

Sociolinguistic questionnaire, subjects

Identification code:

Date:

With this questionnaire I would like to get an impression of the personal background and language use of Finnish emigrants in USA. It consists of 71 items. It is important to note that not all items may apply to you personally. Should you think that a certain item does not apply to you (for example when you are asked about the language use of your children and you don't have any children), you may cross out the number in front of that particular question and move on to the next.

It is important that you answer these questions on your own, because I am interested in *your* language use. If you don't understand a certain question, please do not hesitate to ask me. There are no right or wrong answers!

- 1) What is your date of birth?month.....year
- 2) Gender (at birth) 1. female 2. male 3. other 4. no reply
- 3) Where were you born:
 - Country :
 - County:
 - Ahvenanmaa, Etelä-Karjala, Etelä-Pohjanmaa, Etelä-Savo, Kanta-Häme, Keski-Pohjanmaa, Keski-Suomi, Kymenlaakso, Lappi, Pirkanmaa, Pohjanmaa, Pohjois-Karjala, Pohjois-Pohjanmaa, Pohjois-Savo, Päijät- Häme, Satakunta, Uusimaa, Varsinais-Suomi
 - Town/Village.....
- 4) What nationality do you have?
 - 1. Finland
 - 2. Finland and USA
 - 3. USA
 - 4. other, namely.....
 - 5. no answer
- 5) Would you say that you spoke a variety of Finnish while you lived in the Finland or a dialect?
 - standard Finnish
 - a dialect, namely:
- 6) When did you come to USA (month/year)
- 7) Why did you emigrate and why to USA in particular?
 - 1. job
 - 2. partner's job
 - 3. partner
 - 4. other, namely:

- 8) Apart from USA, have you ever lived in a country other than Finland for more than 6 months)?
- 1. no
 - 2. less than 1 year: town.....country.....
 - 3. 1 year or more: town.....country.....

- 9) What language(s) did you acquire before starting school?
- 1. Finnish
 - 2. Finnish and other, namely.....
 - 3. other.....

- 10) Did you attend any English classes before coming to USA? (this has to be in an educational environment, like a school or some similar institution):
- 1. no
 - 2. yes, less than 1 year
 - 3. yes, more than 1 year

- 11) What is the highest level of education you have completed?
- 1. primary school, grades:.....
 - 2. secondary school, level:
 - 3. higher education, namely:
 - 4. University, degree:

- 12) What language was studies conducted in?
- 1. only English
 - 2. both Finnish and English, but mostly English
 - 3. both Finnish and English, equally
 - 4. both Finnish and English, but mostly Finnish
 - 5. only Finnish
 - 6. other or no answer

- 13) Have you pursued further education while living in USA (this does not have to be language-related) ?
- 1. yes, for (number of years):.....
 - 2. no

14) What language or languages did you learn professionally or at school?
.....

15) What language or languages did you learn outside of school or work)?
.....

16) What has been the primary working language in your work career?

- 1. only English
- 2. both Finnish and English, but mostly English
- 3. both Finnish and English, equally
- 4. both Finnish and English, but mostly Finnish
- 5. only Finnish
- 6. other or no answer

17) What is your current profession? If you are retired, could you please indicate your last profession before retirement?

.....

18) Have you ever been diagnosed with a disorder that can influence speech or language processing, such as e.g. dyslexia?

- 1. no
- 2. yes, namely.....

19) Have you ever been diagnosed with an injury or illness that can influence your speech or language processing, such as e.g. stroke or neurological illness?

- 1. no
- 2. yes, namely.....

20) Do you have a hearing aid or have you discussed getting one with your doctor?

- 1. no
- 2. yes

21) Have you ever been back to Finland since leaving for USA?

- 1. never
- 2. seldom
- 3. regularly, 1-2 times a year
- 4. regularly, 3-5 times a year
- 5. regularly, over 5 times a year

22) If you have indicated that you have been back to Finland, could you please indicate what the reason or reasons for your visit were (you may tick more than one box)?

- 1. urgent family matters (such as a wedding or a funeral)
- 2. work
- 3. to visit without a particular reason
- 4. for another reason

23) Are you in contact with relatives and friends in Finland?

- 1. no
- 2. sporadically
- 3. couple of times per year
- 4. monthly
- 5. weekly

24) If yes, how do you keep in touch with those relatives and friends in Finland? (you can tick more than one box)

- 1. letters / post
- 2. telephone
- 3. text messages / instant messages
- 4. e-mail
- 5. social media, namely.....
- 6. another way, namely:

25) What language or languages do you mostly use to keep in touch with relatives and friends in Finland?

- only English
- both Finnish and English, but mostly English
- both Finnish and English, equally
- both Finnish and English, but mostly Finnish
- only Finnish
- other / no answer

26) Do you ever go to church in USA?

- 1. no, never
- 2. yes, sometimes
- 3. yes, regularly

27) If you have indicated you go to church, could you please indicate in which language the services are held?

- 1. English
- 2. Finnish
- 3. English and Finnish
- 4. other / no answer

28) In general, how would you rate your English language proficiency before you moved to USA?

- 1. none
- 2. bad
- 3. good enough to get by
- 4. good
- 5. very good

29) In general, how would you rate your English language proficiency at present?

- 1. none
- 2. bad
- 3. good enough to get by
- 4. good
- 5. very good

30) In general, how would you rate your Finnish language proficiency before you moved to USA?

- 1. none
- 2. bad
- 3. good enough to get by
- 4. good
- 5. very good

31) In general, how would you rate your Finnish language proficiency at present?

- 1. none
- 2. bad
- 3. good enough to get by
- 4. good
- 5. very good

32) How often do you speak Finnish?

- 1. rarely
- 2. few times a year
- 3. monthly
- 4. weekly
- 5. daily

33) Do you consider it important to maintain your Finnish?

- 1. no, unimportant
- 2. relatively unimportant
- 3. rather important
- 4. important
- 5. yes, very important

34) Do you feel more at home with Finnish or with American culture?

- 1. with American culture
- 2. with both, but more with American culture
- 3. with both cultures, equally
- 4. with both, but more with Finnish culture
- 5. with Finnish culture

35) Do you feel more comfortable speaking Finnish or English?

- 1. English
- 2. Finnish
- 3. no preference

Could you elaborate on your answer: why do you feel more comfortable speaking either Finnish or English or why don't you have any preference?

.....

36) Have you ever been a member of a Finnish club or association while living in USA?

1. no
 2. yes, name of organization.....
 Member during years: Hours per week.....

37) Are you currently a member of a Finnish club or association?

1. no
 2. yes, name of organization..... Hours per week.....

38) What is domestic situation at the moment?

1. I live alone
 2. I have lived with a partner for a long time, but currently live alone
 3. I live with a partner

39) With what language(s) was your (ex)partner brought up?

1. Finnish
 2. English
 3. other, namely:

40) What language or languages do you mostly use when talking to your (ex)partner?

1. only English
 2. both Finnish and English, but mostly English
 3. both Finnish and English, without preference
 4. both Finnish and English, but mostly Finnish
 5. only Finnish
 6. other or no answer

41) What language or languages does your (ex)partner mostly use when talking to you?

1. only English
 2. both Finnish and English, but mostly English
 3. both Finnish and English, without preference
 4. both Finnish and English, but mostly Finnish
 5. only Finnish
 6. other or no answer

42) Do you have children?

1. no (move on to question 53)
 2. yes

43) Do you consider it important that your children can speak and understand Finnish?

1. unimportant
 2. relatively unimportant
 3. not very important
 4. important
 5. very important

- 44) What language or languages do you mostly use when talking to your children?
- 1. only English
 - 2. both Finnish and English, but mostly English
 - 3. both Finnish and English, without preference
 - 4. both Finnish and English, but mostly Finnish
 - 5. only Finnish
 - 6. other or no answer
- 45) What language or languages do your children mostly use when talking to you?
- 1. only English
 - 2. both Finnish and English, but mostly English
 - 3. both Finnish and English, without preference
 - 4. both Finnish and English, but mostly Finnish
 - 5. only Finnish
 - 6. other or no answer
- 46) Do you encourage your children to speak Finnish?
- 1. no, never
 - 2. seldom
 - 3. sometimes
 - 4. often
 - 5. yes, all the time
- 47) Do / did your children ever take part in a Finnish club or association (e.g. Suomikoulu)?
- 1. no
 - 2. yes
- 48) Did /do you ever correct your children's Finnish?
- 1. no, never
 - 2. seldom
 - 3. sometimes
 - 4. often
 - 5. yes, all the time
- 49) If your children do not speak or understand Finnish, do you regret that?
- 1. not at all
 - 2. not much
 - 3. a bit
 - 4. yes
 - 5. yes, very much
 - 6. no answer
- 50) Do you have grandchildren?
- 1. no (move on to question 53)
 - 2. yes

51) What language or languages do you mostly use when talking to your grandchildren?

- 1. only English
- 2. both Finnish and English, but mostly English
- 3. both Finnish and English, without preference
- 4. both Finnish and English, but mostly Finnish
- 5. only Finnish
- 6. other or no answer

52) What language or languages do your grandchildren mostly use when talking to you?

- 1. only English
- 2. both Finnish and English, but mostly English
- 3. both Finnish and English, without preference
- 4. both Finnish and English, but mostly Finnish
- 5. only Finnish
- 6. other or no answer

53) Do you think Finnish plays an important role in the relationship between your direct family members?

- 1. no, Finnish language does not have any significance in our family
- 2. not much
- 3. probably
- 4. yes, has significance
- 5. yes, Finnish has an important role in our family
- 6. no answer

54) What is the mother tongue of the majority of your friends and acquaintances in the USA?

- 1. English
- 2. Finnish
- 3. bilingual (Finnish/English)
- 4. another language / no answer

55) Could you, in the following tables, please indicate to what extent you use Finnish (table 1) and English (table 2) in the domains provided? You may simply tick the box. If a certain domain is not applicable to you (for example, if you don't have any pets), you may leave the box empty.

I speak Finnish						
		always	almost always	some- times	rarely	very rarely
1	With relatives	1	2	3	4	5
2	With friends	1	2	3	4	5
3	At work	1	2	3	4	5
4	In church	1	2	3	4	5
5	Shopping, running errands	1	2	3	4	5
6	Recreational activities	1	2	3	4	5

I speak English						
		always	almost always	some- times	rarely	very rarely
1	With relatives	1	2	3	4	5
2	With friends	1	2	3	4	5
3	At work	1	2	3	4	5
4	In church	1	2	3	4	5
5	Shopping, running errands	1	2	3	4	5
6	Recreational activities	1	2	3	4	5

56) Could you, in the following table, please indicate which language you use more intuitively or instinctively in the following situations. Tick the language that you think is the right answer first. I am hoping to learn about your first reaction, so do not ponder for too long.

Language choice		English	mostly English	both, Finnish and English	mostly Finnish	Finnish
1	Language in which you think	1	2	3	4	5
2	Language in which you dream	1	2	3	4	5
3	Language in which you count / do maths	1	2	3	4	5
4	Language in which you pray	1	2	3	4	5
5	Dominant language (i.e. language you are "best" at)	1	2	3	4	5
6	Language in which you have the largest vocabulary	1	2	3	4	5
7	Language in which you have <u>no</u> pronunciation difficulties	1	2	3	4	5
8	Language which you are able to understand / use intuitively	1	2	3	4	5
9	Language in which you are familiar with various dialects, slang	1	2	3	4	5
10	Language in which you have an intuitive feeling what is "correct" and "incorrect"	1	2	3	4	5
11	Language in which you can understand and make jokes	1	2	3	4	5
12	Language in which you swear	1	2	3	4	5
13	Language to which you have the strongest emotional ties	1	2	3	4	5
14	Language used most on a daily basis	1	2	3	4	5
15	Language which is your native language.	1	2	3	4	5
16	Language of which other speakers consider you a native speaker.	1	2	3	4	5
17	Language you use when talking to pets	1	2	3	4	5

57) Do you ever get homesick in the sense of missing Finland?

- 1. no
- 2. yes, what I then miss most is/are:
- 3. no answer

58) Do you listen to Finnish songs?

- 1. no
- 2. yes
- 3. I would like to, but I have no access to them

59) Do you watch Finnish television programmes?

- 1. no
- 2. yes
- 3. I would like to, but I have no access to them

60) Do you listen to Finnish radio programmes?

- 1. no
- 2. yes
- 3. I would like to, but I have no access to them

61) Do you read newspapers, books or magazines written in Finnish?

- 1. no
- 2. yes
- 3. I would like to, but I have no access to them

62) Do you write in Finnish?

- 1. no
- 2. yes, but prefer writing in English
- 3. yes

63) Do you think your Finnish language proficiency has changed since you moved to USA?

- 1. yes, I think it has become worse
- 2. no
- 3. yes, I think it has become better

64) Do you think you use more or less Finnish since you moved to USA?

- 1. yes, I think I use less Finnish
- 2. no, I don't think I use more or less Finnish now
- 3. yes, I think I use more Finnish

65) Do you ever feel uncomfortable when speaking Finnish with a Finnish person who has not spent a considerable amount of time in an English-speaking country?

- 1. no, never
- 2. yes, sometimes

66) Do you ever feel uncomfortable when speaking Finnish with someone who, like you, has lived in USA for a long time?

- 1. no, never
- 2. yes, sometimes

67) Do you see yourself as bilingual?

- 1. no
- 2. yes
- 3. other, namely.....
- 4. no answer

68) Do you feel that you are equally proficient in Finnish and English?

- 1. no, I'm more proficient in English
- 2. yes
- 3. no, I'm more proficient in Finnish
- 4. I don't know, because:.....

69) Has the balance between your Finnish and English changed during the time you have lived in the USA?

- 1. no
 - 2. yes, please elaborate
-
-

70) Do you ever intend to move back to Finland?

- 1. no, I don't intend to ever return to Finland
- 2. yes, I would eventually like to move back to Finland
- 3. I have never really given it much thought
- 4. no answer

Would you like to explain why you feel that way?:

.....

.....

.....

.....

71) You have come to the end of this questionnaire. Thank you for your time!

Is there anything you would like to add? Here you can add anything from language-related comments to remarks about the questionnaire or research itself.

.....

.....

.....

.....

.....

.....