

**Conversation between Vicki, Jason, Claire and David. Enregistrée le 27/09/2000**

[...] = passages sautés car les personnes parlent en même temps et ce n'est d'aucune utilité pour l'analyse.

J : How did you find this camp site in Pertuis ?

V : Well because em when I as I knew I wanted to find somewhere in Pertuis and environs I em oh well that's not English I em I just went and you know and got in touch with the camp site and said could I come and stay and they said yes.

J : Did you do that last year as well ?

V : no last year I stayed with a friend er in her studio and er I think she did actually suggest that I stay there again this year but it it was it's not exactly in the area where I'm looking for something so it's not very convenient really. So er I'm doing it differently this year.

C : It's very difficult to find somewhere you don't have to pay agencies' fees and everything else. It's like HHHH

V : And I mean just in one year, last year I was looking at this time you know this time last year I was looking and it's gone up the price of stuff has gone up

C : Yes it's definitely it's definitely yes

J : it's incredible. it's very much about market as regards to rent

V : It's extortion actually. Where do you s yeah, Sorry

J : as I say so you're planning to stay here in the week and then return to the Alps in the week-ends.

V : No, no, I don't do that . I you know it takes too much time and it's too expensive. I Last year I went home about once a month and this year my husband will be coming down more often cause he's working half time this year you see which is why I'm reluctant I found somewhere beautiful in Cadenet, absolutely beautiful at the top of Do you know Cadenet at all ?

J : Not really, I 've passed by.

V : well you know that ruined castle at the top

C : umm

V : well you know there's lots of winding little old streets going up there

C : yeah

V : it's right at the top so it looks out over the roofs of the village and you can even see la montagne Sainte Victoire

C : oh brilliant

V : and I would be able to pop up to the castle for a bit of exercise every evening and it's 2500 francs which I've come to consider as reasonably

D : That sounds very reasonable

V : well yes but it's tiny

C : Is it just the one bedroom or

V : it's one bed room and one sort of everything else room

C : (laughs)bathroom kitchen shower

J : with a shower in the corner

V : no there is a shower there is a shower but you know it's just that it's small for and I have 'cause last year I had lots of friends come to stay and it and the place I was was too small and I hadn't an extra room

J : do you have a lot of family still over in England that come over to visit

V : ya, they my family c.. my sister and people came last year yeah

C : yeah I found that too we were going to move and it was just the one bedroom and I said maybe we should just stay where we are because otherwise when people come to stay you're on top of one another and

V : and it's funny how suddenly peo.. all our ...( talk at the same time)

C : especially in the summer it's like could I come and stay for two weeks ? hold on let me just set this in room right OK You're in till such and such date and then somebody else is taking over

J : you don't even issue invitations it's the nerve of South of France.

V : Did you stay here over the summer ?

C : yeah yeah I was over here in the summer I went home in July for a couple of weeks and then I stayed here 'cause I was trying to decide on what topic to do for my mémoire for the er for the master's so I stayed over here but I didn't really take that much well I didn't really go out in the sun that much because it was too hot for me it was 40 degrees and I was just I went to the beach a couple of times but only in the morning

V : Why , because even that's too hot

C : it was just so hot and so full of people that I just thought No I'll stay at home in the countryside, I'm fine just have a little walk outside in the sun shine and then come back because it's just too much

V : So did you enjoy staying here or not ?

C : er I would have enjoyed it I think more if there'd been more people around like 'cause all the student friends I've made in the master's had gone home all the lecteurs and lectrices were off home visiting or weren't here yet so

J : I missed out on that heat wave

C : so I was a bit lonely

V : you like heat waves do you ?

J : well I'd like to try a heat wave

D : once in a while

C : It's good I think it's good if you're by a beach but if you're in town then it's not good like if you're in Aix and you have to travel like half an hour at least to go to the beach you spend your time in traffic jams with everybody else then it's not good . If you live by the beach then it's brilliant because you can just go down to the beach whenever you please but

V : yea

C : otherwise I don't think that

V : Oh thank you

J : thank you very much

V : service with a smile

C : ? ? ?take one of those little coffees

[.....]

J : so what was it like in the Alps in the summer ?

V : em well it's lovely you know but unfortunately I didn't spend as long there as I would have liked because I was arranged to go and stay in Brittany with my brother and his family but the Alps is the best place to be when it's hot.

D : I went back to sunny old England but it wasn't sunny

[...]

C : I think it was just before I came back because I went back at the very end of June beginning of July and I rang my mum beforehand and then said what clothes shall I bring and she said oh it's lovely it's gorgeous we have lovely weather so I took all my T shirts and my little skirts and my shorts and got over there and it was absolutely freezing

D : yeah the weather was really bad

C : I spent two weeks buying jumpers and

V : it's so difficult when you're somewhere hot to imagine what it's going to be like even if people tell you, isn't it ?

J : well when I got on the plane from Marseille going back to London and just bef I think half way through the flight they give you a progress report and the pilot said well there's a ten-degree difference between Marseille and London so I thought oh

V : But even if they tell you you don't realise it's still a shock

J : It's still a shock

C : When I landed the pilot said oh so it's going to be about what 13 degrees which is quite good for this time of year I was like What ?

V : 13

C : Something like that yea it was quite late on so it was pretty cold but it was just the way he said it was really good for that time of year I was like what

V : he was probably being sarcastic

C : yea probably

J : possibly. Did you stay in London the whole summer Dave ?

D : yeah pretty much the whole summer I was I went to Greece for a bit which er obviously was really hot em but for the rest of the summer I really didn't do very much actually. I was I mean I knew I was coming here so I couldn't I did a bit of work but not too much work because I didn't think I was gonna need the money that much since I was coming here. And so I just saw friends and

V : bummed around

[...]

J : what was the graduation ceremony like ?

D : It was quite boring to be honest

J : was it ?

D : Yeah, I mean we had er a couple of hours of speeches and stuff you know which

C : Oh God that's horrendous that is

D : and a few people like professors or whatever getting accepted first and then they do this long spiel about how they'd done this and this and written this many books and then we just went up and did our thing

J : Anybody famous to shake hands with ?

[...]

C : 'cause his origins were in Yorkshire and obviously with me being at Bradford University then and he came along and it was really nice he was a lovely lovely man honestly and he didn't bore anyone he just stood there making jokes the whole time [...]

J : So did you have anybody ?

V : Yeah I had the Duchess of Kent.

J/C : oh really

V : yea but actually I didn't go to my graduation ceremony grateful wretch that I am but I did for my PhD she gave me my PhD My mum felt that it was time that I went to one of these ceremonies. I think she wanted to buy a new dress

C : to buy new dress (at the same time)

D : I think that's what it's for actually. Graduations are for parents because I really wasn't bothered about going but I know that my mum had been looking forward to it for years or whatever

J : oh ya I think that was about the only major celebration event in my life where I could invite parents and close friends and it was an excuse to buy a hat for them

C : exactly

D : I had a bit of a nightmare actually 'cause er before you know when you get the pack for that graduation thing where it says like measure your head and stuff so my mum measured my head but she must have done it wrong I don't know how she did it wrong I had it actually wrong but my mortar board thing was far too big for me so I could only walk about ...

C : you couldn't see

D : without moving my neck every time I moved my head the thing just came right down over my eyes like that so I had to I spent the whole time for the speeches sitting like this which is why the speeches dragged for me 'cause it was for 2 hours and my neck was killing me and then you had to go and then you had to nod to him don't you

J : Yeah

D : You shake his hand and nod and I was thinking oh my God I'm gonna nod and .....

C : If I nod it's gonna fall off

[...]

C : we all had to throw ours in the air like for one of the photos when we came out of the ceremony We were into the park and had all these photos taken and we all threw our hats into the air and that was it then we couldn't find which hat was for whom we were just like wondering and going is that my hat by that point we didn't really care that much we were like as long as we give it in afterwards that's OK

D : yeah we did that with the flying the hat thing in the air all of the photos we've got me and friends doing that all of the photos exactly the same with all of us with our hat our fingers all in the same position on one hand and our other hand is like that our fingers like that on the throwing hand and the other hand like that all of us exactly the same position really weird with our fingers

C : oh that's really good

D : it's really odd

V : in the same picture ?

D : yeah in the same picture we were all doing exactly the same things with our fingers and our other hand for some reason and we're all obviously looking up trying not to get hit on the head by...

V : It proves that higher education just turns out sort of imitations you know mould

C : yeah, everyone does the same thing we've all done the same degree now we're all doing exactly the same thing no it's good though university it gets you to spend so much time with different people especially you do take on other people's habits and stuff because you live with people for like four years or whatever so you do tend to sort of change a little bit I think at university

D : actually also which is particularly apt now that we're doing this emphasis thing is if you're living with someone you start to talk like that person talks as well and you emphasize your words in the way that they emphasize their words 'cause I was living with this guy and he had a particularly strange way of emphasizing his words and I realized after a while I was sort of doing the same thing

C : yeah picking it up

D : sort of like stressing the words like he stressed words and stuff like that so it's really odd

J : that's the sort of thing if you're studying a language you tend to be much more sensitive to other people speaking even native speakers that you would never ever take any interest in if you hadn't studied the language

V : umm that's true

J : or you just suddenly hear something or read something and think oh that's not good English

C : Yeah I went when I went home over the summer I was correcting my mother I was like my mother was like talking about I don't know something really simple and I'd be like you

don't say it like that you say it like this she was like ouh who's the English teacher now then ?  
I was like ... They took it a little bit badly actually but at the end of the day I was like you should speak properly [laughs]

V : you all need to do a course in linguistics I would say

C : yeah It was terrible they were just making horrendous mistakes and obviously I had a French girl over with me she came back with me

V : You you what your English family were making horrendous mistakes

C : Yah

V : but they don't they don't make mistakes. That's their way of talking

C : that's their way of talking obviously

[talking at the same time]

C : and obviously I was trying to teach English to this young French girl and I was like no don't listen to her this is how you say it

[...]

V : when you picked up French would you say that you were lucky enough never to have to be exposed to people who were making mistakes and breaking up their sentences

C : no, not at all

J : what in French ?

V : I mean you're bound to aren't you ?

C : Yeah, you're bound to come across

[..]

V : I don't think it affects your grasp of the language

C : no and I suppose if you spend an awful lot of time with that person you're gonna end up making horrendous mistakes [..]

V : I think people who learn a language just by picking it up you know as adults then they probably do pick up all sorts of mistakes but people like us who've studied the grammar and things I don't think

[...]

D : I'm sure I pick up the mistakes as well

J : I think you do but then sometimes you can be quite at the other side of the coin and you can even speak sometimes because you know it grammatically so you'll speak it better than the French

D : yeah

V : but Heaven help if you try to tell them that they're wrong. I remember having learnt at University that you should use the subjunctive after superlatives like first and last and I remember telling a French teacher this I mean I don't know how it came up in the conversation a friend of mine you know a woman my age a bit older than me who was teaching French when I was an assistante and she wasn't familiar with that rule and she was she was very very annoyed with me you know she got very irate

C : I suppose she was a bit offended really

V : I don't know if she ever looked it up later and found out because I mean I have noticed **that people do use it sometimes and you find it in grammars but now that I'm a linguist I accept everything.**

J : I still find difficulties with le and la

V : oh that's ? ? ? ?doomed with that for the rest of our lives

C : that is just something that you one day you get it right and the next day it's just a slip of the tongue and you say le instead of la ...you should know that and you do know it's just

V : sometimes you do and sometimes you don't.

C : yeah and sometimes you just make the mistake.

V : For example the word grimace Is it le ou la grimace ? I think it's le

C : Isn't it la

J : I think it's le

V : I think it's le but in anyway the funny thing is once you've got it mixed up you can never I it was in my I took a a degree in English at Besançon University in 1976 and I needed to use that word grimace in the translation and I did a very curly sort of an e that you couldn't tell whether it was an e or an a on ? ? ?

J : that's very ? ? ? ?

V : but I 've never got I've never managed to retain whether it's masculine or feminine I think it is masculine

D : I think it's masculine I think

C : actually yeah, I have to say the sentence to be able to sort of work it out

J : is it le choix or la choix

V : faire le grimace faire la grimace

C : le choix

J : I think it's le choix

C : It is le choix

V : We'd better stop speaking French

[...]

V : but the annoying thing is when you start to learn another language like Spanish or Arabic and er and it's they have genders but they're not the same ones

D : although in Spanish they're often quite simple ? ? they're not that ..pretty much

V : in Spanish more often they coincide but not systematically but in Arabic they don't at all for example it's in Arabic the moon is ma er masculine and the sun is feminine

D : yeah ok but in Spanish it's easier because normally the er knowing the tense the er

V : Latin origins

D : no, what was I thinking of what was the word ?

V : gender

D : gender knowing the gender is normally you can just see from the word unless it's irregular so it's much easier ? ?

C : I was thinking of learning Spanish I shouldn't have done German actually I think I should have done Spanish because.....it's easier

V : Don't you all sometimes think why did we ever do French we would never have come to this country if we hadn't done French

C : no I love French

J : I love French it's never been a question

C : no, I've always loved French

J : I studied German but I've always had a I think when you really learn a language properly it's not because I want to learn a language that I want to learn how to cook this it's it could be a passion something inside you ? ? ? ? I can't explain it

C : exactly that was likeme with German

V : No I agree yeah That is true I wholeheartedly agree I felt ....

J : ... I'm going to learn to be a carpenter or I mean it's just something I think you're either you're either passionate for it or not like some body would be passionate for sport or anything ...

V : umm but I mean when I say that you know what would when I think of my life if I hadn't done French hum if I hadn't done French I wouldn't I wouldn't have married my husband I wouldn't have my two children I mean my whole the whole last 28 years of my life have been completely coloured by the fact that I did French and I came to France and became French so I was sort of being funny when I said why did we do French

J : It's nice It opens up a different culture you're much more open minded

C : it does doesn't it ?  
V : it makes you look at your own culture differently as well doesn't it ?  
C : exactly  
V : Oh I know I was going to tell Sophie that she should have recorded Tony Blair's speech last night. Has anyone heard it ?  
J / C : no  
D : no about what ?  
V : and he was sweating he well it was about he's sort of being corned ? ? ? about various things and being blamed for not taking enough notice of er the er electorate's wishes and  
D : not about the petrol still  
V : petrol and old people it's it's pensioners you know 75 p. a month isn't enough or something which is really ? ? ? sounds reasonable  
J : Did you get that on the radio ? Is that BBC world news  
V : yes BBC world service  
J : I must try that  
D : What what what frequency is that ?  
J : I don't know  
V : I'll give you the frequencies there are several That was 6195 that particular one but at different times of day  
J : is that medium wave ?  
V : no long wave  
J : long wave  
V : er short wave I mean sorry  
J : short wave  
V : Medium wave you've got 638 I think it is  
C : ... I found MW and LW  
J : I've got LW  
D : I haven't got short wave . I don't think you can get short wave anymore  
V : You can get it You can get it on middle wave I think  
C : can you  
V : I'll bring in the frequencies I've got a little booklet. It's been my er my life buoy over the last 25 years BBC world service  
D : well here in the lab you just go and watch Sky news I'm sure they would have the speech a well  
C : they have BBC world service as well  
J : you do keep up to what's happening in back in back in ? ? ? ?  
V : of course you're the television generation  
J : I'm not I'm not I can remember when television arrived  
V : Can you ?  
J : black and white  
V : you can't  
C : really  
J : we never we never had television till late 60s  
V : oh well we had television in 62  
J : black and white rediffusion ? ?  
V : yeah that's right yeah and it was only on from 5 it started at 5pm  
C : oh my God.. I'd be like Ouhhhh  
J : black and white and if you had colour you were very much oh ? ? ?  
V : you couldn't have colour when I was little  
J : em

V : I'm older than you

J : And I can remember when it was Wimbledon it used to rain we listened to Doctor Who

C : used to rain ! I think it rains every year doesn't it ?

J : ? ? ? ? what the Doctor Who films are

D : it was great

V : oh the first Doctor Who there's nothing like the first Doctor Who

J : oh no I liked em what's his name em ?

D : John ? ? ?

J : John ? ? ? ? and the other one was Patrick ? ? ? ?

V : I liked the first one. I forget what his name was now

J : cause he did the film

V : I believed in him so much that I didn't realise he was an actor anyway so how can you expect me to remember his name ? oh it was wonderful

C : I remember the

[...]

J : my last year in London they had a retrospective of the first series of the ? ? ? ? at the British Film Institute and I went along and thought I'd be like sort of you know the oldest there but oh no I was the youngest and it was great because it was almost like the arches ? ? ? you had the end of a series and you were waiting for the next one to go on it was really good the very first series of the ? ? ? ?

V : that was the one that's the one that I think really moved me you know because I was about ten or something I can't remember how old I was when it started it was about in the first beginning of the

J : early sixties yeah

V : early sixties yeah

J : early sixties yeah

V : oh it was absolutely fantastic you know you just can't get that cred that credulity credulousness that you had as a child you know you never get it again

J : and I think now today it's also technical and computer orientated it's lost it's not the same

V : but I mean we

C : not the same charm

V : we aren't responding in the same way anyway I suppose we've become blasé