



The Open University

CLB 2012

WELCOME

INTRODUCTION TO THE RESEARCH PROJECT ON CHILD LANGUAGE BROKERING (TRANSLATING) IN SCHOOL

The purpose of this survey is to learn your views on language brokering by students in schools. Your participation is voluntary, and the results will only be used anonymously for research purposes. Completing this survey will take most people about 30 minutes.

If you interpreted or translated at school between two people who would not otherwise be able to communicate, you have brokered. Here are a few examples of brokering that we would be interested in:

- a) translating a notice brought home from school for your parents who don't know English well
- b) interpreting when your parents talk with a teacher or a teaching assistant or someone in a school office
- c) writing letters or notes related to school for your parents or other family members if they are unable to or uncomfortable with using English.

We want to learn about your experiences if you ever acted as a language broker in connection with your school. Please answer the questions below honestly and thoroughly. If you have never acted as a language broker in connection with your school, click on that button and do not proceed with the survey.

Any personal data collected during this survey will be retained only as long as is necessary to compile anonymised statistical data. After this process is complete all personal data will be destroyed in a secure manner. Cookies, personal data stored by your Web browser, are not used in this survey.

If you are happy to participate in this survey on that basis, please click 'continue' below to indicate your informed consent and move on to the first page of the survey.

- I have read the notes written above and understand what the study involves.
- I understand that if I decide at any time that I no longer wish to take part in this project, I can cease work online and withdraw.
- I consent to the processing of my personal information for the purposes of this research study.
- I understand that such information will be treated as strictly confidential and handled in accordance with the provisions of the Data Protection Act 1998.
- I agree that the research project named above has been explained to me to my satisfaction and I agree to take part in this study.

[Continue >](#)

1. How often did you translate in school during primary school? *(Optional)*

Often Sometimes Rarely Never

2. How often did you translate in school during secondary school/sixth form/college? *(Optional)*

Often Sometimes Rarely Never

3. Please indicate the circumstances in which you translated at school:

	Often	Sometimes	Rarely	Never
a. Formal meetings between my parents and my teachers e.g. at parents' evenings.				
b. Informal meetings between my parents and my teachers e.g. at the beginning or end of the school day.				
c. Meetings with the head teacher involving my parent				
d. Meetings with a teaching assistant involving my parent				
e. For a new pupil from overseas who speaks little or no English				
f. Discussions with the reception/secretarial staff involving my parent				
g. Letters sent between school and my home				
h. Other (Please state)				

4. If you ticked 'other' above, please tell us about your experiences. *(Optional)*

5. Did you ever translate for your parents at school about a very serious or sensitive matter, e.g. to do with special educational needs or moving school or planning for subject choices or a family/school problem? *(Optional)*

Yes No

If the answer to that question was Yes, please explain the circumstances briefly below: *(Optional)*

6. Did you ever translate for other pupils who did not speak English? *(Optional)*

Often Sometimes Rarely Never

Please give examples of the circumstances (Optional)

7. Did you ever translate for other parents who did not speak English? (Optional)

Yes No

Please give examples of the circumstances. (Optional)

PAGE 2 OF 6

8. Please indicate who you translated for at school.

	Often	Sometimes	Rarely	Never
a. Mother				
b. Father				
c. Sibling				
d. Cousin				
e. Grandparent				
f. Other family member				
g. Friend				
h. Other				

9. If you ticked 'other' above, please tell us about your experiences. (Optional)

10. When I translated at school it has been about: (Optional)

(select all that apply)

Me A sibling A cousin A friend

Other (please specify):

11. When I translated at school it was requested or organised by:

	Often	Sometimes	Rarely	Never
a. A teacher				
b. My parents				
c. Myself				

d. Other

12. If you ticked 'other' above, please tell us about your experiences. *(Optional)*

PAGE 3 OF 6

PART 2 REVIEWING YOUR EXPERIENCE

13. I felt comfortable translating at school *(Optional)*

Often Sometimes Rarely Never

14. When I felt comfortable translating at school it was because:

	Agree	Disagree
a. Lots of my friends did it		
b. It was normal in my school		
c. It was valued by people around me		
d. I was doing something useful		
e. My English was good enough		
f. My home language was good enough		
g. I understood the issues that were being discussed		
h. My teacher made it easy for me		

15. If you ticked Agree for 'My teacher made it easy for me', can you say what it was that your teacher did which made the translating process easier? *(Optional)*

16. I felt uncomfortable translating at school *(Optional)*

Often Sometimes Rarely Never

17. When I felt uncomfortable translating at school it was because:

	Agree	Disagree
a. It was unusual in my school		
b. It made me stand out from others		
c. Most pupils' parents spoke English		
d. It was not appreciated by people around me		
e. My English was not good enough		

f. My home language was not good enough		
g. I did not understand some of the issues that were being discussed		
h. Because the issue that was discussed was sensitive		
i. My teacher did not make it easy for me		

18. If you ticked Agree for 'My teacher did not make it easy for me', can you say what it was that your teacher did which made the translating process more difficult?
(Optional)

19. It has been suggested that the advantages of having children act as translators on behalf of their parents at school include some of the following. For each one indicate whether you agree that this is one of the advantages.

	Strongly agree	Agree	Neutral	Disagree	Strongly disagree	I don't know
a. Parents prefer this arrangement to having a professional interpreter or a member of the school staff acting as translator						
b. It is better to keep things within the family						
c. The child understands what their parents already know and what they need extra explanation about						
d. The child learns both languages better						
e. The child comes to understand both cultures better						
f. The child learns social and communication skills						

20. It has also been suggested that there are some disadvantages. For each of these indicate whether you agree that this is one of the disadvantages.

	Strongly agree	Agree	Neutral	Disagree	Strongly disagree	I don't know
a. Young people may not know one of the languages well enough so that they make translation errors.						
b. Young people may not know technical school words well enough, so that they make translation errors.						
c. The meeting may cover sensitive issues so that the child or the parents may be embarrassed						
d. The child may not want their parents to know about some negative things at school so that they deliberately play down what a teacher has said						
e. The child may feel it is inappropriate to say boastful things about						

themselves so that they do not translate accurately when teachers praise them or describe their best achievements

f. Translating at school for their family may impose excessive responsibilities on children so that they feel stressed or anxious

g. Translating at school may take up children's time that would better be spent on other things

h. The translator is in a position of power because no one else understands everything that is being said. That gives children too much power in relation to their parents

PAGE 4 OF 6

PART 3 COMPARING YOUR EXPERIENCES WITH OTHERS

21. Compare the young people who are described below with how you yourself were when you acted as a language broker at school. Indicate how similar to you they are or how different.

	That is very like I used to be	That is quite like I used to be	That is not like I used to be	I am not sure
a. Pedro believed it was important to make an exact word for word translation of what the teacher and his parents said.				
b. Mandeep did not translate every word as she felt it was most important to explain to the person listening what she believed the person talking was trying to say.				
c. Tolu gave a short version of what was said so as not to waste everyone's time.				
d. When a teacher said something that Nawal did not quite understand, she always asked for an explanation so as to get it right in her home language.				
e. When a teacher said something that Marcela did not quite understand, she often felt embarrassed and pretended she has grasped what was meant.				
f. When Savas was translating at school, he usually tried to tell his parents what he thought they wanted to hear.				

g. When Rubia was translating what her parents say at school, she would often tell what she thought the teacher wanted to hear.				
h. When Ali was translating at school, he seemed to be embarrassed.				
i. Luca looked as if he hated translating for his parents.				
j. When Tugba was translating for her parents, she seemed to be proud to be helping.				
k. Mohammed and his parents operated like a team together when he was translating for them at school.				
l. When Maria was translating, she used to hide things from her parents that she did not want them to hear.				
m. When Kamamba was translating at school, he used to explain to his parents how the curriculum worked and what the school expected of him.				
n. When Rumana was translating for her parents at school, she seemed to be in charge and they were like children.				
o. When Danh was translating for his parents at school, they were always in charge and he followed their lead.				
p. Rathina liked to translate for her parents at school because she did not want someone from outside the family doing it.				

22. Please indicate whether you agree or disagree with the following statements

	Strongly agree	Agree	Neutral	Disagree
a. Translating helped me learn English				
b. Translating helped me learn more of my first language				
c. I enjoyed translating in school				
d. I was proud to translate in school				
e. Translating made me more independent and mature				
f. I know British culture better because I translated				
g. I know my first culture better because I translated				
h. I didn't enjoy translating in school				

i. I was embarrassed when I had to translate in school				
j. Translating at school could be stressful				
k. I felt angry when I had to translate at school				
l. I felt trapped when I had to translate at school				
m. I sometimes chose not to translate certain things				
n. Translating at school made me feel more confident generally				
o. My parents always assumed I was more competent at translating than I felt				
p. My teachers always assumed I was more competent at translating than I felt				



23. Choose your most memorable experience of child brokering at school - briefly describe this situation and why you found it memorable. *(Optional)*

24. Suggest **two** things that the school or the teachers could do which you think would improve the conditions for effective language brokering and translating in your school.

First *(Optional)*

Second *(Optional)*

FINAL QUESTIONS

25. Gender: *(Optional)*

Male Female

26. Age *(Optional)*

27. Your country of birth *(Optional)*

28. If you were born overseas, what age were you when you came to this country? *(Optional)*

29. Country/countries where you attended school

If more than one, put in brackets after each country the age you started and finished school there.
(Optional)

30. Your parents' country/countries of origin: *(Optional)*

31. What languages do you speak and understand in addition to English?

	Language
a. Language 1	
b. Language 2	
c. Language 3	
d. Language 4	

32. How well do you **understand** these languages?

	I can understand this language fluently	I can understand it fairly well	I can understand it a little
a. Language 1			
b. Language 2			
c. Language 3			
d. Language 4			

33. How well do you **speak** these languages?

	I can speak this language fluently	I can speak it fairly well	I can speak it a little
a. Language 1			
b. Language 2			
c. Language 3			
d. Language 4			

34. At what age did you begin translating for other people? *(Optional)*

Under 11 11-13 14-16 17+

35. Have you acted as a language broker for anyone outside school? *(Optional)*

Yes No

36. If you have acted as a language broker for anyone outside school, please indicate below who you translated for when you were young and where.

	At Home				Occasionally
	Often	Occasionally	Once or twice	Never	
a. Mother					
b. Father					
c. Brothers/sisters					
d. Friends					
e. Other relatives					
f. Neighbours					
g. Others					

37. If you acted as a language broker in any other settings, please specify what settings and indicate whether it was often, occasionally or once or twice: *(Optional)*

38. Do you still translate for family members? If so, explain the circumstances. If not, at what age did you stop? Explain the circumstances. *(Optional)*

39. Please list your siblings:

a. Number of brothers older than you	Select an answer	0
b. Number of brothers younger than you	Select an answer	0
c. Number of sisters older than you	Select an answer	0
d. Number of sisters younger than you	Select an answer	0

40. Did any of your siblings translate at school?

	Yes	No
a. Older Brother(s)		
b. Younger Brother(s)		
c. Older Sister(s)		
d. Younger Sister(s)		

PART 7 FOLLOW-UP INTERVIEWS We will be aiming to have individual interviews in a personal meeting or by phone with a small number of adults who have taken part in this survey. Key areas that are identified from the survey as uncertain or important will be explored in greater depth in these interviews which will not last longer than 45 minutes.

41. Would you be willing to take part in an interview? *(Optional)*

Yes No

If you take part in an interview, we will offer you a £10 Amazon voucher to thank you for your time.

42. If you are willing to take part in an interview, please leave a contact email address so we can arrange the interview. *(Optional)*

This is the end of the survey. Clicking 'continue' will submit your answers. You will not be able to change your answers once you have clicked 'continue'.