

Script: Metalinguistic Interview

Next, I will ask you a few questions about different languages, okay?

1. [Opening question] What languages do you speak?

You just told a story with birds in English. Now I have a few questions about how exactly you did that, the storytelling in English. [Leave picture story where it is].

2. [Opening questions] What do you do when you cannot think of a word in English?

3. [Present picture card] picture with a bird. In the story, there are several words used. Here, for example, is one: BIRD. Is that a German or an English word? *If the answer is "English" → yes exactly, this is the English word for VOGEL.*

Picture with nest Okay, and what about this word here: NEST. Is this German or English? Ok, und was ist denn mit dem Wort hier: NEST. Ist das Deutsch oder Englisch?
If only one is mentioned: → Is there also any other possibility?

4. Are there words in other languages that sound similar to German?

If the answer is „no“ → continue with 5.

If the answer is „I don't know“ → for example in English or in your L1/native language?

If the answer is "yes" → Which ones can you come up with? Name as many as you can think of!

If there is an answer → And why is it that some words are the same and others are different?

5. [present word cards + read them out] The bird flies home. Der Vogel fliegt nach Hause. How many words are in this sentence? And in this one? [point to the cards] Why is it different?

6. [present word cards + read them out] I go You go Ich gehe Du gehst What do you notice here?

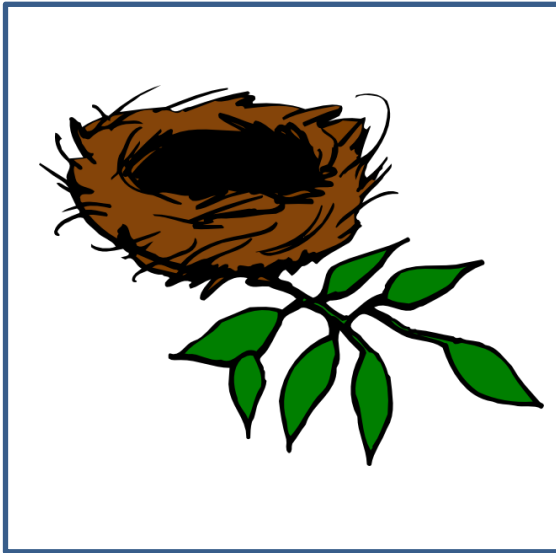
If there is no answer → Are there things that are the same or different?

*If there is an answer → Ok, are there any **other** things that are the same/different?*

If the answer is „yes“ → Why is that so?

If the answer is "no" → continue with 7.

7. The cat *slipes* up to the nest *[Use the picture story for this, point to picture 3.]*
- a. What do you think „*slipes*“ could mean?
- If a word is said* → *Why?/Why is that?*
- If no word is said* → *go straight on to b.*
- b. How can you find out what a word means if you do not know it?
8. *[present word card]* In English we say Today I am happy. And in German we say Heute bin ich glücklich. What do you notice there?
- If there is no answer* → *Is it the same or is it different?*
9. In English you say „you“ to your friends and also „you“ to your teachers in school. How is that in other languages?
- If the child asks for a translation of “you”* → *That means “Sie” and “du”*
- If there is no reaction/„I don’t know“* → *What is it like/How is it in German?*
- If the answer is sth like „I call my friends by their first names and my teacher by Mr/s X“ (or sth. similar)* → *And when you address them directly, so without a name?*
- If there is an answer* → *Why is that so? Why is it like that?*
- If there is no answer* → *continue with 10.*
10. You have been learning English in school for almost four years now. What do you find easy about it?
- Wait a moment and see*
- Then* → *Is there anything that is difficult for you?*
- If there is an answer* → *And what helps you with that?*
11. Do other languages help you learn English?
12. What is it like for children who know several languages? Do you think it helps them learn English?
- If the answer is “no”* → *continue with 13.*
- If the answer is “yes”* → *And why?*
13. Do you think English is similar to German or is it completely different?
- If there is an answer* → *Why? What is similar/different?*



Der Vogel fliegt nach Hause.

The bird flies home.

Ich gehe

Du gehst

I go

You go

Today I am happy.

Heute bin ich fröhlich.