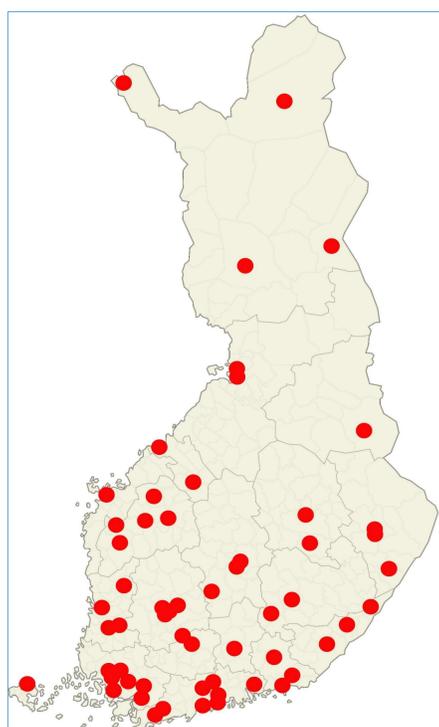


Reflecting challenges of data collecting as part of new kind of research project

INTRODUCTION

- Research project: Hundred Finnish Linguistic Lifestories
- 100 informants from Finland with various regional and social backgrounds; speakers of 20 mother tongues
- Crowdsourcing: interviews collected mainly by students as part of their studies



Informants' places of residence at the time of the interview.

RESEARCH QUESTIONS

- What do the students' reflections reveal about the nature of the interviews and the linguistic ideologies among the students?
- How does the collecting process effect on the data?

I decided to look for Karelian speakers for informants, because I study Karelian language and culture as a minor subject, and it is very important for me that Karelian speakers will get their voice heard in this project.

Päätin heti tavoitella haastateltavaksi karjalan kielen puhujia, sillä opiskelen karjalan kieltä ja kulttuuria sivuaineena ja mielestäni oli erittäin tärkeää, että myös karjalankieliset saavat tässä projektissa äänensä kuuluviin.

DATA & BACKGROUND

- 15 learning diaries of students
- 60 forms of background information
- 60 students from 4 universities

Training of the students

- A) 5 lectures on the following topics:
- Introduction of the research project
 - Interview as a research method
 - How to choose informants for this project
 - Interviewing in practice: informing an interviewee, use of questionnaire
- B) Literature:
- Comparing interviews recorded for dialectology and sociolinguistics
 - Reflection of a Labovian interview
 - Immigration and multilingualism in Finland
 - Principles of research ethics
- C) Training interview and its reflection
- D) Guidance on the use of recorders and cameras



The interview became a bit short, even though I tried to get as much information as possible of the interviewee. My interviewee is usually rather talkative but she was clearly nervous about the interview situation.

Haastattelusta tuli hieman lyhyt, vaikka pyrin saamaan haastateltavasta mahdollisimman paljon tietoa. Haastateltavani on yleensä melko puhelias, mutta haastattelutilanne selvästi jännitti häntä.

RESULTS OF ANALYSIS

Ideal informant

- motivated and relaxed
- talkative but sticks to the point
- gives relevant answers to questions

Ideal interviewer

- well prepared
- keeps to the schedule
- asks all the (relevant) questions
- is able to formulate the questions understandably
- is able to ask complementary questions
- does not use leading questions or comment too much

Variation between students

- Preferring an interview-like or an everyday conversation-like situation
- The interactional role of the interviewer
- Satisfied/dissatisfied with their interview

No or only few comments on

- The variety/varieties used in the interview
- Mistakes in language

CONCLUSIONS

- Strong orientation to the instructions
- Critical discussion on how an interviewer's activity may have affected the outcome
- Assumption that non-relaxedness is reflected in the language (cf. "natural" or authentic speech)
- Talkative informants are appreciated -> Can a quiet person be a good informant?
- Pros and cons of crowdsourcing:
 - + Wide data quickly and with low costs
 - Heterogenous quality and variation in the implementation of the interviews