The main purpose of this homework is to get you to be familiar with the details, nuances, and richness of co-speech gesture. The following link contains a short video clip (29 seconds long) that you will be using for this homework (from David McNeill’s lab):

http://www.cogsci.ucsd.edu/~nunez/COGS155_W17/MCN1_copy2.mov

Your task is to:

1) watch this clip,
2) transcribe ALL speech production,
3) select FOUR gesture phrases occurring therein and code the corresponding co-speech HAND gesture.

In order to do this analysis complete the following for EACH of the four gesture phrases:

A. Write down the start time of the part of the video you are analyzing (for this use the original video timestamp, not the one from QuickTime player).

B. From the transcribed speech, select the portion of the speech that occurs leading up to and just after the gesture phrase using McNeill’s transcription guidelines (see McNeill 1992, Ch. 3, pp. 94-104). Make sure to put [ ] around the speech that co-occurs with the gesture stroke. (Note: if for some reason at a certain moment the manual gesture is not visible or it is (partially) visually occluded, indicate so in the coding).

C. Provide a description of the gesture. The description should include the following:

   a. Identify which hand (or, if relevant, what body part(s)) produced the gesture, and in what location of the gesture space the gesture is taking place.
b. Describe the handshape, hand orientation, and movement involved in the preparation (if applicable), the stroke, and the hold and recovery (if applicable). Include timestamps that capture the start of each of these aspects of the gesture.

c. Describe what gesture dimensions are present in the gesture phrase. Was it iconic? Metaphoric? Etc. How do you know?

D. Identify what word (or words) is co-timed with the onset of the gesture as well as what word is co-timed with the stroke of the gesture.

E. Describe the ways in which the gesture combined with speech to make a more complete meaning. That is, in what ways was the gesture co-expressive? (hint: this is particularly easy if the gesture you analyze contains indexical, iconic, or metaphoric aspects).

Useful Terminology

Anatomy of a Gesture (Kendon/McNeill)

1. Gesture Units: interval between successive rests of limbs (largest interval, contains one or more gesture phrases)

2. Gesture Phrases: a “gesture”, consists of multiple gesture phases in sequence

3. Gesture Phases: The “parts” of a gesture

   a. Preparation: (optional) limb moves from rest to position where it can begin the stroke

   b. Pre-stroke hold: (optional) temporary stop of movement before the stroke

   c. Stroke: (obligatory) contains the meaning and is synchronous with speech ~90% of the time (otherwise, it may precede speech); has the clearest or most well-defined movement and handshape, maximum “effort”, peak of acceleration

   d. Post-stroke hold: (optional) hand freezes in air before starting retraction – hand is sustained in its position after the stroke

   e. Retraction/recovery (Kendon): (optional) hands return to rest (doesn’t have to occur if speaker moves directly into a new stroke)

McNeill’s Transcription Conventions

[ ] stroke phase of gesture

# audible breath pause with duration in seconds
/ silent pause with duration in seconds
* self--interruption = other interruption
<> filled pause with duration in seconds
C-VPT character viewpoint of an iconic gesture
O-VPT observer viewpoint of an iconic gesture