

Oral presentation

Reaching consensus on vegetable and fruit

Gail E. Wagner^a

^aDepartment of Anthropology, Faculty of the School of the Environment, University of South Carolina, Columbia, USA

Introduction. In the United States of America, “vegetable” appears to be a cultural domain whose definition is unclear even though people may agree on membership in the domain. Or do they? I examine data from over 300 interviews with people between the ages of 4 and 90 who mostly live in the Southeast.

Objectives. The main objective is to see whether there is agreement on the members of the two cultural domains of vegetable and fruit. A corollary objective is to discern whether the adults or the children show more variation in their responses as illustrated through a constrained pile sort.

Methods. I perform consensus analysis on freelists of vegetables and fruits. Additionally, I examine the similarity matrix on constrained similarity judgments of vegetable vs not-vegetable elicited via pile sorts of pictures.

Results. Analysis is still underway so that no results or conclusions may be reported in the abstract.

Conclusion. Analysis is still underway so that no results or conclusions may be reported in the abstract.

Keywords: Consensus analysis, freelist, pile sort, cultural domain

Selected References

1. Romney, A., Susan C. Weller, and William H. Batchelder. 1986. Culture as Consensus: A Theory of Culture and Informant Accuracy. *American Anthropologist* 88:313-338.

Presenting Author: Gail E. Wagner, gail.wagner@sc.edu