

PAC – Phonologie de l'Anglais Contemporain

CLLE-ERSS, CNRS UMR5263, Université de Toulouse Le Mirail

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France

Formal Conversation – elamd1f, Lancashire

F: So what did you think of the text, and the wordlists? <MD: Er>

MD: I thought the wordlist/ list is quite long but er, it was fine, yeah. It's quite funny when er when you put words together that (silence) sound exactly the same when you're going through it but I know that to some people, they'll sound different but er, yeah it was fine, and er (silence). The, er, passage is quite (silence) different, so yeah, it was fine. <F: Alright,>

F: now can you tell me a bit about your childhood, when you went to school, <MD: Yeah.> er, your parents, your teachers at school and all that?

MD: Yeah, er, I loved school when, and I loved primary school best and, and when I started school and er I went to school in Essex and er (silence) I always lo/ I had really good teachers, I was really lucky and because my sister had a few like dud teachers but mine were really nice and I used to like draw a picture and put: 'I love Mrs (name)' (laughter) and sit on her knee and stuff. Er, so that was really lucky, and er, (it was) er, quite a sort of progressive school and you could wear jeans and, like in France, you could wear jeans, any clothes and any, any clothes er, you wanted and we did like cookery and woodwork and quite adv/, different things whereas when I moved to Bolton, I went to a school where you couldn't, you had to wear a skirt or a dress if you're a girl and er, boys had to wear short trousers (laughter) and er, you had to wear indoor shoes when you were indoor, like plimsolls or (tra/), like little slippers and we had nothing like cookery or woodwork or nothing sort of creative and it was all like textbooks and things so I didn't like that when I moved there, but I made nice, good friends so that was alright, well Cathy who's (name) and (name)'s daughter and er (silence) so, yeah and after school I went to a childminder and er, she was called (name) and I still write to her er now, and her husband so that's really nice er and I went to her for like ten years and (XX) when I was a baby sometimes when my parents were working. Er, they were really nice and there was er another two, two boys who went there and er (silence) who also went to our school and er, (silence) a, quite a few children so that was really nice and er, (silence) I quite liked school generally (silence) er, (silence) and then we moved to this other one that I wasn't so keen on er, which was fine but I remember the th/ (laughter) the thing that I noticed most was that it had an upstairs (laughter) and my other school hadn't, is on one floor and I thought that was (X) really exciting that it had an upstairs with stairs and if you're in like third and fourth year, the older years, you went upstairs. (laughter) But you know, the novelty wore off and then I went to high school back over here because we went to Bolton because that's where my Mum worked, it's just easier. But er we went, I went to high school here in Haslingden and er (silence) that was strange because I didn't know anybody because I'd gone to primary school in Bolton so it was completely different and er that was quite good with that little bus on our own, er to school, from here, a little minibus and then er and that was quite good. When you were in the first year you went to a little er, a little school just for the first years so that you'd got used to high school and to have different lessons and things and different teachers for different lessons before you went to the other school. But now it's, like, it's joining the other school, they're all together now. Er, but it's quite nice because it's so different going to high school and having different teachers and different lessons and homework, I'd never had homework. But now the main children do homework actually er, when I go to school, I notice that. Er, but I quite liked homework because it was like a new challenge (laughter), it's really sad but I did, and then obviously later on I didn't like it, but I did at that time, and (laughter) and it's quite nice to do French and start doing French er, because I found that quite easy obviously. And I've never done it before. Er So it was quite nice, and I had a few friends from this village, they lived round here. who I don't really see any more er, and we always used to get the bus together and then walked home down the lane together and Er. We were in the same class though we kind drifted apart so I made friends in my own class and things Er so I quite liked school and I was just lucky.

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F: Then you went to Sheffield? MD: Yeah, yeah, I went to Uni in Sheffield.

MD: Er I did psychology and er.

MD: I was re/ I really liked that. I've never done psychology before.

F: So how did you know that you wanted to do psychology?

MD: Well, for my A-level I did

MD: biology, sociology and French. And I liked biology and I liked sociology and, and psychology is a bit like both (laughter) it's like bit of a mixture of the, compromise between the two and er. To do biology A-lev/ er degree level you need to have a chemistry A-level so I could/ I couldn't do that. And sociology, when I looked in the prospectuses for universities, it was more social policy. And, and that's a bit, it didn't really interest me. I like stuff about the media and a family and religion. I thought You know just a basic level. I really liked that. And then degree level looked more like a bit more like politics I suppose. So I didn't really want to do that. In psychology yeah you didn't need any specific A-levels, which is lucky, and then it was good because it was diff/ just thing like if you see a television programme, it's really interesting. It turns out that soc/ (we're all) doing psychology so like things to do with say social behaviour but (silence) more about maybe communication or something rather than

MB: social groups and er,

MD: stuff about the brain and lan/memory and language and child development because we've never done anything like that before. So that was really interesting, and er so really just looking in the prospectus. and seeing in the A I could get on the course because I I can handle both. So it just looked really interesting. So that was good. And er (silence) I lived with some friends in my first year in university accommodation we then moved into the house together like a student house, where we all had a bedroom, but we shared the kitchen and the living room. And er, I'm staying there on New Year's Eve, a party. So it was quite er nice. I still see those people.

F: And then you moved to York? Yeah, so I then went to York reading masters which is on reading and language so it's about reading and development language about (X) a little bit. more reading really and dyslexia and <F: Oh I see> But, but that was really good. Er work and see some really good people. It's quite small course, just four of us full time and about ten over all. And er it's really good to have really good er profe/ like lecturers are teaching us you know really high up in the field of like dyslexia. And it's really fascinating because I've never done anything about reading before. Whereas in York, people who do a degree, they can do the advanced module thing in reading and single out of the masters and (XX) they don't want to do these things (they've already done it). It was new to me because In Sheffield the specialty is vision <F: Vision.> and er which I'm not keen on. I did different things but not reading or dyslexia (XX), bit more practical. And er on the course we had speech therapy one speech therapist and dyslexia teachers as well, er as well as people like me who are doing psychology So that's nice to mix because we didn't know any other practical side we didn't know what happened when you've got a kid with dyslexia what to do with that we didn't know that. (X) they did but they didn't know about, psychology things or the statistics. So they found that quite hard and so we helped each other. because they've never done statistics they hadn't been to university for a long time they'r often sort of about in the forties or fifties So, but I loved practical experience but I found it quite hard to do essays again and all references that are specific for master. We used/ we (need) I hated that but And if, as hard for the (others who) came from Dover and London I think all the way up to York and. There was a train, train crash that year and floods in York. And the train crashed in Paddington I think Er another one er in Selby it was just a terrible year (I could go home) they just came for that one day. because I was part-time. And a lot, a lot of weeks I missed because there're always train crashes and floods. It's awful really awful for them. Er so I felt really sorry for them it made it much harder but, er, you know after, the years after that they were all right, they could, they could get here but. I think not many people travel that

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way now because maybe the message's got through. It's a bad idea (F laughs) because it's so hard to travel (in on the, the) train in England. It's horrible you can't rely on (laughter).

F: I've noticed. You wrote that you, that you speak English and French. How well do you speak French?

MD: Quite well but at the moment I don't, I have enough/ I don't go to France as much. So I don't really get to practice it and (it)'s off going a bit down hill. And vocabulary, it takes me a long time to, to find words. But I think if I lived there, I would get much more fluent. I mean I'm fi/ I'm good compared to other people but er I can feel it myself (that) I speak quite slowly sometimes and, it's quite frustrating but, especially now er, because my Dad lives in France now. I can't speak to him, every da/ you know every day because obviously I don't live at home any more. Anyway I live in university so.