

recorded (including the interviewer) may cough, wheeze, turn away from the microphone, drop their voices to an inaudible level, mumble, talk too fast, stammer, and otherwise contribute to an unintelligible segment of testimony. In addition there is the difficulty of understanding the particular dialect of English spoken by many Indian informants, and finally there are a number of mechanical difficulties involving the equipment. While there are now many excellent portable cassette type recorders on the market, there seem to be very few real transcribing machines. For transcribing cassette tapes the Oklahoma Project has utilized Norelco Model 82 Universal transcribers and TCI Model 400 transcriber-recorders. Although transcribing with one of these machines is far faster and more convenient than transcribing with a recorder set on playback, these machines are somewhat delicate and seem to require regular servicing and occasional repair. Furthermore many cassette tapes tend to jam or develop kinks, and often the transcribing machine does not have a drive strong enough to keep a tape winding at the proper rate of speed. Sometimes, especially toward the end of one side on a cassette, the drive of the machine is simply insufficient to move the tape at all. The experience here has been that Norelco cassettes present the fewest difficulties with the above mentioned transcribers, but by no means do all Norelco cassettes operate smoothly. C-90's (ninety-minute cassettes) tend to jam more readily than C-60's (sixty-minute cassettes), probably because of the greater bulk of tape involved inside the cassettes. Cassettes and equipment for cassettes are still relatively new, and in spite of their obvious advantages for field recordings they have presented some technical difficulties which it has taken Project personnel some