

## (39) ((Aesthetics))

J: ... You're not supposed to use these powerful[techniques].  
 S: [ @N@N@N ]  
 ... Hm.

## 9. QUALITY

There are many occasions in conversation where, for a stretch of a few words or lines, a speaker's voice takes on some special quality, shifts in pitch, or slows in tempo, and so on. Because this kind of momentary marked quality or prosody can serve important functions in exposing some perhaps un verbalized aspect of the speaker's stance or the speech production process, and because it can have consequences for the ongoing spoken interaction, it is important to record it. But because the special qualities that can occur are so diverse, the notation must be flexible enough to meet any demands that may arise in the discourse material. The notational formula introduced in this section is designed to accommodate this kind of diversity.

## 9.1. Types of Quality

Angle brackets <Y Y> are used to indicate that the stretch of text which they enclose has a marked quality or prosody of some sort. The particular quality (higher pitch, increased loudness, etc.) is specified by a supplementary symbol, represented here by Y. The text enclosed within these symbols often amounts to several words and may run across several lines. The marked quality is judged relative to the surrounding discourse produced by the same speaker. For example, a sentence would be marked for tempo if it is noticeably quicker or slower than the speaker's current or usual tempo. This set of symbols (partly based on Boase, 1990) is in principle open-ended, and new ones can be developed to suit a particular investigator's needs. For most transcribing purposes, these notations are used sparingly, to indicate just those phenomena that are of special interest and consequence for the spoken interaction.

Listed here are some of the more common types.

## Loudness

<F	F>	forte: loud	} WICHTIG
<P	P>	piano: soft	
<CR	CR>	crescendo: gradually louder	
<DIM	DIM>	diminuendo: gradually softer	

## Pitch

<HI	HI>	higher pitch level	} mit absicht eine stimme frequenz nachmachen
<LO	LO>	lowered pitch level	
<W	W>	widened pitch range	
<N	N>	narrowed pitch range	
<PAR	PAR>	parenthetical prosody	

## Tempo and Rhythm

<A	A>	allegro: rapid speech	} X
<L	L>	lento: slow speech	
<RH	RH>	rhythmic: stresses in a beatable rhythm	
<MRC	MRC>	marcato: each word distinct and emphasized	
<ARH	ARH>	arrhythmic: halting speech	

## Voice quality

<WH	WH>	whispered	} X
<BR	BR>	breathy	
<HSK	HSK>	husky	
<%	%>	creaky (or: <CRK CRK>)	
<FAL	FAL>	falsetto	
<TRM	TRM>	tremulous	
<SOB	SOB>	sobbing	
<CRY	CRY>	crying	
<YWN	YWN>	yawning	
<SGH	SGH>	sighing	

Following are instances of several of these notations. The angle-bracket pair <F F> is used to enclose a stretch of forte speech (produced with relatively increased loudness).

## (40) ((Hypochondria))

A: <F It's not the end of Chanukah F>,  
 in case you're interested.

The angle-bracket pair <P P> is used to enclose a stretch of piano speech.