



Using MiCASE & Praat to Teach Pragmatics

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Session Goals

Demonstrate the implementation of a pragmatics lesson

- Using MiCASE to find instances of the target language
- Using Praat for students to experiment with intonation & syllable length

Defining Pragmatics

In linguistics, the study of the choices of language persons make in social interaction and of the effects of these choices on others. (Crystal, 1987)

- word choice & tone of voice
- identity & intentions of speaker & hearer
- context

About MiCASE

Michigan Corpus of Academic Spoken English

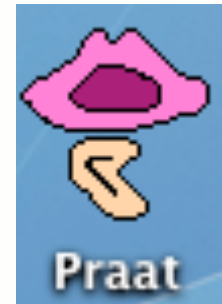
- Transcriptions of 200 hours of academic speech = 1.7 million words
- Search by grammar, vocabulary, functions, academic disciplines, classes of speakers



About Praat

Praat: Doing phonetics by computer

- Created by P. Boersma and D. Weenink - Institute of Phonetic Sciences, U of Amsterdam
- Powerful speech analysis software - not specifically designed for ESL/Pragmatics instruction



Our Process

- Identify the need/ pragmatic function
 - + office hours
 - + classroom teaching

TA Correcting Mistaken Information

Before “actually” lesson

- Clip 1: Oh, OK. Um, maybe...not quite...quite right answer.
- Clip 2: Yeah, yeah. It's um some different kind of concept. We call it steady state.

After “actually” lesson

- Clip 3: Actually, it's not quite exact answer.

Our Process

- Identify the need/ pragmatic function
 - + office hours
 - + classroom teaching
- Create a lesson (Adapted from the *Teaching Pragmatics* website - see references)
- Find instances in MiCASE
- Create dialogs for students to practice
- Have students practice with Praat

The Model Lesson

**"Actually, the Deadline was Friday of Last Week, Not This Week..."
(Barsony, Olga)**

<http://exchanges.state.gov/education/engteaching/pragmatics/barsony.htm>

(from Bardovi-Harlig, K. & Mahan-Taylor, ed.)

Finding Instances in MiCASE

- Search for specific words or phrases
- Sift through results
- Extract, edit and insert into lesson

(See dialogs we chose on pp. 5-6 handouts)

Searching MiCASE for “actually”

MiCASE Concordance Search

[Browse](#) | [Main](#)

Search with Context

Type a word or phrase to search for in the first box. The wildcard character * may be used at the end (but not the beginning) of a search word to represent zero or more characters (e.g. typing in *walk** will give you *walk*, *walks*, *walked*, and *walking*). In the context box, you may add an optional word or phrase to find in a specified proximity to the search word[s].

Word or Phrase:

Context Word or Phrase:

Within words

- To the left
 To the right
 To the left or right

Choose Result Settings

Select up to 2 speaker attributes to appear in the results display

- Gender
 Age Group
 Academic Role
 Native-Speaker Status

Speaker and Speech Event Attributes

Each of the selection boxes on the left represents a speech event attribute category. Each on the right represents a speaker attribute category. You may specify any number of values from each category to make your browse more specific.

Speech Event Type:

- Advising Session
- Colloquium
- Discussion Sections
- Dissertation Defense

Gender:

- All
- Male
- Female

Academic Division:

- All
- Biological and Health Sciences
- Humanities and Arts
- Physical Sciences and Engineering

Age Range:

- All
- 17-23
- 24-30
- 31-50

Academic Discipline:

- All
- Advising
- Afroamerican and African Studies
- American Culture

Academic Pos/Role:

- All
- Junior Undergraduate
- Senior Undergraduate
- Junior Graduate Student

Participant Level:

- All
- Junior Undergraduates
- Senior Undergraduates
- Mixed Undergraduates

Native Speaker Status:

- All
- Native speaker, American English
- Native speaker, Other English
- Near-native speaker

Primary Discourse Mode:

- All
- Monologic/Lecture
- Panel
- Interactive/Dialogue

First Language:

- All
- Arabic
- Armenian
- British English

Search Results: "actually"

MICASE Search Results

Concordance Search Results

Sort filters: 1: 2: 3:

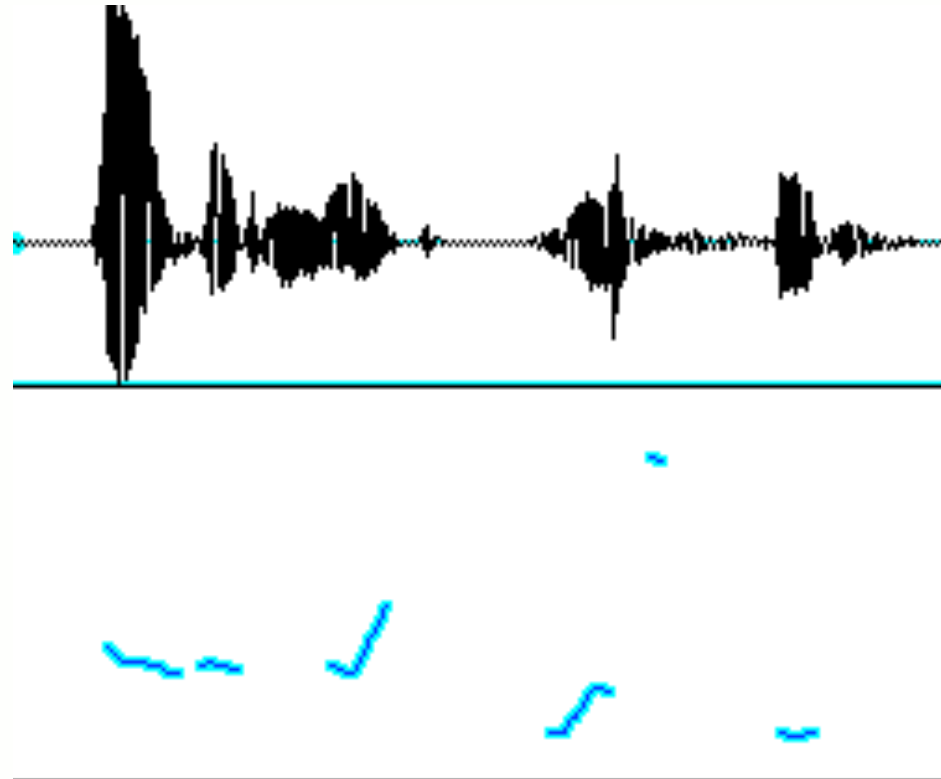
1 to 73 of 73 matches

File #		Key Word in Context	Sp. ID
Total matches: 73			
DIS115JU087	1	that's, that's a good point, actually. so let's let's, keep that	S1
DIS115JU087	2	take precedence. and um, that's actually something there's a um, a	S1
DIS115JU087	3	with this, with this typology actually, because um, this is something	S1
DIS115JU087	4	most countries in the world actually, not every country but, most	S1
DIS115JU087	5	internet you know, where you actually live, becomes less and less	S1
DIS150JU130	6	um actually,	S1
DIS150JU130	7	point, to Polaris. now there's actually nothing very distinguished about Polaris	S1
DIS150JU130	8	measure of right ascension. it's actually flipped when we talk about	S1
DIS150JU130	9	representing the celestial equator, it's actually a bit lower than it	S1
DIS150JU130	10	belt, is a scabbard, and actually, they- it looks like there	S1
DIS150JU130	11	head. and his head is actually made up of the stars	S1
DIS150JU130	12	big dog. and this is actually drawn pretty well. up here	S1
DIS150JU130	13	even more imagination. uh Monoceros actually wasn't named though until like	S1
DIS150JU130	14	those names, and what we actually see are two stick figures	S1
DIS150JU130	15	copied it or if you, actually came up with it yourself	S1
DIS175JU081	16	that you need, before, we actually, start the chromosome dance. and	S1
DIS175JU081	17	one last thing before we actually, fill in a table that	S1
DIS175JU081	18	okay who else...? actually just use this and you	S1
DIS175JU081	19	identical i- i mean, i- actually it could be all three	S1
DIS175JU081	20	put meiosis one and two. actually,	S4
DIS175JU081	21	um actually germ cells do. li- okay	S1
DIS175SU027	22	list. and, it was noted actually by one person who was	S1
DIS175SU027	23	in proportion to what they, actually occurred in the environment. so	S1

Our Process: Implementation

- Students practice with Praat
 - Step 1: Awareness-raising
 - Step 2: Experimentation with pitch & length
 - Step 3: Practice using MiCASE dialogs
 - Step 4: Meaningful practice

Step 1: Awareness Raising: MiCASE Dialog without “actually”



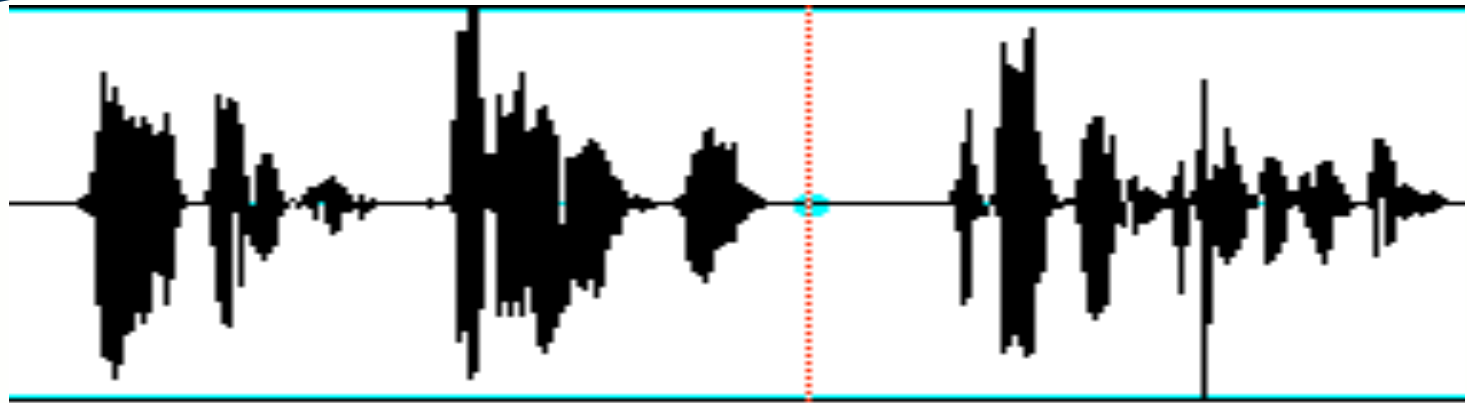
Does that help? No, it doesn't.

Step 2: Experimentation with Pitch & Length

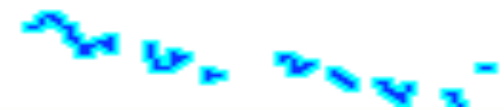


Actually, no. (repeated 4 times)

Step 3: Use "actually" in Original MiCASE Dialog



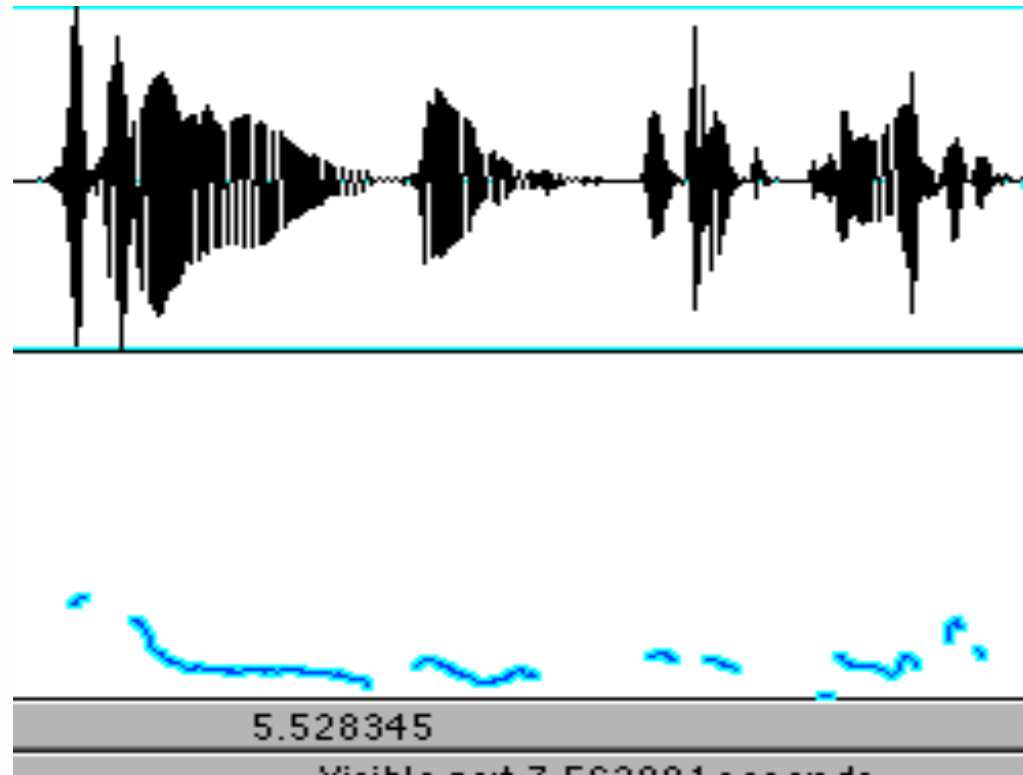
No, it doesn't. Actually, yeah.



It makes this independent of that.

Step 4: Meaningful Practice Correcting

Are you
Japanese?

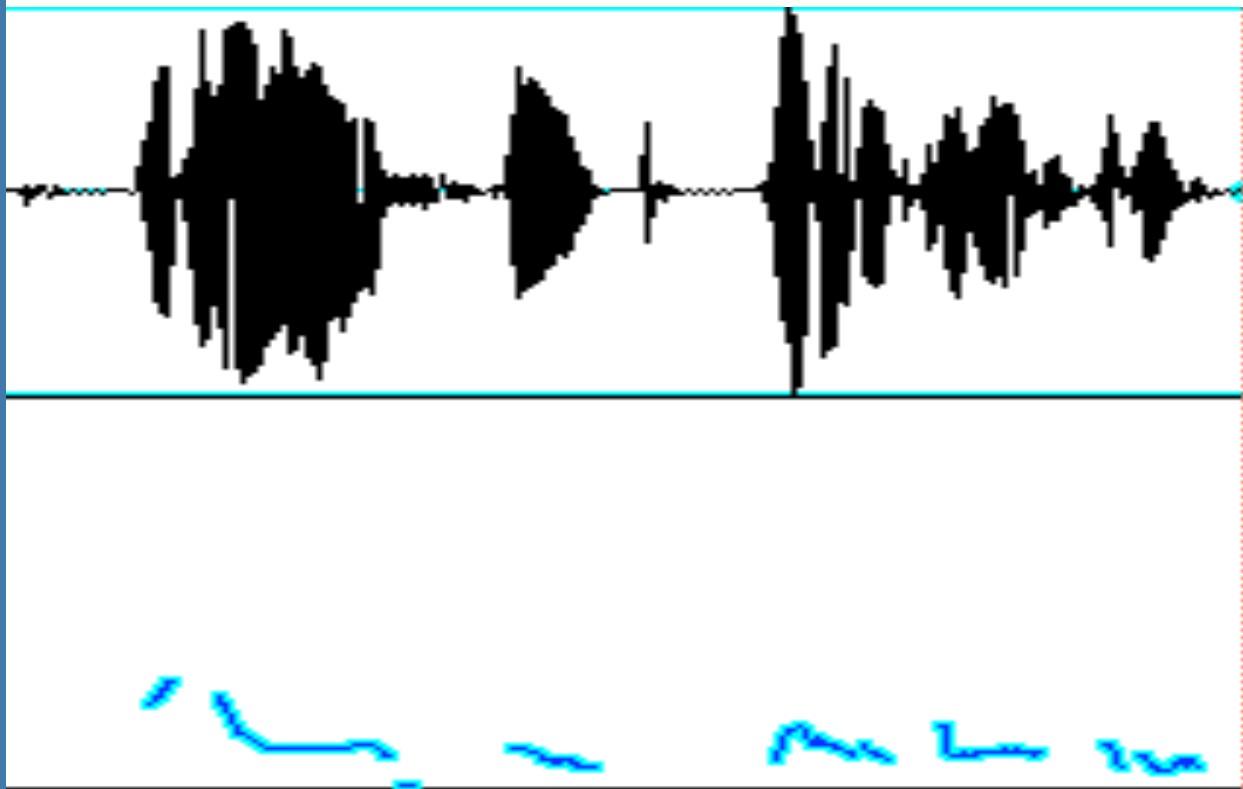


Actually, no.

I'm Korean.

Step 4: Meaningful Practice Correcting

Did you get
new glasses?

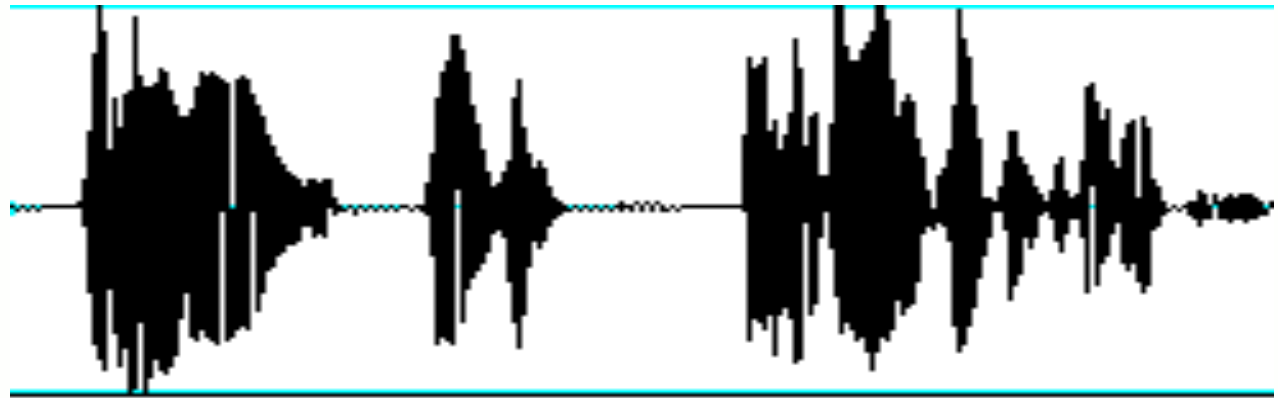


Actually, no.

I bought it 4 years ago.

Step 4: Meaningful Practice Correcting

You're going
to New York
next week?



Actually, no.

I have a lot of work
in my lab.

Contact us

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<http://www.teaching.umn.edu>