

Language User Profile¹

Examples²

EXAMPLE 1 (Adriana, 37: Italian/German)

Adriana only speaks Italian with her children, but they mostly refuse to answer in Italian. Her youngest son (5 years old) often doesn't even react, although he understands Italian. He also asks her not to speak in Italian to him any longer. In Italy with the grandparents, however, the children speak Italian. Adriana's husband is Austrian and understands only a little Italian. She studied to be a teacher in Italy. In Austria she teaches religion at a vocational school.

Language Use

CONTEXT OF CONVERSATION

LANGUAGE

with dogs, cats etc.:	German
with babies and children:	Italian
with remote friends:	German, Italian
with remote relatives:	Italian
with good friends:	German, Italian
with grandchildren:	Italian
with grandparents, uncles and aunts:	Italian
with the partner:	Italian, German
with own children:	Italian
with brothers and sisters:	Italian, German
with parents:	Italian
with function owners:	German
at offices:	German
with supervisors:	German
with priests:	Italian
with medical doctors:	German
with shop assistants, waiters etc.:	German
with colleagues (work, school):	German

SPECIAL ACTIVITIES

LANGUAGE

praying:	Italian
cursing:	German

¹ Profile template for interviews, dev. by *treffpunkt sprachen* – Plurilingualismus (KF Universität Graz), piloted by students from Graz University: *Minority Languages*, WS 2009/10, *Empirical Studies*, WS 2010/11 and *Language Socio-culturally*, SS 2011.

² The profiles are based on interviews with students from Graz University during the seminars: *Minority Languages*, WS 2009/10, *Empirical Studies*, WS 2010/11 and *Language Socio-culturally*, SS 2011. All data, as well the names of the languages, originate from the interview respondents.



dreaming:	Italian, German
singing:	German, Italian
listening to music:	English, Italian, Portuguese, Spanish
counting and calculating:	
reading:	German, Italian
taking notes:	German
letters, e-mails, etc.:	Italian
internet:	English
television, theatre performance, etc.:	

EXAMPLE 2 (John, 40: Igbo/Hausa/Yoruba/German/English)

Language Use

CONTEXT OF CONVERSATION	LANGUAGE
with dogs, cats etc.:	Igbo, German, English
with babies and children:	German, English
with remote friends:	Igbo, Hausa, Yoruba, German
with remote relatives:	Igbo
with good friends:	Igbo, Hausa, Yoruba, German
with grandchildren:	
with grandparents, uncles and aunts:	Igbo
with the partner:	German, English
with own children:	English
with brothers and sisters:	German, English
with parents:	Igbo
with function owners:	German
at offices:	German
with supervisors:	German
with priests:	Igbo, German, English
with medical doctors:	German
with shop assistants, waiters etc.:	German
with colleagues (work, school):	German
SPECIAL ACTIVITIES	LANGUAGE
praying:	English, Igbo, sometimes German
cursing:	Igbo, German, English
dreaming:	Igbo, German, English

singing:

listening to music: **Igbo, English, German**

counting and calculating:

reading: **German, English**

taking notes:

letters, e-mails, etc.: **Igbo, English**

internet: **German, English**

television, theatre performance, etc.:

EXAMPLE 3 (Alexander, 20: Serbo-Croatian/German/Serbian/English)

Country of origin: Austria, mother from "The former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia", father from Bosnia-Herzegovina

Language Use

CONTEXT OF CONVERSATION

LANGUAGE

with dogs, cats etc.:

German

with babies and children:

German

with remote friends:

German

with remote relatives:

Serbo-Croatian

with good friends:

German

with grandchildren:

with grandparents, uncles and aunts:

Serbo-Croatian

with the partner:

Serbo-Croatian

with own children:

with brothers and sisters:

German

with parents:

Serbo-Croatian

with function owners:

German

at offices:

German

with supervisors:

German

with priests:

German

with medical doctors:

German

with shop assistants, waiters etc.:

German

with colleagues (work, school):

German

SPECIAL ACTIVITIES

praying:



cursing:	German
dreaming:	German
singing:	German, Serbo-Croatian, English
listening to music:	German, English, Serbian
counting and calculating:	German
reading:	German, Serbian
taking notes:	German
letters, e-mails, etc.:	German, Serbian
internet:	German
television, theatre performance, etc.:	

EXAMPLE 4 (Ivana, 20: Bosnian/German/English)

Ivana is a Muslim but doesn't wear a headscarf and is not very religious. Her parents come from Bosnia-Herzegovina. They came to Austria in 1991/1992, because her father got a job. Her mother used to stay at home and didn't speak German very well. Today, her mother's German is better but she still speaks more Bosnian. On Facebook Ivana mostly writes in Bosnian, almost never in German, unless it is with some Austrian friends.

Language Use

CONTEXT OF CONVERSATION

LANGUAGE

with dogs, cats etc.:	German
with babies and children:	German, Bosnian
with remote friends:	German, Bosnian
with remote relatives:	German, Bosnian
with good friends:	German, Bosnian
with grandchildren:	
with grandparents, uncles and aunts:	Bosnian
with the partner:	German
with own children:	
with brothers and sisters:	Bosnian
with parents:	Bosnian
with function owners:	German
at offices:	German
with supervisors:	German
with priests:	German
with medical doctors:	German

with shop assistants, waiters etc.: **German**

with colleagues (work, school): **German**

SPECIAL ACTIVITIES

praying: **Bosnian**

cursing: **German**

dreaming: **German, Bosnian**

singing: **German, Bosnian**

listening to music: **German, English**

counting and calculating: **German**

reading: **German**

taking notes: **German**

letters, e-mails, etc.: **German**

internet: **Bosnian, German**

television, theatre performance,
etc.:

EXAMPLE 5 (Nyakio, 25: Luo/English/Swahili/Sheng/German/Ruanda)

Nyakio came to Germany when she was 21 years old. Previously, she had taken German lessons for half a year in Kenya. After having spent 2 years in North Rhine-Westphalia, she came to study in Austria/Graz. After finishing her studies she aims to go back to Africa.

Language Use

CONTEXT OF CONVERSATION

LANGUAGE

with dogs, cats etc.: **English, German**

with babies and children: **English, German**

with remote friends: **German, English**

with remote relatives: **Luo, Swahili, English**

with good friends: **German, English, Swahili, Arabian, Spanish**

with grandchildren:

with grandparents, uncles and aunts: **Luo, English**

with the partner: **Luo, English, Swahili, Sheng**

with own children:

with brothers and sisters: **Luo, English, Swahili, Sheng**



with parents:	Luo, English
with function owners:	German
at offices:	German
with supervisors:	German, French, English
with priests:	German
with medical doctors:	German
with shop assistants, waiters etc.:	German, English
with colleagues (work, school):	German, English

SPECIAL ACTIVITIES

praying:	English
cursing:	German, English
dreaming:	Luo, English, German
singing:	
listening to music:	English, German, Spanisch, Arabian, Portuguese, Luo, Swahili
counting and calculating:	English
reading:	German, English, Swahili, Luo
taking notes:	English
letters, e-mails, etc.:	English, German
internet:	English
television, theatre performance, etc.:	