International Journal of American Linguistics
Style for the formatting of interlinearized linguistic examples

Interlinearized examples in *IJAL* must be numbered sequentially throughout the paper using the numbering system shown below. Interlinearization must be provided for examples in languages other than English, Spanish, or other major European languages. The first (data) line of interlinearized examples is in roman (not italic) type.

The *IJAL* style for interlinearized examples adheres roughly to the Leipzig glossing rules, with a few important differences indicated below by an asterisk (*). *IJAL* does not require the use of or favour the Leipzig abbreviation set. Authors are welcome to use any reasonably transparent abbreviations as long as these are defined in the paper. For issues not directly dealt with here, authors are encouraged to consult the Leipzig rules (http://www.eva.mpg.de/lingua/resources/glossing-rules.php) or to contact the editors.

Data may be presented in three- or four-line format. While, for the sake of completeness, we encourage the use of four-line format, we recognize that for reasons of space, or for languages where morphophonemics is not an issue, three-line format may be a reasonable choice for some authors. Both systems are illustrated below.

Three-line format

(1a) ①
  ʔu–gʷəč–əd   →čəxʷ ② →ti   →sqʷəbayʔ
  PFV–look.for–ICS   →2SG.SUB   →SPEC   →dog
  'You looked for the dog.'

(Hess 1993:16)

(1b) ③
  hay   laх̌–du–b=əxʷ ④   ʔə tiʔił c'ic'iх̌
  then   remember–DC-PASS=now   PR   DIST   fish.hawk
                                                      ⑤
  ⑥ tiʔił   tu=s=cut–t–əb=s   ʔə tiʔił sčətxʷəd
  DIST   PAST=NM=speak–ICS–PASS=3PO   PR   DIST   black.bear
  'Then Fish Hawk remembers what Bear said to him.'
  (lit. 'Then Bear's past speaking is remembered by Fish Hawk.')
  ⑦ (Hess 1993:194, line 46)

⑧ Nuxalk

(2) ʔałnap–is=kʷ=c'   ta=qiiqtii-tх̌
  know–3SG.OBJ:3SG.SUB=QTV=now   DISTAL:NFEM=baby=DIST:DEM
              ⑨
  wa=s=kʷacta–tu–m   x=ti=man=ł
  PROX:PL=NM=name–CS–3SG:PASS   PR=PROX:NFEM=father=1PL.PO
  ⑩ 'The baby knew what he had been named by our father.'
  (Davis and Saunders 1980:108, line 12)

Four-line format

Upper Necaxa Totonac

(3a) katama:wéːꟽ nakištịkatką́n   Ⓐ
  ka–tamáː–ʔęː–w   nak=kin–štịkát–kạn   Ⓑ
  OPT–lie.down–DEB–1PL.SUB   LOC=1PO–sleeping.mat–PL.PO   Ⓒ
  'Let's lie down on our sleeping mats!'   Ⓓ

(3b) a:'jtzananú: chiwíx xli:lh'a:'nankán   Ⓔ
  ạːxtsananúː   čiwíš   iš–liː–ł'ạː–nan–kan
  long.ago   rock   PAST–INST–plough–DTRNS–IDF
  'Long ago they ploughed with rocks.'

① use single ***tabs*** to align words and glosses; do not use spaces or multiple tabs
② use SMALL CAPS for grammatical labels
③ indicate affix boundaries with an ***n-dash*** rather than a hyphen (*)
④ use the ***equal sign*** for clitics, include it on both lines of the analysis
⑤ use a ***period*** instead of a space for multi-word glosses; never leave spaces on the analysis lines (*)
⑥ indent the second line of long examples
⑦ data drawn from published sources must be cited explicitly with a bibliographic reference and page numbers; it is good practice to provide a line number for examples drawn from texts
⑧ indicate change in cited language; give the language name if more than one is used in the paper or if the example is not from the primary language discussed in the paper
⑨ use a ***colon*** to separate glosses of morphemes expressed as part of a portmanteau; do not use a period (*)
⑩ use single quotes to enclose free translations; the use of an initial capital letter and/or final period to indicate that an example is a complete utterance is optional

Ⓐ first line gives a phonetic or phonemic transcription
Ⓑ second line gives the parsing of the words into morphemes given in full, or underlying, phonological form
Ⓒ third line presents the analysis of the parsed elements, following the conventions above
Ⓓ fourth line gives a gloss or free translation
Ⓔ where mandated by community concerns, authors may choose to use an established practical orthography in the first line; generally, a phonetic representation is recommended for the second line

Updated May 24, 2017