

## Conducting sociolinguistic interviews and collecting data remotely

Conduct your sociolinguistic interviews remotely via Zoom and Cleanfeed.

Cleanfeed is a live audio recording service that runs in your internet browser (e.g., Google Chrome) to make high quality recordings, which is streamed over the internet and downloaded into your local computer storage. The interface is simple and easy to use. It has a built-in recording function and allows multiple parties in the same session. The free version offers uncompressed wav files at 44KHz sample rate.

One of the most important aspect of remote data collection is to make the recording set-up consistent. This is relatively easy on the part of the interviewer: keep track of your settings in one interview, and make sure the use the same in subsequent interviews. This is a bit trickier for the participants, as they likely use different computers, microphones, etc. If possible, an external microphone (like, on their earbuds) is preferable.

### Workflow

1. Before starting the Zoom call, log in to Cleanfeed and create an invite link for the participant.
2. **Please document your recording set-up: what microphone you and the participant use and any other particular settings on your end.**
3. Connect with the informant using Zoom. Your Cleanfeed session should already be open on your browser—you can keep the Cleanfeed mic on mute for now.
4. Discuss the main points of the interview process (e.g., going over informed consent, voluntary participation, ending the interview at any time, etc.).
5. When you have consent to start the interview, share the Cleanfeed invite link in Zoom and instruct the participant to click on link and open Cleanfeed using Google Chrome (recommended).
6. Instruct the participant to mute their mic in Zoom. They can leave their cameras on if they prefer.
7. Do the same: mute your mic in Zoom but leave your camera on so the participant can see you.
8. Turn on the mics in Cleanfeed. At this point, you should hear and speak to each other using Cleanfeed and see each other using Zoom.
9. Before recording, check whether the informant has the appropriate setting (e.g., correct microphone if more than one is available). You can click on the gear icon to the right of

the track to check which mic is being used. The free version does not offer much else in terms of customization.

10. **At this point, please document the recording set-up of the participant: what device they're using, what microphone they use, and any other particular settings they have.**
11. Click "Record" on the top left panel. You will then name the recording and choose which track to record. "Everyone" means that both you and the informant will be recorded on a single track.
12. When you're ready to record, press the red record button.
13. Every 10 minutes, download the recording by clicking on the "download" icon to the right of the track. This serves as "backup". Since the audio is streamed online on your browser, there is no recovery function if you accidentally close your browser.
14. **Sociolinguistic interview and EOQ:** conduct as you normally would.
15. **First Words Task:** you can share your screen and project the PDF copy of the FirstWords book (or share the file in Zoom, by sending via Chat or, preferably, Share Screen).
16. When the interview has ended, download the recording and wait until it's been downloaded into your local storage (you can delete the previous "backup" versions). Do not close the browser.
17. When finished, you can instruct the informant to close their browser and move back to Zoom.
18. In Zoom, unmute the mic.
19. Have the participant sign the consent form. You can do this in two ways: record the Zoom session and the participant can respond orally to the questions on the consent form; or send the consent form and they return it digitally.
20. You can debrief the participant or answer any questions they may have. In the end, thank the participant for their time!

After the interview, it is ideal to make notes about the interview as much as possible in the appropriate catalogue. Some questions to keep in mind:

- Was the internet connection stable throughout?
- Did the call drop at any point?
- Did the participant feel comfortable enough with the set-up?