

SPEAKER: _____
(INTERVIEWEE)

SOCIOLINGUIST: _____
(INTERVIEWER)

"NAME" OF LANGUAGE/DIALECT/REGISTER/STYLE	CONTEXT OF USE: AUDIENCE/ROLE...	MOTIVATIONS/CONSEQUENCES	WHERE/HOW SPEAKER LEARNED	CONNECTION TO SPEAKER'S IDENTITY

1. **Language Self-Portraits.**

- (a) *Brainstorm* your different “languages” (‘accents;’ ways of speaking/using language; dialects, ethnolects, sociolects; registers, styles; linguistic features...)
- (b) *Select* ≤ 15 and name them.
- (c) *Assign a color* or pattern for each language in your Key.
- (d) *Color in your portrait* according to your Key. The specific logic you use to fill in your figure based on your languages doesn’t matter, just **make it meaningful**.

2. **Paired Interviews.**

Interview each other in pairs: pick something that stands out to you from your partner’s self-portrait, and ask them about it. If it’s useful, you can use the interview table to take notes on their responses. For each language, think about/discuss:

- (a) **CONTEXT OF USE.**
What conditions your use of this language? What are the circumstances in which *this* is the way you speak? You might think about: *who* you’re talking to (your audience and your relationship to them), your *role* in the setting, *where* you are, *what* you are talking about, and your positionality.
- (b) **MOTIVATIONS/CONSEQUENCES.**
Why is it important to talk this way in this context? What motivates or drives you? You might think about: *emotions* (e.g., pride, fear, defiance, shame, joy), and *desires* (e.g., allegiance, differentiation, acceptance, legitimacy, prestige, making someone else feel comfortable, being “intelligible” or perceived as...). What are the consequences of *not* using this language in this context? How do others “hear”/interpret you when you use this language? How do you know when you’ve been ‘successful’ or understood as you want to be? How do you *feel* when you use this language? What is its impact on you as a speaker?
- (c) **HOW LEARNED?**
Where, when, how, or from whom did you learn how to use this language? Do any specific memories come to mind?
- (d) **CONNECTION TO WHO YOU ARE.**
How important is this language to who you are? Why? What does it mean for you? Who does this language connect you to? How much do you feel like yourself when you use this language (which version of yourself)? If not yourself, is there someone who you *do* feel (/sound) like? What parts of your identity does this language relate to?

Once you’ve gotten to a ‘pausing’ place in your open-ended interview of your partner (e.g., after you have asked them about one of their languages in detail, and taken notes in a corresponding row of your interview table), switch roles. Keep alternating!

Broader questions to ask about the entire set of languages/dialects/registers/styles/features: How different are these languages? Which ones do you see as the most different/similar; why? Which ones do you most often mix? Are there ones you would never mix? Why?...