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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 unformal 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

ESPERANTO – what is it ?

Major highlights about Esperanto

Mr. L.L. Zahmenhof (1859-1917), born in Bialystok which is a city located in today's Poland was the creator of Esperanto. **Mr. L.L. Zahmenhof** mainly lived in Warsaw.

1887: Releasing of the first book "*Internacia Lingvo*" which was distributed in several countries.

Esperanto in 2017

- . 3,5 million persons in over 130 countries have learned Esperanto. Several thousand persons are using the Esperanto language on a regular basis. Esperanto is a "mother-tongue" to approximately thousand persons.
- . Counts 71 national associations
- . Counts several meetings, workshops, congresses and seminars each day
- . Counts radio stations (among which <http://www.muzaiko.info>) as well as televisions (<https://esperanto-tv.com/>)

- . Music, performing arts, theatre, as well as a vast choice of literature, both original and translated are available.
- . A movement: the main seat of Esperanto (Universal Association of Esperanto UEA) is based in Rotterdam in Holland (NL) "www.uea.org"
- . Pasporta Serve: a network of people who are offering free temporary accommodation to travelers and tourists.
- . Specialized associations (over 50): journalists, legal, medical, philatelists, bikes, teachers, vegetarians, writers, etc.
- . Over 240'000 articles published in Esperanto (www.co.wikipedia.org)
- . On the website more than 500'000 research phrases in Esperanto, the 2nd language after English which counts 600'000

For more information about Esperanto:

www.esperanto.net and **Wikipedia in your own favorite language**

To learn Esperanto:

www.lernu.net www.duolingo.com www.utalk.com

ESPERANTO – what is it?

A language with a consistent structure invented by a genius teenager

In 1887, a young man publishes the bases of a new language which he himself has invented. Dr. L.L. Zamenhof (1859-1917), so creating the international language of Esperanto and published it in 1887 under the name of "**LINGVO INTERNACIA**" * The basis of the vocabulary entails of international words mainly finding its origin in other Germanic languages such as English and German. This is why lots of Esperanto words are being found in several languages (for instance: fenestra = Fenster in German, Fenêtre in French, Finistra in Italian. Several Esperanto expressions are familiar daily words to us but yet foreign: Aboni – de abonnieren, fr – abonner, ekologio – de: Ökologie, fr: écologie, foto – de: Foto, fr: photo, Tigro – de: Tiger, fr: tigre.

They more or less represent internationally spoken words.

1905: First Universal Congress in Boulogne-sur-Mer in France

1908: Creation of the Universal Esperanto Association (UEA)

Past 1918: Strong expansion. Releasing of several books

1933 and after: Dictatorships have tried to destroy (banish) Esperanto and those who used it

1954: UEA is admitted as an NGO at the UN and at the UNESCO

1960: Strong expansion in Africa

1985: 2nd resolution of the UNESCO in favor of Esperanto

1995: Emerging of the internet facilitate the use of Esperanto

2000 and after: Linguists works is being based on the observation of facts: as a consequence the speak of Esperanto in an objective manner and do not grant any credit to false allegations.

2014: Emerging of the smart phone technology which promotes the studying of Esperanto. It started with **Duolingo** for English: 2000 persons started studying Esperanto on a daily basis in 2015.

2016: **Duolingo** releases the course for Spanish with the same great success.

* *International language*

WHAT IS ESPERANTO?

Official acknowledgments related to Esperanto

- 1923 The Universal Postal Union decided that Esperanto will no longer be considered as a code but clearly as a language: but the payment will longer be charged by character, but by word.
- 1923 At the Nation Society, NITOBÉ Inazo wrote a report on the usage of Esperanto as a working language. The vote on this report was negative.
- 1954 Resolution at the UNESCO in favor of Esperanto
- 1967 ISO choose "EO" code for Esperanto
- 1980 UNWTO, the Tourism organization of the UNO recommended the studying and the usage of Esperanto in the Declaration of Manilla"
- 1993 The "International PEN Club" accepted the "Esperanto PEN klubo"
- 2003 Appearance of [www.eo wikipedia.org](http://www.eo.wikipedia.org)
- 2006 Acknowledgment by "The European of languages at the European Council
- 2006 The city of Herzberg (DE) officially acquired and added "La Esperanto-Urbo" (the city of Esperanto).
- 2008 Mozilla Firefox appeared in Esperanto
- 2012 Google released the automatic translation tool of Esperanto (target language / source language), 64th language
- 2013 The Republic and Canton of Neuchâtel in Switzerland decided to host the third Esperanto Teaching World Conference which took place in May 2015
- 2014 UNESCO published on its website Mrs. Irina Bokova's declaration on The International Day of Mother Tongue, February 21st in all six official working languages of the UNESCO as well as in Bulgarian (official language in Mrs. Bokova's country) and Esperanto
- 2014 Poland included Esperanto in their list of immaterial cultural patrimonial treasures
- 2017 UNESCO puts Mr. L.-L. Zamenhof (1859-1917), the creator of Esperanto on the list of the 50 outstanding personalities to be honored during that year

WHEN WE WANT TO REACH OUT TO THE WHOLE WORLD WITH ESPERANTO

RESOURCES

Short bibliography

Pierre Janton, *L'espéranto* (3rd edition, Presses universitaires de France, Paris, 1989, „Que Sais-Je ?“ n° 1511) (exhausted; can be found in libraries)

Claude Piron, *Le défi des langues* (2nd edition, L'Harmattan, Paris, 1998)

René Centassi et Henri Masson, *L'homme qui a défié Babel* (2nd edition, L'Harmattan, Paris, 2001)

Georges Kersaudy, *Langues sans frontières* (éd. Autrement, 2001)

A few sites to be found on the web

Esperanto : 185 000 000 Google provided answers

<https://fr.wikipedia.org/wiki/Esp%C3%A9ranto>

Wikipedia in Esperanto : more than 240'000 available articles

www.eo.wikipedia.org

www.esperanto-sat.info

www.esperanto-france.org

<http://claudepiron.free.fr>

<http://www.svisa-esperanto-societo.ch/>

www.esperanto-gacond.ch

<http://fr.wikipedia.org/wiki/Esperanto>

<http://www.youtube.com/Esperantoestas>

http://www.youtube.com/view_playlist?p=FB7C934185380568

www.linguistic-rights.org

Learning & tutorial tools

www.lernu.net

www.duolingo.com

www.edukado.net

www.esperanto.net (information in over 60 languages)

<http://ikurso.esperanto-jeunes.org/>

World Central Headoffice

Association Universelle d'Espéranto, Rotterdam, NL

Universala Esperanto Asocio (UEA)

www.uea.org

UEA is acknowledged as NGO at the UNO and UNESCO.

International Esperanto teacher's league (ILEI)

www.ilei.info

SAMPLE LETTER ADRESSED TO A SCHOOL DIRECTOR, TO THE MINISTRY OF EDUCATION....

Date and Place

Dear Sir, Dear Madam,

You are in charge of a large amount of students; in that respect you must be interested in exploring which knowledge are most necessary, which methods are most efficient, and also to have access to the most competent teachers within you state (or province, or city, or school) so that they are made available to your students. You also must be aware of the students' right to have access to the most recent world information and their several aspects.

With the fact that days only count 24 hours and that the learning capacities of students are limited both in time and financial resources, you are to make choices. This we understand very well.

It is also a fact that numerous students want to have to learn English, Chinese or German, and that they must be dedicate close to 1000 hours of their time to studying one of these languages in their obligatory schooling cursus. It is a huge investment both in terms of time and energy. Learning requires an enormous memorizing effort mainly due to the multiple rules and exceptions of each language. With which result, outcome? You probably know the answer.

Today we are asking you one hour in your students teaching time so that all students may have the opportunity to hear spoken Esperanto, the truly international language.

For that purpose we have prepared a set of supporting documentation. Anyone can provide this lecture to your students, and anyone can have easily access to the documents to perform a simple presentation to your classes so that each student can be informed about what is Esperanto and who useful it is to learn it.

The enclosed documentation is abundant and can exceed 60 minutes of presentation; this is why they are presented as a "menu" of which we select our choices. The workshop can be performed by any teacher, a substitute or a student who will be receiving the documentation and willing to do it. You have also the possibility to ask for the support of an Esperanto moderator who lives in your city or region. We are at your disposal for that, but it is not absolutely necessary. If such a workshop is hosted in your establishment your students will have a basic knowledge of the linguistic worldwide situation, obviously unfair, and about this optional language of which we speak here. They will be able to have access to an informed choice if it is worthy to learn Esperanto.

Please note that our offer is absolutely free, simple and modest.

If you are interested in participating to this project, if you feel it would be a plus and a need, please do not hesitate to contact us... me

Hoping that we have triggered you interest and that you have an understanding of the purpose to give access to a large and broad array of knowledge to your students, we remain at your entire service for any additional information you may need. In the meantime we thank you very much for the attention you will bring to our suggestion and will be looking forward to hearing from you.

Your sincerely,