

TRANSCRIBE YOUR SUBJECTS' SPEECH IN THEIR OWN FIRST LANGUAGE

When interviewing someone whose first language (L1) is other than English, getting them to speak a few sentences in their own language makes your publication a hundred times more valuable to researchers. So always ask such subjects to give you, in advance, the text of what they intend to read, in a digital form, so you can simply cut and paste it into your transcription.

Your transcription of their unscripted speech will then include something like this:

...[The subject speaks the following in Italian]: “Buongiorno a tutti. È una bella giornata qui a Roma e sono felice di poter parlare con te oggi.” [English translation: Good morning, everyone. It's a lovely day here in Rome, and I am happy to be talking with you today.]

If your subject's first language employs a non-Roman alphabet for its written form, ask him or her to provide what he or she is going to read in the native alphabet, followed (optional) by an English transliteration, finally followed by the English translation. For example:

...[The subject speaks the following in Russian]: “Доброе утро всем. Это прекрасный день здесь, в Москве, и я рад поговорить с вами сегодня” [Transliteration: Dobroye utro vsem. Eto prekrasnyy den' zdes', v Moskve, i ya rad pogovorit' s vami segodnya. Translation: Good morning, everyone. It's a lovely day here in Moscow, and I am happy to be talking with you today.]