**To:** Leah F. Rankin

**From:** Antoine J. Nauleau

**Subject:** Interview Process Summary

**Date:** October 14, 2012

I interviewed three people of different linguistic backgrounds for this assignment. Each interview had different outcomes and the questions as well as the interview itself had to be adapted for each interviewee.

The first person I interviewed was an international student from China and she was very enthusiastic that I wanted to interview her. Her name was Amy and she arrived in the United States about 3 years ago to attend the University of Washington. Amy had never lived or been to America before coming to school here and spoke only Chinese at home. She learned Chinese in school, and her English was fair, but it was definitely apparent that she was not from here. As the interview started, the first few questions I asked were specific and clearly explained, and Amy had no problem answering them. Even though some questions could have been answered in a few words, she took the time to think about her response and provided great answers. As the interview went on, the questions became broader, and on several occasions she did not understand the nature of the question. When this would happen I would try to explain the question in a different manner. I would come up with a less complicated version of the question which and tried to provide more detail, which made it easier for her to understand. If she still needed clarification I would use an example of mine so that she could understand it. Nevertheless, one the question was understood Amy provided well thought out and interesting answers to my questions. Even at the end of the interview, we went on to talk a bit more in a more open and free discussion, but still stayed focus on the topic. We continued to talk like this for another five to seven minutes, in which I learned some interesting information about the Chinese language.

The second person was my roommate Joey, who second generation immigrant from Mexico. He was born in the state of Washington but speaks Spanish at home. He has taken Spanish in high school but explained that it was mainly to increase his GPA and did not really learn anything. When I had originally asked my roommate if I could interview him, he seemed interested and had allotted a fair amount of time for me in his schedule the next day. When we met up at our apartment though, I sensed that this was not the case anymore. He seemed like he wanted to rush through the interview and was providing short and basic answers to my questions. Even though this was alright for the few specific questions, it was lacking thought and reflection for the broader and more complicated questions. Joey had no problem understanding most of the questions as English was his first language and speaks it well. For the sake of clarification I would try to break down the more complicated questions, and using his response I would ask another question that would lead him in the right direction. In a sense this created structure for his answers, by expanding and guiding his response so that it would be answering the overall broader question. Even with this technique I struggled to receive creative and interesting answers. His responses were short and simple and did not contain much content, causing this to be one of my least successful interviews.

The third person I interviewed was Thomas, another international student who is from France and will be spending a year here at the University of Washington. He was born in France, speaks French at home, and learned English in school. This interviewee was similar to Amy in the sense that some of the questions were hard for him to understand. All the specific questions were understood without a problem, but the more complicated and broader questions needed additional explaining. The difference with this situation was that I know how to speak French and therefore I was able to use this to my advantage. Even though it was beneficial to be able to explain certain question in French, Thomas still struggled to understand them. Similar to Amy, I had to use some examples and provide more detail. With this he had no problem in giving me well thought out answers. Once the questions were done I asked him if he had any other comments to add and he told me that he did not.

The answers I received did not really have an effect on how I had previously answered these questions, even though some of their answers were completely different than mine. Their answers did give me different perspectives on the topic which had me reconsider my ideas. I also learned some interesting information about China and France, as Amy and Thomas answers were off topic at times. Even though it was difficult to keep up with their answers, I was able to take decent notes that can be used to quote them word for word in my upcoming major paper. Overall I compiled all their answers together, which provided me with all the content I needed to be able to use them as sources in my major paper assignment. Also, it was interesting having the opportunity to interview someone and see how the process was from the perspective of the interviewer, as I have always been the one that was being interviewed. I had never really interviewed anyone before and this assignment has showed me another tool for my future classes and assignments.