

Kent (K), Raimundas & Gintaras (RG)

K: Shall we speak in Lithuanian for a bit?
RG: (Affirmative reply)
K: Should I translate to English for us or would you like to translate to English for me?

RG1: You could translate for us.
RG2: We can translate for you.
RG3: How good is your Lithuanian?

K1: Ok.
K2: Ok.
K3: Depends on what we talk about. It might be better that you translate for us.

RG: Ok.
K: This might have to be a short conversation.
RG: Ok.
K: With short words.
RG: Ok. What would you like to talk about?

K1: We can talk about my Lithuanian?
K2: We can talk about mandarin?

RG1: Ok.
RG2: Ok.

K1: How is my Lithuanian?
RG1: (To be determined), but you sound ...
K1: I might not have understood what you said. So/But you understand me?
RG1: Yes.
K1: We might have to use some English too.
RG1: Ok.
K1: I was told that Lithuanian is an old language.
RG1: Yes... (goes on to explain)
K1: It's a new language to me though. A *new old language*.
RG1: What do you think about it?
K1: Given that this is Amsterdam, whenever I start learning a new language I always start with getting the people to tell me how to say, "I am hungry" in their own language. So languages to be are separated in two groups, the I-am-hungry group and the I-have-hunger group. As Eloisa had pointed out, there's a clear philosophical distinction. Lithuanian seems unique where it is simply I-hungry, which is kind of like mandarin - my first old language.

K2: I find it quite impossible to write about art in mandarin.
RG2: Really, why is that so?
K2: I don't possess the vocabulary, particularly art vocabulary.

RG2: Do you need art vocabulary to write about art in mandarin? / What is art vocabulary mandarin?

K2: I don't know, but the concept of vocabulary in mandarin is a curious one. They exist as a group of characters.

RG2: What do you mean?

K2: Ambiguity does not exist when they are on their own. For example, if I were to say, "I am hungry" in mandarin, it would be I-stomach-hungry. Given that this is Amsterdam, whenever I start learning a new language I always start with getting the people to tell me how to say, "I am hungry" in their own language. So languages to me are separated in two groups, the I-am-hungry group and the I-have-hunger group. As Eloisa had pointed out, there's a clear philosophical distinction. Lithuanian seems unique where it is simply I-hungry, which is kind of like mandarin - my first old language.

How is my Lithuanian?

K: *Aš alkanas.* Shall we stop (in English)?