

Coding Protocol

To qualify as a target word, the word has to occur at least twice across successive with variation around it. For example:

M* is that a fish [TAR1:1]?
M what a cute fish that is [TAR1:2]!
M fish [TAR1:3]!
M would you like to hold the fish [TAR1:4]?

*mother

Target words are coded to show how many different target words are used and how many times they are used, as [TAR(target #):(target repetition #)]. In the previous example, since “fish” is the first target repetition, and is repeated four times, so it is coded as [TAR1:1], [TAR1:2], [TAR1:3], and [TAR1:4], respectively.

Additional rules that explain inclusion and exclusion criteria:

- All word classes can be a target (i.e., adjectives, verbs, nouns); however, pronouns, articles, and conjunctions cannot be targets.
- Repeated phrases are not targets (e.g., “M look this way”; “M look this way”).
- Sound effects are not counted, even if they are repeated or relevant to target word.
- Repeated one-word utterances are not targets unless they are within a conversation in which the word in question is being used as a target (see “fish” example above). There must be variation in either the target utterance before or after the one-word utterance to be counted.
- Repeated words (e.g., “dog dog dog”) are not targets unless they are within conversation where word in question is being used as a target.
- Attention getters and commands are not targets (e.g., AHs or “come here”).
- Word roots are counted. For example, “dog” and “dog/s” would count as the same target or “roll” and “rolling” would count as the same target. Possessives also count (“dog” and “dog/z”).
- Irregular plurals, conjugations, and contractions are not counted; e.g., “foot” and “feet” count as separate targets.
- The same target can be separated by multiple mother’s utterances but must be within conversation limit: at most 2 utterances from mothers between the targets. Utterances solely containing either AH or laughter are excluded from this count.
- Code each utterance for each target; some utterances may have multiple targets.
- If a target word that has been used as a target previously becomes the target again later in the session, but is not part of the original conversation, code the target word as a Novel Context Target.