CHILDES Symbol Summary

Obligatory Headers:

@Begin	marks the beginning of a file
@End	marks the end of the file
@Participants:	lists actors in a file

Constant Headers:

@Age of XXX:	marks a speaker's age
@Birth of XXX:	shows date of birth of speaker
@Coder:	people doing transcription and coding
@Educ of XXX:	indicates educational level of speaker
@Filename:	shows name of file
@ID:	code for STATFREQ analyses
@Language:	the principal language of the transcript
@Language of XXX:	language(s) spoken by a given participant
@SES of XXX:	indicates socioeconomic status of speaker
@Sex of XXX:	indicates gender of speaker
@Warning:	marks defects in file

Changeable Headers:

@Activities:	component activities in the situation
@Bg and @Bg:	begin gem
@Bck:	backgrounding information
@Comment:	comments
@Date:	date of the interaction
@Eg and @Eg:	end gem
@G:	simple gems
@Location:	geographical location of the interaction
@New Episode:	point at which a new episode begins and old one ends
@Room Layout:	configuration of furniture in room
@Situation:	general atmosphere of the interaction
@Tape Location:	footage markers from tape
@Time Duration:	beginning and end times
@Time Start:	beginning time

Word Symbols:

@	special form markers
xxx	unintelligible speech, not treated as a word
xx	unintelligible speech, treated as a word
yyy	unintelligible speech transcribed on %pho line, not treated as a word
yy	unintelligible speech transcribed on %pho line, treated as a word
www	untranscribed material
0	actions without speech
&	phonological fragment
[?]	best guess
()	noncompletion of a word
0word	omitted word
0*word	ungrammatical omission
00word	(grammatical) ellipsis

Morpheme Symbols:

-	suffix marker
#	prefix marker
+	compound or rote form marker
~	clitic marker
&	fusion marker
-0	omitted affix
-0*	incorrectly omitted affix

Utterance and Tone Unit Terminators

.	period
?	question
!	exclamation
-?	rising final contour
-.	falling final contour
-'.	rise-fall final contour
-,.	fall-rise final contour
-,	level final contour
-_	low level final contour
,	syntactic juncture
,,	tag question
#	pause between words
-:	previous word lengthened

Special Terminators and Linkers:

+...	trailing off
+/.	interruption
+//.	self-interruption
+/?	interruption of a question
+"/.	quotation follows on next line
+".	quotation precedes
+"	quoted utterance follows
+^	quick uptake
+,	self-completion
+ +	other-completion

Prosody WIthin Words:

/	stress
//	accented nucleus
///	contrastive stress
:	lengthened syllable
::	pause between syllables

Scoped Symbols:

[=! text]	paralinguistics, prosodics
[!]	stressing
[!!]	contrastive stressing
["]	quotation marks
[= text]	explanation
[: text]	replacement
[O text]	omission
[:=x text]	translation
[=? text]	alternative transcription
[%xxx: text]	dependent tier on main line
[% text]	comment on main line
[$text]	code on main tier
[?]	best guess (also see chapter 4)
[>]	overlap follows
[<]	overlap precedes
[<>]	overlap follows and precedes
[>number]	overlap follows and overlaps are enumerated
[<number]	overlap precedes and overlaps are enumerated
[/]	retracing without correction
[//]	retracing with correction
[///]	retracing with reformulation
[/-]	false start without retracing
[/?]	unclear retrace type
[*]	error marking
[+ text]	postcode

Dependent Tiers:

%act:	actions
%add:	addressee
%alt:	alternative transcription
%cod:	general purpose coding
%com:	comments by investigator
%def:	codes from SALT
%eng:	English translation
%err:	error coding
%exp:	explanation
%fac:	facial actions
%flo:	flowing version
%gls:	target language gloss for unclear utterance
%gpx:	gestural and proxemic activity
%int:	intonation
%mod:	model or target phonology
%mor:	morphemic semantics
%par:	paralinguistics
%pho:	phonetic transcription
%sit:	situation
%spa:	speech act coding
%syn:	syntactic structure notation
%tim:	time stamp coding

Symbols for Coding on Dependent Tiers:

/.../	delimiters for phonetic notation
$	indicates codes
<$=N >	occurs for N following utterances
<bef>	occurrence before an utterance
<aft>	occurrence after an utterance

Error Coding:

$=	source of an error in the %err line
=	placed between error and target
;	separates errors on %err line

Coding on the %mor tier:

|	follows part-of-speech on %mor line
&	nonconcatenated morpheme in %mor line
+ (Plus)	compound delimiter on %mor line
- (Dash)	suffix delimiter on %mor line
:	feature fusion on %mor line
~ (Tilde)	clitic delimiter on %mor line
O	precedes omitted element
O*	precedes incorrectly omitted element