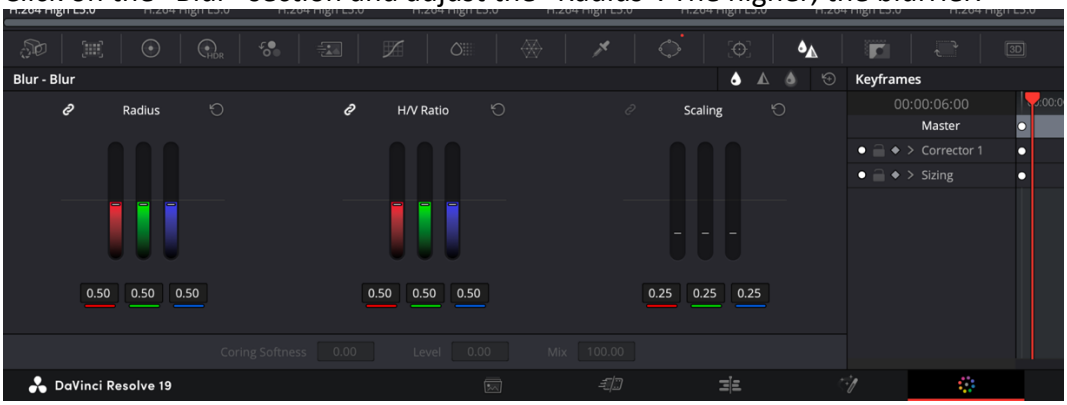
3. Cut the video to blur the scenes with the faces. You can right click on the video to cut.
4. Then go to the "Color" section. There you will see the videos.



5. Click on the "Window" section, and choose a shape.



6. Once you choose the shape, cover the area you want to blur using the shape.
7. Click on the "Blur" section and adjust the "Radius". The higher, the blurrier.



This is the end of Hasan Felat Kocahal's sample video editing protocols. We conclude the report with some final remarks.

Concluding remarks

Through this brief survey, we attempted to get an insight into the habits of the ICOP-L2 and CA-SLA community in regard to technological procedures related to transcription software and video data editing. Given the small number of respondents, the results presented here

should not be seen as representative of the whole community, but might give some overall indications of common solutions and serve as inspiration for future use. Our hope is to also use the results in planning future training events particularly for early career researchers, for example on the use of open-source resources for transcription and video editing. We would like to end the report by inviting members of the community to share these results and consider contributing with similar protocols. Please do not hesitate to contact us if you would like your data editing insights and/or protocols to be published on the ICOP-L2 website.

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