Final Project Proposal

Description

For the final project, I would like to continue and improve more on my previous project, *conversation distance*. However, instead of visualizing how well carried out conversation between two newly met people, I would like to focus on how conversation among people differ from their cultural background and their use of language.

My interest in languages and how TCK (Third Culture Kids) adjust their conversation with other people will be the main base of my project. The reason I would like to focus on TCK is that from my experiences with friends, even though different background cultures have their own conversational style, it seems that TCK seems to maintain certain characteristics while engaged in different style of conversation. For instance, in American conversation turn taking and backchannel are much more obvious than in Korean conversation where the level of backchannel seems higher. Another example will be a conversation conflict between American and native American in the early American history where even though each group appropriately followed their conversation norm but due to lack of understanding of each other’s conversation norm, many conflicts happened. I am curious which affect more to the way conversation is carried out among them: is this the culture that the conversation is happening, or even though the person follows conversation norm while they keep certain ways of talking?

Therefore, the question I would like to answer from my final project is this: Is the conversation different when two people engage in conversation in different language or is conversation another characteristic of a person while the person changes the way of talking that is appropriate to certain culture? Will we be able to see the difference in visualization? If so, will the visualization help people in certain culture to adjust in conversation in the other culture?