

Self-Evaluation of Recorded Conversations in Spanish

CAS Language Requirement

- LS111
- LS112
- (LS123)
- LS211
- LS212

2 topics
(3 topics)

Assessment:

- 1) Essay
- 2) Written test
 - Reading Comprehension
 - Listening Comprehension
 - Opinion / Reaction
- 3) Graded Conversation

CAS Language Requirement

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- Listening Comprehension
- Essay / Opinion

Graded Conversation

BU-Supported Technology

- Zoom.US
- Blackboard Learn + Kaltura Media

Advantages of Self-Evaluation of Recorded Conversations

For Students

- Additional practice
- Formative assessment (low stakes, low stress) – Gain familiarity with the rubric by which they will be graded later and the communicative goals of the program
- Analysis and reflection (“Noticing”)
- Identify areas for improvement on their own – take ownership of learning
- Receive assistance and feedback from instructor

For Instructors

- Identify areas / functions where students need more explicit instruction or more practice
- Provide students with individual attention and instruction (in such a way that workload not dramatically increased)
- “Closing the loop” – Use videos and “survey” data to assess course objectives and edit for future iterations, as well as to assess/edit overall program

Communicative Goals

- Sustained conversation that includes drilling down on certain topics
 - Unscripted, spontaneous production
 - Detailed responses
 - Follow-up questions
 - Reactions or expressions of interest / surprise, etc.
- Ability to navigate misunderstandings or lack of vocabulary through...
 - Requests for clarification or confirmation
 - Circumlocution
 - Providing examples

Question 1

- **Do you feel that this conversation has a coherent, logical flow to it?**
 - Definitely
 - Somewhat
 - No

Question 2

- **Did all parties contribute equally to the conversation?**
 - Definitely
 - Somewhat
 - No

Question 3

- **Do you need to contribute more to the conversation?**
 - Definitely
 - Somewhat
 - No, I did my part

Question 4

- **Were you able to formulate questions?**
- Definitely
- Occasionally
- Not really

Question 5

- **Were you able to ask follow-up questions?**
- Definitely
- Occasionally
- Not really

Question 6

- **Were you able to respond to your partner's questions in detail?**
- Definitely
- Some of the time
- Not really

Question 7

- **Were you able to react so as to indicate interest / surprise / agreement, etc.?**
- Definitely
- Some of the time
- Not really

Question 8

- **Were you able to converse without long pauses while you thought of words or how to structure sentences?**
- Definitely
- Some of the time
- Not really

Question 9

- **Was your partner able to understand everything you said?**
- I think so
- Somewhat
- Not really

Question 10

- **Could you understand everything your partner said?**
- Definitely
- Most of the time, but there were some things I didn't catch
- Not really

Question 11

- **Were you able to work through any misunderstandings?**
- Yes, but we had to use English
- Yes, and we did it all in Spanish!
- Some of them
- Not really

Question 12

- **What aspect of your performance in this conversation are you most proud of / pleased with?**

Question 13

- **What one thing do you hope to improve on for next time?**

LS123

- **Recorded Conversation 1**
- *“I hope to improve my reactions and add detail to my answers.”*
 - “Definitely good goals. It might help to think of responses in terms of 2 positives and a negative. For example: Soy estudiante y atleta pero no soy autora.”

LS123

- **Recorded Conversation 2**
 - *“I think I can improve on being more expressive in my reactions.”*
- “True, but at least you are reacting. This tells the person that you are listening to what they say. You could go further in asking follow-up questions. For example, if S says that she likes to cook with her family, you could ask what she likes to cook. That encourages the other person to go into more detail.”

LS123

- **Recorded Conversation 3**

- *“While I’m proud of my ability to ask questions and follow-up questions, I need to make sure I ask them correctly! I struggled a little, especially in the beginning, with remembering conjugations.”*

--“Research shows that whenever we learn a new concept and try to incorporate it into whatever we already know, things break down a little. Then we get everything back on track, gain in confidence... and along comes a new concept. 😊 It doesn't mean that you've forgotten what you used to know, it just means that you are going through a period of adjustment. I was impressed by the details in your answers, the follow-up questions you asked, and the fact that you were able to catch and self-correct many of your mistakes. It was a rich conversation with a natural flow to it.”

LS211

Expresando opinión + pregunta de seguimiento

- ▶ Pienso que...
 - ▶ Creo que...
 - ▶ Para mí...
 - ▶ En mi opinión...
- ▶ ¿Por qué opinas / piensas eso?

LS211

- *“It's been some time since I took Spanish. I took it last in high school and there has been a three-year gap since I last spoke the language. That's why I tend to have a greater comfort level with writing in Spanish than conversing in the language. Because of that, I myself was surprised that we were able to converse for 5 full minutes in the language. I understand that it wasn't professional/perfect Spanish, but my partner and I were able to make it work. We tried our best, and it felt good to be able to put the lessons we've learned into our conversation. I hope to learn more in the following weeks, so that next time can be even better.”*

--“I agree, you did great! Very solid comprehensibility and vocab. Very fluid, and great, natural reactions. Great job asking follow-ups and giving lots of detail. Very interesting convo, too!”

LS211

- *“I want to be able to formulate better follow-up questions, and say ‘¿y tú?’ less. Also, I hope to pause less in the future. Right now I do it only when I need to mentally conjugate words or when I need to ensure grammatical [accuracy]. But in the future I hope the conversation flows more naturally from me. I also want to be able to perfect my usage of direct and indirect pronouns, because I think it would aid in making conversations flow more naturally and because it would make conversations feel less amateur. Overall, though, I am pleased with our progress, especially since we're only midway through our first month of LS 211.*

--“Sounds like an excellent strategy to quickly improve comprehensibility, add linguistic complexity, and progress in proficiency level. One other thing to consider: I hear you trying to imitate an authentic accent – great job! Try to shorten your vowels (make them more “staccato,” as we’ve discussed in class) to help in this even more.”