

Table 1 Major parts of speech used in CHILDES database

No.	Category	Code	Example
1	Adjective	adj	小 <i>xiao3</i> 'small'
2	Adverb	adv	老 <i>lao3</i> 'always'
3	Aspect marker	asp	了 <i>le</i> 'perfective'
4	Classifier	class	分钟 <i>fen1zhong1</i> 'minute'
5	Communicator ⁱ	co	哎呀 <i>ai1ya1</i> 'jeez'
6	Conjunction	conj	不但 <i>bu2dan4</i> 'not only'
7	Interjection	int	对不起 <i>dui4bu4qi3</i> 'sorry'
8	Noun	n	鱼 <i>yu2</i> 'fish'
9	Negation	neg	不 <i>bu4</i> 'not'
10	Number	num	八 <i>ba1</i> 'eight'
11	Onomatopoeia	on	轰隆 <i>hong1long2</i> 'rumble'
12	Postposition	post	后面 <i>hou4mian4</i> 'behind'
13	Preposition	prep	从 <i>cong2</i> 'from'
14	Pronoun	pro	我 <i>wo3</i> 'I'
15	Quantifier	quant	各 <i>ge4</i> 'each'
16	Sentence final particle	sfp	吗 <i>ma</i> 'question'
17	Small (functional) words	small ⁱⁱ	的 <i>de</i>
18	Verb	v	逛 <i>guang4</i> 'hang out'

(adapted from CHILDES classification, see MacWhinney 2000)

ⁱ The boundary between communicator and interjection is tricky. According to CHILDES online manual (MacWhinney 2000), communicators are used for interactive and communicative purpose. Also included in this category are words used to express emotion, as well as imitative and onomatopoeic forms, such as *ah*, and *boom*. Interjections are similar to communicators, but they typically can stand alone as complete utterances, rather than being integrated as parts of the utterances. They include forms such as *wow*, *hello*, *good-bye*, *please*, *thank-you*. The definitions are different from those of some Chinese linguists (e.g. Guo 2002: 236-8) whose word categories do not include communicators, and the communicators in the CHILDES system are treated as interjection words. To be consistent with previous corpora, we stick to the CHILDES convention.

ⁱⁱ 'Small' is a cover term for all the functions served by a few functional words. For instance, the functional word 的 has multiple usages: it is coded as 'poss' if it links a possessor and possessee, as 'nom' if it is a nominalizer, 'cleft' if it is part of the cleft construction *shi...de*.