The Use of Tense and Aspect in the Holocaust Survivors' Interviews:
A Corpus-Based Approach*

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1. Introduction

There has been a plethora of research aimed at understanding which experiences Holocaust survivors bury and retain in their minds, and what prompts them to open up about past silences. Researchers continuously question if certain memories are more vividly expressed by survivors to unburden themselves. Additionally, they investigate the role of language and discourse in survivors' willingness to reveal hidden memories and what roles their language and discourse do play in survivors' readiness to reveal hidden memories. Over the last four decades, the Holocaust has emerged as a significant field of culture and history research. Topics of study range in varied ways and the scholars rely in large part on survivors' testimony and interviews.

Voice and Vision Holocaust Survivor Oral History Archive serves as a notable example in the course of the testimony works. Through this archive, the subsequent generations are able to witness many survivors'

struggles in recounting their experiences of violence during the genocide. Using their own words, the survivors authentically speak for themselves and their memories and in this way, their strong emotions are delivered to their readers and audience through recorded and written testimony. Of particular interest, from a perspective of linguistic cues, their use of verb tenses and aspects might be interpreted as one of the overt tools to effectively convey their narratives. This aspect becomes a subject of analysis for linguistic research. Therefore, this article aims to investigate the ways in which trauma and language use intersect in surviving memories by interviewees whose second language is American English as they immigrated after their liberation. Based on the collected interviews, the current article relies on a corpus of collected interviews after constructing the new corpus for the clear-cut research goal: to examine the forms and aspects of verbs that were uttered by the non-English native interviewees and to explore the types of verbs which have been buried in their underlying memory repository.

2. Theoretical Background

There is little doubt that there has been a proliferation in the Holocaust research work concerning people's memories and trauma over the past decades. These memories are deeply rooted pains, leaving enduring responsibilities for survivors and post-war generations. The arguments that have been built on the previous research highlight that the Holocaust does not diminish or go faint in importance as the time passes; rather, its effects continue to reach further and run deeper.

On a collective level, interviews (or memories) may emerge through interactions and communications, such as interviewer's questions, and may be preserved and revitalized through the use of various narratives. In this context, the focus on specific verb forms underscores

the importance of providing appropriate theoretical backgrounds based on academic grammar theories, specifically related to the past tense and aspects, which align with the purpose of the current article. To adequately address the research questions later, it becomes necessary to consider distinct grammar rules in the following subsections, thus providing a robust foundation for the analysis.

2.1. The Progressive

The form of gerund-participle combined with auxiliary "be" constitutes the progressive aspect. It is referred to as the 'present' participle "because the time associated with it is characteristically the same as that expressed or implied in the larger construction" (Huddleston & Pullum, 2002, p. 80). Also "the progressive aspect is used to describe activities or events that are in progress at a particular time, usually for a limited duration" (Biber et al., 1999, p. 470). More specifically, as the main focus of this paper is to examine the past tense, the past progressive aspect represents events that were in progress or about to occur at some earlier time. Importantly, this 'process' element of meaning may also indicate the end-point of certain processes. In addition to these characteristics, the progressive aspect in English can appear in various combinations, resulting in more specific verbal readings and meanings.

2.2. The Perfect

According to Huddleston & Pullum (2002), the perfect tense system can convey various concepts. The use of the present perfect "is concerned with the occurrence of situations within the time-span up to now" (p. 143). In addition to the use of present perfect, the perfect of the recent past may be associated with the concept of 'distance', which contrasts with the 'recency' (i.e., recent past) of present perfect. From a Semantic perspective, the theory of 'now' "is extended into the past and it provides

a long interval as a contextually salient time. Support for this view comes from the fact that a temporal adverbial that can occur in a present perfect refers to an interval that contains the utterance time" (Ogihara, 2007, p. 408).

2.3. Passive Voice

The passive voice in English can take two different forms; the *BE* passive and the *GET* passive. The use of passive voice often occurs to indicate a piece of numerous information during spoken discourses. Previous research by Bieber et al. (1999) pointed out that "one of the major functions of the passive voice is that it demotes the agent of the verb (often the person doing the action of the verb), while giving topic status to the affected patient (the entity being acted on)" (p. 481). The *GET* passive is generally restricted and predominantly found in conversational contexts. It is interesting to note that the most common verbs occurring with *GET* passives have negative readings (or connotations), and they convey that the action of the verb is difficult, or at least, is disadvantageous to the subject. Also, use of this particular form can contribute to a more dynamic sense and reading than the *BE* passive. That is, the *GET* passive describes the process of getting involved in the state, while the other often tends to simply describe a state. Additionally, lexical factors play a significant role in determining the choice between active and passive forms.

2.4. Research Questions

Given the purpose of the current study, the significance of language usage retained and recomposed by the Nazis holocaust survivors becomes apparent, warranting an analysis of the interviews using a currently constructed corpus data. As a complex interface between the Holocaust Research, psychology, and linguistics, it necessitates posing

multidisciplinary questions when approaching the set of data. Being a string of linguistic research, the current research of course will be undoubtedly relevant to various fields within human language including aspects of Semantics.

With a focus on language production by the speakers, this paper presents the following hypotheses: i) The progressive and the passive may appear more often when speakers describe tragic events and ii) The lexical category of verbs may vary depending on the topic of discourses. Based on these hypotheses, two research questions also arise as follows, and they will be covered in the next following Discussion section.

1. How are the surviving memories reconstructed and expressed in the survivors' foreign language, specifically in terms of usage of past tense and aspects?
2. What types of lexicons do they use to express their personal experience before, after, and during the war?

3. Data and Methodology

Voice and Vision Holocaust Survivor Oral History Archive is a project that has been built by Sidney Bolkosky, a historian, since 1981. He has interviewed Holocaust survivors and the interviews are reposited in the University of Michigan-Dearborn's Mardigan Library. Under the mission of providing a forum for the survivors' voices, the archive represents a guarantee of unembroidered presentation, without any dramatization. Because of the fact that the Project has not been a 'fanfare', the data speaks for itself—literally, but with integrity and quality. Now the collection has obtained a potentially larger audience, and copies of all the interviews rest in the archives of the U.S. Holocaust Memorial Museum. Additionally, copies of videotapes are found in the Yale Video Archives and the Holocaust Memorial Center in West

Bloomfield, MI, U.S.

Despite the full accessibility to scholars, historians, psychologists, and students, the data has not been visited with any attempts to make it into a set of the corpus. Here, for the current research, the specific corpus was built on the previously existing written data, the Survivors' Interviews, and henceforth, *Corpus of Holocaust-survivors Interviews* (CHI). This newly constructed corpus, CHI, was made particularly for the current research, and as far as known, there is no analogous attempt in both Holocaust Research and Linguistics. The subject of this current study is to investigate the past contexts and verb forms in them, particularly focusing on the verb aspects and 'languages of survivors,' which contain a lexicon in survivors' narratives. CHI was reconstructed by sorting out the whole interview section into three types of memories: *Life before the War*, *Memories during the Massacre*, and *Life after the War*. For each subcategory of memories, chronological classification was applied to the narratives on the basis of the years of World War II which occurred between 1939 to 1945.

The first memories of the survivors, *Life before the War*, are traced back to events before the war. Starting with their brief self-introduction, the survivors brought back the memories of their family background, childhood, religious life, education, relationships between other people from different nationalities, etc. Then, their memories which were vastly formulated during the genocide, *Memories of Massacre*, take most portion of the survivors' interviews. Lastly, the interviews continued covering survivors' lives after the War and their liberation, and in this article, it is named *Life after the War*. Among more than 180 interviews, the present study focuses on 42 interviews, based on the number of consisting episodes. The 42 interviews consist of episodes (or sections) between 40 and 70, and this was understood as (reasonably) an average scope. The transcribed data produced by interviewers, whose first language is

Table 1. Total Number of Words and Verbs for Each Narrative

	Life before the War	*Memories of the Massacre*	*Life after the War*
Total Words	87,691	469,387	218,757
Total Verbs	17,237	98,756	46,696

English, was excluded on the basis of the purpose of this article.

As one of the additional data cleaning processes, there are certain data sets that have been excluded. Including a few back channel cues, as understood as reactions to interviewers, such as *that's right* and *that's correct*, general and clear filler-phrase such as *you know* and *you see* were deleted from the whole data not to affect the results. Excluding those phrases, the total size of words is 788,786 words overall. More specifically, for each type of divided episodes, the *Life before the War* consists of 87,691 words, the *Memories of the Massacre* consists of 467,387 words, and the *Life after the War* consists of 218,757 words in total. However, as the main concern of the current study is to see verbs, the additional calculation is made on the basis of the number of verb-word as follows; the *Life before the War* consists of 17,237 verbs, the *Memories of Massacre* consists of 98,756 verbs, and the *Life after the War* consists of 47,696 verbs, respectively. The word counts of each subcorpus are summarized in Table 1 above.

For constructing CHI from scratch, the current research uses the *AntConc* and *TagAnt*.[2] Using the tagged sets, strings of verb sets were extracted to analyze, and those will be described in the next following section in more detail. According to the suggested 'Selected Tag Set' of *TagAnt*, there are six subcategories for verbs as follows: VB (verb, base form), VBD (verb, past tense), VBG (verb, gerund or present participle),

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2) These software tools are freely accessible via *AntLab* (http://www.laurenceanthony. net).

VBN (verb, past participle), VBP (verb, non-3rd person singular present), and VBZ (verb, 3rd person singular present).

4. Results

4.1. General Distribution

Given that the research questions of the current study are crucially related to the use of verb form in the survivors' voices, the whole number of verbs was calculated from CHI. Then, the percentage was also considered in the course of the calculation, and they were all rounded off to the second decimal place.

Table 2 shows the calculated result of the first narrative, *Life before the*

Table 2. The Numbers and Percentages of Each Verb Form in *Life before the War*

Verb Forms	Numbers	Percentage
VB (*verb, base form*)	3,244	18.82%
VBD (*verb, past tense*)	8,735	50.68%
VBG (*verb, gerund or present participle*)	1,031	6%
VBN (*verb, past participle*)	813	4.71%
VBP (*verb, non-3rd person singular present*)	2,316	13.44%
VBZ (*verb, 3rd person singular present*)	1,098	6.37%

Table 3. The Numbers and Percentages of Each Verb Form in *Memories of the Massacre*

Verb Forms	Numbers	Percentage
VB (*verb, base form*)	20,840	21.12%
VBD (*verb, past tense*)	48,454	49.11%
VBG (*verb, gerund or present participle*)	5,563	5.64%
VBN (*verb, past participle*)	4,446	4.51%
VBP (*verb, non-3rd person singular present*)	13,800	14%
VBZ (*verb, 3rd person singular present*)	5,653	5.73%

Table 4. The Numbers and Percentages of Each Verb Form in *Life after the War*

Verb Forms	Numbers	Percentage
VB (*verb, base form*)	10,248	21.95%
VBD (*verb, past tense*)	18,857	40.38%
VBG (*verb, gerund or present participle*)	3,215	6.88%
VBN (*verb, past participle*)	1,836	3.93%
VBP (*verb, non-3rd person singular present*)	8,356	1.79%
VBZ (*verb, 3rd person singular present*)	4,184	8.96%

War. Among the total number of verbs, base form is 3,244, accounting for 18.82%, past tense is 8,735 accounting for 50.68%, gerund or present participle is 1,031, accounting for 6%, verb past participle is 813, accounting for 4.71%, non-3rd person singular present is 2,316, accounting for 13.44%, and 3rd person singular present is 1,098, accounting for 6.37%.

Table 3 illustrates the calculated result of the second narrative, which takes the biggest proportion of the whole episode, *Memories of the Massacre.* Among the total number of verbs, base form is 20,840, accounting for 21.12%, past tense is 48,454, accounting for 49.11%, gerund or present participle is 5,563, accounting for 5.64%, verb past participle is 4,446, accounting for 4.51%, non-3rd person singular present is 13,800, accounting for 14%, and 3rd person singular present is 5,653 accounting for 5.73%.

Table 4 illustrates the calculated result of the last narrative, which has the second biggest proportion of the whole episode, *Life after the War.* Among the total number of verbs, base form is 10,248, accounting for 21.95%, past tense is 18,857, accounting for 40.38%, gerund or present participle is 3,215, accounting for 6.88%, verb past participle is 1,836, accounting for 3.93%, non-3rd person singular present is 8,356, accounting for 1.79%, and 3rd person singular present is 4,184,

accounting for 8.96%.

4.2. Past

The main methodological outcome of the present article allows us to gain more precise insight into the cognitive mechanisms which are underlying non-English native speakers' memories of the past. Considering the purpose of the present study, the past verb forms are divided into two main usages: progressive and perfect. These aspects of English verbs are regarded to represent the degree of involvement in particular events of speakers. To investigate the uttered and transcribed data whose usage lies in the past context, this paper also delves into the relevant data after similar processes of the calculation.

Table 5 illustrates the result of the number of present progressives and its percentage per the total number of past form verbs used in the first narrative, *Life before the War*. The searching strings of tag sets for use on *AntConc* are as follows: 'VBD' for the total number of past form verbs, 'have/has_vb *_VBN' and 'had_vbd *_VBN' for the present/ past perfect, and 'was/were_vbd *_VBG,' for the past progressive. The present and past perfect in the past context is 59, accounting for 0.67% of the whole past form verbs and progressive in the past context is 397, accounting for 4.51% respectively. The total past context, VBD, is 8,794.

Table 6 describes the result of the number of present progressive and its percentage per the total number of past form verbs used in the second narrative, *Memories of the Massacre*. The same searching strings of tag sets were applied for the analysis, as presented in the previous paragraph. The result for the biggest part of the Holocaust experiencers (or victims) are as follows: The present and past perfect in the past context is 514, accounting for 1.05% of the whole past form verbs and progressive in the past context is 3,275, accounting for 6.69% respectively. The total past context, VBD, is 48,968.

Table 5. The Ratio of the Perfect and the Progressive in the Past Context of *Life before the War*

Verb Forms	Tag Set	Numbers	Percentage
Present/Past Perfect	*have/has/had* + VBN	59	0.67%
Past Progressive	*was/were* + VBG	397	4.51%
Total Past Context	-	8,794	-

Table 6. The Ratio of the Perfect and the Progressive in the Past Context of *Memories of the Massacre*

Verb Forms	Tag Set	Numbers	Percentage
Present/Past Perfect	*have/has/had* + VBN	514	1.05%
Past Progressive	*was/were* + VBG	3,275	6.69%
Total Past Context	-	48,968	-

Table 7. The Ratio of the Perfect and the Progressive in the Past Context of *Life after the War*

Verb Forms	Tag Set	Numbers	Percentage
Present/Past Perfect	*have/has/had* + VBN	235	1.23%
Past Progressive	*was/were* + VBG	985	5.16%
Total Past Context	-	19,092	-

Table 7 presents the result of the number of present progressive and its percentage per the total number of past form verbs used in the last narrative, *Life after the War*. Here, the same searching strings of tag sets were applied for the analysis as well. The result for the second biggest part of the interviewers' voices is as follows: The number of present and past perfect in the past context is 235, accounting for 1.23% of the whole past form verbs and progressive in the past context is 985, accounting for 5.16% respectively. The total past context for the last section, VBD, is 19,092.

4.3. Passive

In Table 8, the ratio of the passive use in the past context from the three subcorpora. Using the searching strings, 'was/were_vbd*_VBN' and 'got_vbd*_VBN', the results were obtained as seen in the table following.

For further discussion regarding Table 8, it should be pointed out that one particular and typical form of, 'be *born*' is resulting in the confusing reading of the data sets. For clarifying the exact ratio of each subcorpus, 'be *born*' had to be deleted as reanalyzed in Table 9. Along with the research questions, the language use of the passive voice produced by survivors was also subject to examination at the lexical level. The following tables summarize the collocate frequency of *BE* passive and *GET* passive in the past context extracted from CHI as described in Table 10 and Table 11 below, separately. It should be noted that a frequency less than 5 was excluded from the result of data shown in Table 11.

The lexicon that the survivors used for reviving their memories have diverse meaning scope. As illustrated in Table 10, the subcorpus of *Life Before the War* contains verbs that describe one's general life such as *born* (89), *married* (16), *given* (16), *called* (15), and so forth, from the highest rank. For their recollections of *Life after the War*, one might notice an interesting indication that the lexicon in it is mixed with two other subcorpus. *Born* (67), *killed* (32), *liberated* (25), *taken* (23), *sent*

Table 8. The Ratio of the Passive in the Past Context

Subcorpus	Tag Set	Numbers		Percentage	
Life before the War	*was/were* + VBN	342	387	3.89%	4.40%
	got + VBN	45		0.51%	
Memories of the Massacre	*was/were* + VBN	1,566	1,740	3.20%	3.56%
	got + VBN	174		0.36%	
Life after the War	*was/were* + VBN	520	621	2.72%	3.25%
	got + VBN	101		0.53%	

Table 9. The Ratio of the Passive in the Past Context (*BE born* excluded)

Subcorpus	Tag Set	Numbers		Percentage	
Life before the War	*was/were* + VBN	253	298	2.88%	3.39%
	got + VBN	45		0.51%	
Memories of the Massacre	*was/were* + VBN	1,499	1,673	3.06%	3.42%
	got + VBN	174		0.36%	
Life after the War	*was/were* + VBN	464	565	2.43%	2.96%
	got + VBN	101		0.53%	

Table 10. *BE* Passive Use in the Past Context from Each Subcorpus

	Life Before the War		*Memories of the Massacre*		*Life After the War*	
Rank	Word	Frequency	Word	Frequency	Word	Frequency
1	born	89	taken	106	born	56
2	given	16	born	67	killed	32
3	married	16	called	54	liberated	25
4	called	15	liberated	51	taken	23
5	taken	13	supposed	46	sent	18
6	sent	9	left	45	supposed	15
7	killed	9	killed	41	married	15
8	dressed	8	sent	35	raised	11
9	allowed	7	shot	32	called	11
10	done	7	made	30	given	11
11	grown	5	put	29	told	11
12	deported	5	gone	27	written	9
13	brought	5	given	27	left	9
14	told	5	picked	25	brought	8
15	raised	5	bombed	23	stopped	7
					put	
					picked	

Table 11. *GET* Passive Use in the Past Context from Each Subcorpus

Rank	Life Before the War		Memories of the Massacre		Life After the War	
	Word	Frequency	Word	Frequency	Word	Frequency
1	married	19	killed	23	married	44
2	killed	6	married	19	killed	8
3	paid	3	liberated	11	stuck	6
4	beaten	3	shot	10		
5	shot	2	caught	8		
6	caught	2	hit	7		
7			used	6		

(18), *supposed* (15), *married* (15), *raised* (11), *called* (11), *given* (11), *told* (11), and so forth are ranked from the highest collocation with the *BE* passive in the third narrative. Lastly, most impressively, the words that are produced in the narrative of *Memories of the Massacre*, contain some extremely negative meanings, especially related to the concept of death or being controlled such as *taken* (106), *left* (45), *killed* (41), *sent* (35), *shot* (32), *picked* (25) or *bombed* (23).

For the *GET* passive use, as described in Table 11, similar yet moderately different use can be captured. In the subcorpus of *Life Before the War*, the Holocaust experiencers took out the lexicon associated with their general life, *married* (16), at the highest frequency, followed by *killed* (6), *paid* (3), *beaten* (3), *shot* (2), and *caught* (2). For the period during the Massacre, the survivors chose to give descriptions of their memories using the verbs such as *killed* (23), *married* (19), *liberated* (11), *shot* (10), *caught* (8), *hit* (7), and *used* (6). The majority of the verbs can be interpreted negatively when one looks into each interview in detail. Lastly, the same general life-associated verb *married* (44) occurs with the highest use frequency, followed by *killed* (8) and *stuck* (6) with their moderate number of uses.

5. Discussion

As previously indicated, the hypotheses and research questions can now be analyzed with the results. The first hypothesis reveals only moderate differences between the ratios of each sub-corpus as shown in Table 2, Table 3, and Table 4. A closer examination of the data, however, yields somewhat different outcomes, particularly in the past context, as illustrated in Table 5, Table 6, Table 7, and Table 8.

Considering that majority of interview contents are composed in the past tense, these varied results appear to be reasonable. Specifically, in the sub-corpus, *Memories of the Massacre*, both verb forms of present/past perfect and past progressive show the highest among the others. This aligns with the first hypothesis, predicting a more salient and significant use of progressive and passive voice in the second narrative. In English language, "the motivation for the use of progressive, more specifically, [BE *Ving*] form, has been linked to a speaker's involvement in an event" (Petré, 2017, p. 247). By utilizing the progressive form, survivors add vividness to their memories when delivering them to their audience, suggesting that their memories during this specific period of pain are retained in a distinct manner. As emphasized by the Holocaust Research, "memories of the Holocaust have strong bearings on contemporary settings. For instance, contesting the Holocaust is at least as much a way of engaging with present identities, events, and conditions as it is of engaging with the past" (Seeberg et al., 2013, p. 5).

When examining the memories in the context of thoughts about the past, one might expect that their recollections of more distant events may be fainter, despite the chronological order of narratives. Surprisingly, the results contradict this prediction. It is noteworthy that the number of the verb form of present/past perfect in *Life after the War*

is higher than that of *Life before the War* as the former is 1.23% and the latter is 0.67% respectively as shown in Table 5 and Table 7.

6. Conclusion

As one of the members of contemporary society, the remaining generation may be urged to keep involved and interested in the antecedent events. In various academic fields, this implication has been frequently addressed in scholarly work. Nonetheless, some delicate yet tormenting facts or events are sometimes avoided by researchers. The discourse of the Holocaust or other tragic genocides, however, should be continuously revisited by humankind and for themselves. Embracing these ideas, the current research aims to contribute to the academic effort of exploring the profoundness of human history and the impact it leaves on the present.

This article investigates the verb usage of survivors, with a specific focus on past tenses, progressives, passives, and lexicon use during their interviews. In the sub-corpus that represents direct events during the Nazis' massacre, their victims utilized progressive and passive verb forms more frequently. Additionally, the lexicon used by the survivors in the same sub-corpus, *Memories of the Massacre,* was more closely related to negative values such as death and external force compared to other subcorpora. These remembrances can be interpreted as a clue that the survivors retained their memories more vividly, bringing forth a collection of events during which they were physically and mentally suppressed mentally as victims. These post-war traumas were expressed in their use of the foreign language, directly reflecting the negative emotions through verb tense and aspects.

As far as it is known, there are only very few or no analogous studies to the current article in terms of the data and methodologies employed.

Due to such a scarcity, it is evident that further discussions will be necessary, utilizing the constructed corpus to explore various perspectives in more detail. Notably, the CHI contains a wealth of linguistic information that can be used for deeper discussions in the future. It is essential to acknowledge that CHI was specifically developed for the purpose of this present research, which may present some limitations during the data collection process. Nevertheless, it also serves as a cornerstone, potentially paving the way for more abundant discussions and further research opportunities in the future.

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Appendix

Table A. The List of Interviewees with the Number of Episodes and Word Counts

No.	Name	Episodes/Words
1	Ackermann, Eva	45/ 15,607
2	Adler, Olga	42/ 22,305
3	Berki, Peri	60/ 18,478
4	Brenner, Larry	52/ 27,092
5	Camhi, Bella	56/ 16,232
6	Dan, Bert	40/ 12,850
7	Elbaum, Luba	64/ 17,802
8	Fein, Albert	45/ 11,552
9	Feldman, Eugene	42/ 15,996
10	Feldman, Manya Auster	46/ 29,750
11	Fenster, Lily	61/ 39,337
12	Ferber, Fred	60/ 49,270
13	Ferber, Miriam Monczyk-Laczkowska	42/ 25,085
14	Fisk, Hannah	43/ 15,595
15	Fisk, Benjamin	41/ 18,098
16	Fordonski, Nancy	51/ 25,224
17	Gissing, Vera	40/ 11,571
18	Green, Rose	50/ 13,575
19	Greenberger, Anna	57/ 20,314
20	Hirsch, Bernard	40/ 11,788
21	Holcman, Abraham	42/ 10,474
22	Kalmas, Simon	49/ 10,386
23	Katan, Salvatore and Lili	44/ 12,750
24	Kaye, Louis	45/ 15,446
25	Kendal, Fred	43/ 12,740
26	Kessler, Ilya Martha	43/ 12,061
27	Lang, Helen	52/ 16,686

No.	Name	Episodes/Words
28	Lupyan, Esfir	47/ 12,395
29	Mandel, John	41/ 17,294
30	Marczak, Herman	61/ 21,331
31	Maroko, Simon	64/ 22,772
32	Northman, Nathan	49/ 16,799
33	Northman, Sonia	53/ 15,181
34	Opas, Michael	59/ 15,809
35	Roemerfeld, Mrs.	55/ 15,845
36	Rothenberg, Berek	69/ 27,848
37	Seltzer, Sam	41/ 26,950
38	Steiger, Zwi	44/ 13,635
39	Sternberg, Malka	40/ 16,594
40	Wayne, Larry	65/ 14,406
41	Weiselman, Nathan	44/ 17,652
42	Zamczyk, Natalie	62/ 26,211

ABSTRACT

The Use of Tense and Aspect in the Holocaust Survivors' Interviews:
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In the realm of Holocaust research, understanding the memories and experience of survivors has been a vital pursuit. Scholars have sought to explore which aspects of their traumatic past survivors choose the share, and how language and discourse play a role in their willingness to reveal hidden memories. Over the past four decades, the Holocaust has emerged as a significant field of culture and history research, with survivors' testimonies forming a cornerstone of investigation.

One such testimony archive, the Voice and Vision Holocaust Survivor Oral History Archive, provides a platform for witnessing survivors' struggles to recount their experiences of violence during the genocide. Through their own words, survivors deliver their powerful emotions to readers and audience, captured in recorded and written testimonies. Of particular interest is the examination of linguistic cues, such as verb tenses and aspects, which survivors use overtly to express their narratives more effectively. This linguistic tool serves as a valuable resource for further linguistic research.

This article delves into the intersection of trauma and language use in surviving memories, specifically focusing on interviewees whose second language is American English, as they immigrated after their liberation. By analyzing a corpus of collected interviews, this study aims to

investigate the forms and aspects of verbs uttered by non-English native interviewees, uncovering the types of verbs buried deep within their underlying memory repository. The insights gained from this research will shed light on the intricacies of survivor testimonies and contribute to deeper understanding of the enduring impact of the Holocaust.

Key Words corpus study, the Holocaust study, language use, tense, aspect