

## **Life-story Interview protocols**

### ***Life-story interview: Session 1: Experiences and beliefs about French language learning***

Themes: Self, Family, Attitude Towards Education & Educational Experiences in French, Relationship to the French Language, Linguistic Background, Future Plans, Intercultural experiences.

#### **Self**

- Tell me about yourself.
  - Place of birth
  - Current living situation

#### **Family**

- Tell me about your family.
  - Siblings
  - Current location

#### **Intercultural experiences**

- Let's look at your Plurilingual Portrait.
- How would you describe your cultural background?
- What cultures did you represent in your Plurilingual Portrait? Please explain.
- What new cultures have you encountered? How have they influenced you? Explain how they are a part of you (or not)?

#### **Linguistic Background**

- What language(s) do/did you speak at home?
  - With whom?
- Let's look at your Venn diagram, tell me about how you use the different languages you speak and with whom?

#### **Relationship to the French language**

- When did you begin studying/learning French?
  - School / private lessons / other
  - Program (French immersion, Core French, etc.)
- Why did you choose (start studying?) to study French?
  - Did you enjoy studying French?
  - Tell me more about that experience.
  - How did it affect you? / How has studying French affected your life? / How has it affected your future career/academic plans?
- Do you feel you are francophone? Why (not)? How would you describe yourself?

#### **Attitude towards education & educational experiences with French**

Tell me about your elementary school experience learning French. Describe a typical day.

Tell me about your high school experience learning French. Describe a typical day.

Who was your favorite French teacher in elementary or high school? Why?

What was this teacher like?  
Tell me about your university experience learning French.  
Location / with or without family  
What did you study?  
Favorite / least favorite subjects  
How many years did you study in university?

### **Future plans**

- What are your career goals?
- Where would you like to live? Why?

## ***Life-story interview: Session 2: The experience of entering the FSL teaching profession***

Themes: Teacher Preparation, Teaching in practicum, Post-teaching and learning

### **uOttawa Teacher Education program**

- Why did you choose to study at the uOttawa Bachelor of Education program?
- Did your choice have anything to do with the linguistic context at the university, or your own linguistic and cultural background?

### **Teacher Preparation**

- Tell me about your experience preparing to teach French.
- How did you prepare to become a French teacher before entering the B.Ed program?
- Were there any things that you worried or wondered about?
- What were some things you felt confident about/ looked forward to?
- What has been your overall experience so far in the B.Ed program? Do you feel prepared to teach French in schools?

### **Languages and language teaching**

- Let's look at your Plurilingual poem, how did it affect your perception of language teaching?
- Did it affect how you understand the role of other languages in the FSL classroom?

### **Imagined Teacher self**

- In the collage activity you were asked to complete a collage portrait of your ideal FSL teacher, tell me about your vision of the ideal FSL teacher.
  - Where / why did you get these ideas?
- Are there qualities represented in your collage that reflect how you currently approach your teaching practice?
  - Are there qualities represented in your collage that reflect how you envision approaching your teacher practice in the future?

### **Teaching in practicum (Actual teacher self)**

- Tell me about your experience so far with teaching French.
- Can you describe a typical day for me in practicum?
- Tell me about your practicum experience in the B.Ed program.

- Were things as you expected? What was different? What expectations were (not) met?
- How did your French language skill impact your teaching?
  - Did you feel confident about certain things?
  - Were there some challenges in certain areas? Which ones?
  - How did you address any challenges you faced?

### **Post-teaching and learning**

- Now that you have taught FSL in schools and finished your FSL methodology course, tell me about how you feel about teaching French?
- Are there any areas where you feel unprepared? Any things that worry you? Please describe.
- How do you feel about addressing these challenges? What steps will you take to address them?
- Is there anything else you would like to share about preparing to teach French in Ontario schools?

### ***Life-story interview: Session 3 Collaborative reflection on artistic creation***

Themes: Current Life. There are a few questions we will definitely ask, but this session will mostly consist of **follow up questions** based on answers from Sessions 1 & 2. A sample of potential questions has also been included.

### **Reflection on Interview session 1 and 2** *(Sample questions. These will be adapted based on findings from Interview 1 and 2)*

- In Interview 1 you mentioned [XYZ], how does this compare to what you talked about in Interview 2?
- In interview 1 you mentioned [XYZ], this seems to expand upon what you talked about in Interview 2. Can you please tell me more about that?

### **Current Situation**

- What was your experience of completing the arts-based activities?
  - Did you have a favourite or least favourite activity? Why?
- How did it feel expressing yourself using the medium of art?
- How might you integrate creative expression into your teaching practice?
  - What can this teach us about students' experiences communicating about their identity?
- Do you feel integrating arts-based activities promote professional development and/or mental wellbeing as a FSL TC? How so (or not)?
- After completing all the arts activities, how do you feel in your position as an FSL teacher?
- Do you think it has helped you in any aspect of your life as a French speaker? As a French teacher? If so, how? If not, why not?

### **Potential Questions**

- Would you recommend these kinds of activities to other FSL teacher candidates? Why (not)?