

Participants

- Australian English speakers who identify themselves as “Anglo-Australian”.¹
- Of the six English conversations, the participants of three of these were pairs of native general Australian English speakers,² while the other three conversations consisted of one native Australian English speaker and one French speaker speaking English as a second language. (Full details of all participants are provided below.) The researcher was also present at all the conversations, as a native speaker of British English.
- All conversations were transcribed using a combination of the Santa Barbara transcription method (Du Bois, Schuetze-Coburn, Cumming and Paolino 1992, 1993), and that of Jefferson (1994) - see transcription conventions.
- The backgrounds of the participants are detailed in tables 2.1 to 2.2. The system of notation appears in the first column of each table below the names³ of the participants: NS stands for native speakers; NS - NNS stands for native speaker with non-native speaker; F stands for French; AE stands for Australian English. For example, NS/AE represents two native Australian English speakers, and NS/AE - NNS/AE represents a native Australian English speaker with a non-native Australian English speaker (French) speaking English. The number following these initials simply represents the number assigned to the conversation.

¹ One was of Malaysian background (Ken - an Australian English speaker), but consider himself “totally” Australian, having been born and raised in Australia, and speaking only English and not the first language of his parents.

² It is generally agreed that there are three main types of Australian English: broad, general and cultivated, and that these are largely distinguished on the basis of vowel pronunciation (cf. Horvath 1985; Mitchell and Delbridge 1965).

³ Pseudonyms have been used throughout to protect the privacy of the participants.

The participants in the three English conversations with Australian English native speakers only are as follows:

Name	Personal Details	Relationship	Relationship to researcher	Length of time in France	Setting
Lisa	female, 37, manager	strangers	friend of a friend	three weeks	unfamiliar to both (researcher's home)
Fiona	female, 31, student		co-student at university	none	
NS/AE1					
Natalie	female, 27, lawyer	co-students in a French class (for a total of twelve and a half hours prior to the recording)	students in class for which I was the teacher	none	familiar to Natalie (her office)
Ken	male, 28, IT consultant			three weeks	
NS/AE2					
Kylie	female, 25, student	strangers	stranger	none	unfamiliar to both (a room at university)
Mark	male, 19, student		stranger	none	
NS/AE3					

**Table 2.1 - Details of participants in English conversations
(Australian English native speakers only)**

The participants in the three English conversations with one native Australian English speaker (A) and one French speaker speaking English as a second language (F) are as follows:

Name	Personal Details	Relationship	Relationship to researcher	Length of time in France / Australia	Setting
Heather (A)	female, 38, consultant/student	strangers	close friend	five months	unfamiliar to both (a room at university)
Marie (F)	female, 25, no current profession		stranger	fourteen months	
NS/AE - NNS/AE1					
Beth (A)	female, 25, student services officer	strangers	co-student at university	none	familiar to Beth (her home)
Daniel (F)	male, 26, wine grower		stranger	four months (total one year spent in English-speaking countries)	
NS/AE - NNS/AE2					
Suzanne (F)	female, 27, student	strangers	stranger	twenty two months	familiar to Len (his workplace)
Len (A)	male, 26, student/library officer		stranger	none	
NS/AE - NNS/AE3					

Table 2.2 - Details of participants in English conversations with one native Australian English speaker and one French speaker speaking English as a second language

Procedure

Participants were informed that the researcher was looking at the general differences between French and Australian English speakers' conversational styles, and were not given any further specific information. The researcher's own participation in the conversation was limited to asking questions on certain topics to initiate the conversation between the two speakers, and to adding comments from time to time. The participants were asked to talk to each other rather than to the researcher, although she was often included in the conversation.

An attempt was made to ensure that the conversations were as similar as possible in terms of set-up, length and topics discussed, (although not all of the topics were covered in every conversation). To this end the researcher had prepared a list of topics on which to ask the participants for their opinion; these included such issues as life in Australia, the difference between French and Australian English speakers, multiculturalism, the role of honesty in a relationship, the importance of expressing one's opinion, and the difference between *tu* and *vous* (the familiar and polite forms of *you* in French) for the French speakers.