

Cross the languages

Introduction to languages

Mother tongue: the concept of the hand (5 aspects of languages: of the father, of the mother, of the family, of the school and of the surroundings. The thumb = my bare ideas in my head.

The idea of being “exposed” to a language. A baby is being exposed to a language just like being exposed to a shower of water.

Languages being used at school: teaching language as well as other acquired languages (native or foreign ?)

Language being used at home.

The four capabilities of language (emission: speak – write; reception: listen and understand – lire and comprehend)

Languages in Switzerland, in France, in Africa, in Belgium, in Canada (without omitting languages originating from immigration)

The languages in the European Community (23 languages for 27 states)

Les languages used at the UNO and at the UNESCO (en, fr, es, ar, ru, cn)

Languages in the world (around 6000)

Translation (written form) – interpretation (oral form)

Browsing through languages

Who is the secretary? A man? A woman?

Who is the boss? A man? A Woman?

According to Claude Piron’s presentation table

Language	Expression	Gender of the Employee	Gender of the boss
Fr	Son secrétaire	We know	We don’t know
fr	Sa secrétaire	We know	We don’t know
de	Sein Sekretär	We know	We know
de	Seine Sekretärin	We know	We know
de	Ihre Sekretär	We know	We know
de	Ihre Sekretärin	We know	We know
En	His secretary	We don’t know	We know
En	Her secretary	We don’t know	We know
Eo	Lia sekretario	We know	We know
Eo	Lia sekretariino	We know	We know
Eo	Sia sekretario	We know	We know
Eo	Sia sekretariino	We know	We know
Jp	Kare no hisho	We don’t know	We know
Jp	Kanojho no hisho	We don’t know	We know

Jp: kare = he, kanjo = she, no = de, genitive: histo = secretary

Browsing through languages, or surfing on them as you wish is the best condition to get to discover a new language.

Let’s observe numbers 11 to 20

At which moment the word “ten” appears, this is the question.

To give the participant the opportunity to become conscious of their own language(s) and to discover foreign ones.

Language coding is being indicated with ISO codes (always two low cast letters)

fr = French

de = German

	fr	de	it	es	en	jp	eo	
1	Un	Eins	Uno	Un	Once	Ichi	Unu	
2	Deux	Zwei	Due	Dos	Two	Ni	Du	
3	Trois	Drei	Tre	Tres	Three	San	Tri	
4	Quatre	Vier	Quattro	Cuatro	Four	Shgi	Kvar	
5	Cinq	Fünf	Cinque	Cinco	Five	Go	Kvin	
6	Six	Sechs	Sei	Seis	Six	Roku	Ses	
7	Sept	Sieben	Sette	Siete	Seven	Shichi	Sep	
8	Huit	Acht	Otto	Ocho	Eight	Hachi	Ok	
9	Neuf	Neun	Nove	Nueve	Nine	Ku	Na~u	
10	Dix	Zehn	Dieci	Diez	Ten	Ju	Dek	
11	Onze	Elf	Undici	Once	eleven	Ju ichi	Dek unu	
12	Douze	Zwölf	Dodici	Doce	Twelve	Ju ni	Dek du	
13	Treize	Dreizehn	Tredici	Trece	Thirteen	Ju san	Dek tri	
14	Quatorze	Vierzehn	Quattordici	Cartorce	fourteen	Ju shi	Dek kvar	
15	Quinze	Fünfzehn	Quindici	Quince	Fifteen	Ju go	Dek kvin	
16	Seize	Sechzehn	Sedici	Diesiseis	Sixteen	Ju roku	Dek ses	
17	Dix-sept	Siebzehn	Diciassette	Diecisiete	Seventeen	Ju shichi	Dek sep	
18	Dix-huit	Achtzehn	Diciotto	Dieciocho	Eighteen	Ju hachi	Dek ok	
19	Dix-neuf	Neunzehn	Diciannove	Diecinueve	Nineteen	Ju ku	Dek na~u	
20	Vingt	Swanzig	Venti	Veinte	Twenty	Ni ju	Du dek	
21	Vingt et un	Einundzwanzig	Ventuno	Ventinuno	Twenty one	Ni ju ichi	Du dek unu	
22	Vingt-deux	Zweiundzwanzig	Vendiue	Vente y dos	Twenty two	Ni ju ni	Du dek du	

Fr – the word ten appears from 17

De – the word ten appears from 13

It – the word ten appears from 11 with a slight modification from dieci → dici. Starting with 17 it gets Inverted.

Es – the word ten appears from 16

En – the word ten appears from 13 with a slight modification: ten → teen, “teenagers” are youngsters between the ages of 13 to 19, ages in teen(s)

Jp – the word 10 appears from 11

Eo – the word 10 appears from 11

Browsing through languages, where do we hear the plural?

On the left side, on the right side, in the middle or at several places?

Between parenthesis: translation into Esperanto (eo)

L’oiseau, les oiseaux: **fr** on the left side (birdo)

Der Keller, die Keller: **de** on the left side (kelo)
 Die Stunde, die Stunden: **de** on the right side (horo)
 Der Bogen, die Bögen: **de** in the middle (arko)
 The potatoe, the potatoes, **en** on the right side (terpomo)
 Le cheval, les chevaux: **fr** on the left and on the right sides (cevalo)
 Der Band, die Bände: **de** on the left, on the right and in the middle (libro volumo)
 Mututsi, batutsi: (**Kiswahili**) on the left side (tutsi is a cast who lives in Rwanda and Burundi)
 Kodomo, kodomotachi: **jp** on the right side (infano)
 Libro, libroj: **eo** always on the right side by adding the letter j which is to be pronounced like jie
 Child, children, woman, women, man, men, foot, feet: **en**

Formal versus informal forms

Involve the participants so that they find 4 communication situations.

How many words exist in these 4 situations?

Then, appraise the linguistic knowledge of the participants while asking them how this phenomenon displays itself in their languages.

French (fr)	A single person	Several persons
Unformal form	tu	vous
Formal form (polite form)	vous	vous

German (de)	A single person	Several persons
Unformal form	Du	Ihr
Formal form (polite form)	Sie	Sie

English (de)	A single person	Several persons
Unformal form	You	You
Formal form (polite form)	You	You

Italian (it)	A single person	Several persons
Unformal form	Tu	Voi
Formal form (polite form)	Lei	Loro

Spanish (es)	A single person	Several persons
Unformal form	Tu	Vosotros
Formal form (polite form)	Usted	Ustedes

Japanese (jp)	A single person	Several persons
Unformal form	Anata	Anatatachi
Formal form (polite form)	Anata	Anatatachi

The notion of formal (polite) form appears at the level of the choice of the verbal form.

Esperanto (eo)	A single person	Several persons
Unformal form	Vi	Vi
Formal form (polite form)	Vi	Vi

There are specific languages with 4 words covering 4 situations: it, es

There are languages using an global system, a single word: en, eo

There are languages with 2 or 3 different words for 4 situations: fr, de, jp