

Note: Interviewee half-stuttered and half-spoke words all throughout the interview, creating a choppy beginning to each new phrase or thought [when distinguishable, noted by hyphenated words, when undecipherable, noted by a () or pause].

Turn	Speaker	Lines
1	TP	Alright, um, ((4 second pause)), have you ever heard of Pittsburghese?
2	TB	Yes ...
3	TP	... And, [uh,] what are some words or ... sounds, or, ... what's the verna-, the Pittsburgh vernacular?
4	TB	[((laughs))] Oh boy, um
5	TP	((laughs))
6	TB	See, ... words like, um, ... "gumband" ((laughs))
7	TP	Gumband, yeah, it's, that one's, I never heard that before I came here.
8	TB	Or, um, people say "bag" and not "paper bag" here or sac, um, "pop"
9	TP	"Pop" ... yeah.
10	TB	((laughs, then breathes in)) Um, my grandmother used to say, "Red up."
11	TP	Unhunh..
12	TB	Um ((1 second pause, then laughs)) and "neby"
13	TP	"Nevy?"
14	TB	Ever popular "neby." Um ... I hear people say, "Pixburgh"
15	TP	Mmhm.
16	TB	Let's see, what other words do I think are Pittsburghese?
17	TP	Hmm. What about "Yinzer?" Have you ever heard of "Yinzer?" ... Do, have you ever heard of like, "Yinz?" =
18	TB	= "Yinz." Mmhm.
19	TP	But, [You never heard] of a "Yinzer?"
20	TB	[I don't] Hm mm (no)
21	TP	Really?
22	TB	No.
23	TP	((laughs))
24	TB	They're like certain words that, ... feel like they're, like ... don't cross the river, or don't go in the other neighborhoods.
25	TP	((laughs))
26	TB	Cause I never heard, I mean black people say, ["Younz"]
27	TP	["Yinzer."]
28	TB	Yeah, =
29	TP	= ["Yinz?"] No?
30	TB	[Mm mm. (no)]
31	TP	Have you, anybody that you were growing up with, or your parents,

		or people that your parents friends, have they ever used “Younz” or “Yinz?” ... No?
32	TB	“Y’all.” ((laughs)) “Y’all.” ((laughs))
33	TP	“Y’all?” ... Yeah. ((laughs)) Do you feel like you, you talk Pittsburghese? ...
34	TB	Mmhm.
35	TP	Yeah? =
36	TB	= Mmhm.
37	TP	Either when you’re like, you’re talking to other, like, Pittsburghers, ... [in informal] setting or something?
38	TB	[Some-] Sometimes, it, it, when, it formally comes out a lot, um, ((breathes in)) and once in a while, you know, it’s slips out, cause my favorite Pittsburgh word, word, is “nebbly.” [And I] always thought everybody was, I thought everybody knew “nebbly.”
39	TP	[()] Mmhm.
40	TB	But they don’t. So, =
41	TP	= Yeah.
42	TB	((laughs))
43	TP	Do you feel like ... Pittsburgh, Black Pittsburghers speak differently from, uh, maybe ... people in other cities? Other African Americans in other cities, or ... people in general ... in other cities? ... Like, that you’ve actually come across?
44	TB	... I don’t know.
45	TP	No?
46	TB	I don’t know.
47	TP	Okay. ... What about like, in the neighborhoods, like North Side,
48	TB	Umhm
49	TP	Or the Hill District, or ... Wilkinsburgh? ... Do African Americans speak differently in these sort of ... communities, within Pittsburgh?
50	TB	... I don’t know. I-, i-, to me it, it, I never heard any distinctions in the [neighborhood.]
51	TP	[Yeah.] Okay.
52	TB	They’re like words I hear all the time, but =
53	TP	= Unhunh.
54	TB	And I’m sure there’s probably words that are particular to, to each neighborhood ... Cause like I grew up in East Liberty.
55	TP	Okay. =
56	TB	= And so everybody says, “SLIBERTY”
57	TP	Mmhm. “SLIBERTY” =
58	TB	= Um, you know. I know people who grew up on the, the N- <u>North</u> Side, I got, ... it’s hard for me to say it, and they say, “ <u>NOR SIDE</u> ”
59	TP	“ <u>North</u> ”
60	TB	“ <u>NOR</u> ,” “ <u>NOR SIDE</u> ”
61	TP	“ <u>NOR SIDE</u> .” Okay.

62	TB	So, () I () Things like that, but I never actually thought about the differences, I always thought about ... it was just like words that we just grew up saying, and ... ((breathes in)) I thought everybody said them.
63	TP	Hmm.
64	TB	Mmhm.
65	TP	So that is interesting, because, uh, ... when did you notice, it, there was a change, a difference ... between how ... people speak in like more professional [settings] versus ... informally, did you notice that change in college?
66	TB	[Mmhm] I noticed it when I went to Upward Bound. I mean it was really distinct, because it was almost like ((breathes in)) when ... there were certain ... you, o-, folks in the room ... there was this, you know, it was very proper English, and, you know everybody ... made sure they pronounced all their <u>w</u> ords, and didn't eat the ends of words, like Pittsburghers are prone to do.
67	TP	Yeah.
68	TB	((breathes in)) And, um, ... but then it was like, when , you know certain folks left the room, it was just like people, you, felt, a lil-, ... um, let their hair down.
69	TP	Yes.
70	TB	And it almost was like a way of connecting.
71	TP	Okay. =
72	TB	= You know, it, it was unspoken, but it was like, that's the experience that you and me can [have together], cause it's ours.
73	TP	[... have together] Mmhm.
74	TB	And ... it's not a secret, but it's something that's sacred between you and me.
75	TP	Mmhm.
76	TB	It's almost like ... "Phew, okay, hmm, Boss is gone, ... n-, now we can do what we gotta do."
77	TP	Mmhm.
78	TB	Or we got to say what we need to say to each other in a way that makes sense.
79	TP	And I'm, now you and I are talking were talking earlier about how like, you know, Pittsburgh communities are segregated, right [by] various ethnicities.
80	TB	[Mmhm.] Mmhm.
81	TP	Um, do you think that Pittsburghers actually share this or have this in common? Pittsburghese? This particular way, this language?
82	TB	Umhm.
83	TP	Um, even though, there is, you know, sort of this color line that's,
84	TB	Mmhm. I think there are ... some words that are common ... across Pittsburgh, you know, like, "POP."
85	TP	Mmhm.
86	TB	And it, I think, you know, ... "GUMBAND." I think those are

		things that people say that's part of like ... the Pittsburgh ... language.
87	TP	Mmhm.
88	TB	And then, ... I don't know if there's such thing as a sublanguage, or whatever, but just kind of like ... on the ethnic level, there are ... words that make, you know, ... words that are, that are peculiar to one neighborhood, and, you know, other words that are peculiar to other neighborhoods.
89	TP	Unhunh.
90	TB	But um,
91	TP	Do you, so do you think that like African Americans share a different vernacular?
92	TB	Mmhm.
93	TP	Than like maybe, um, the other ethnic communities?
94	TB	Mmhm. =
95	TP	= Yeah.
96	TB	I think there are ... certain words that are, um, that get spoken in, in communities of color, but I see also that sometimes those language barriers are being broken down
97	TP	Okay
98	TB	by music, and stuff like that, and more and more ... words that might have twenty years just stayed ... in conversations among Black people, you start to see ... in ... groups of young White people, or [you start] to see 'em show up
99	TP	[Unh.] Yes.
100	TB	Words showing up in videos and stuff like that. =
101	TP	= Mmhm. Mmhm. =
102	TB	= So I, I, see that ... I don't know, I guess it's more and more, um, ... some aspects of Black life get assimilated into the larger culture. =
103	TP	= Yeah. =
104	TB	= Even those things that were peculiar to Black people =
105	TP	= Yes. =
106	TB	= become part of just everyday language now. =
107	TP	= Mmhm.
108	TB	You know, I mean, it, it amazes me that I hear, um, people using words that feel like, ... belong to another community.
109	TP	Yes.
110	TB	Cause where was I, heard some older White woman, what was it she said? What was, what () ... what is it that she said? ... Oh, um, ... something bout "up in here." I was like, "Oo, woo, where'd she hear that?" Cause I was like, when I grew, was growing up ... there were words that people wouldn't say.
111	TP	Yes.
112	TB	And then so, I see ... I don't know, [some lines] crossing, but in

		terms of Pittsburghese ((breathes in))
113	TP	[But you] It's [basically across the board.]
114	TB	[basiacally... across the board.] ((swallows))
115	TP	Hmm. That's interesting, because if you have people who are unwilling to come to certain sec-, sections ... of Pittsburgh where African Americans reside, =
116	TB	= Mmhm.
117	TP	But then they're willing to use certain African American vernacular, ... or ... terms,
118	TB	Mmhm.
119	TP	Um, ... so they embrace African American culture from the [outside], right?
120	TB	[... outside] ... Cause that's the, ... I see that a lot in TV, and again, sometimes just listening to people's con-, um, conversations, in everyday conversations you start to see more and more ... you know, African American slang, or whatever being acceptable and being written in ... dictionaries and stuff, or ... tells people, "It's okay to use it now."
121	TP	Yeah, exactly, when, [when] somebody else makes it legitimate, =
122	TB	[Mmhm.] = Mmhm.
123	TP	= then it's okay to use it
124	TB	= Then it's okay.
125	TP	Yeah.
126	TB	You know, cause I heard, uh, wha-, ... what did, ...I, was, was I on the bus? ... Oh, I heard these, this one ... young white girl say, "I'm feelin some kind of way." I was like
127	TP	"I'm feelin some kind of way"
128	TB	= () Allrighty now.
129	TP	((laughs))
130	TB	And so it's almost like you see it, and, and it becomes part of the culture
131	TP	Mmhm
132	TB	And it makes you wonder ... will there ever ... are we going to be so homogenized now that nothing remains ... kind of, um, distinctive to a particular community anymore, with all the mass media and the marketing and, you know, videos and stuff like that, will it all be blurred at some point in time?
133	TP	Hmm ... So do you think Pittsburghese is really an extension of identity in terms of a typical Pittsburgher?
134	TB	I think so, I [think], um, ... there were words I grew up hearing that I thought everybody said, I, I heard them so often I thought ... <u>Americans</u> said these words.
135	TP	[Yeah.] Really?
136	TB	And then, you know, I went to ... um, Chicago, and I said, "I don't mean to be NUBBY," and people just stopped and looked at me, like, ["Wwwhat?"] (Cause) like all my life I heard people say

		“nubby.” =
137	TP	[(laughs)] = Yeah =
138	TB	= I knew, I ... thought everybody said that ... you know, just like I thought everybody said, “RED UP.”
139	TP	Umhm ... Did you, um, like have you, in people’s pronunciation of “downtown,”
140	TB	((laughs))
141	TP	have you ever hear, like, ... did you find yourself pronouncing, “downtown,” like, [“DOWNTOWN”]
142	TB	[“DOWNTOWN”] No. =
143	TP	= Yeah. =
144	TB	= [No. Hm mm (no)]
145	TP	= [No? Never?] Actually? Really?
146	TB	... Mm mm (no)
147	TP	Like, do you see yourself as ... being conscious of the fact that you were saying it, or you may be were unconscious of it? ((laughs))
148	TB	I just never said that, =
149	TP	= ((laughs)) =
150	TB	= Now, “SLIBERTY,” I always [said, “SLIBERTY.”] ((laughs))
151	TP	[(said that.) ((laughs))]
152	TB	But I never said, “DOWNTOWN,” cause to my ear that sounded funny.
153	TP	Really? =
154	TB	= Mmhm.
155	TP	... See that’s interesting to me cause you embrace all the other, =
156	TB	= Mmhm =
157	TP	= you, you sort of ... [incorporate] that into your language
158	TB	[Mmhm.] Mmhm =
159	TP	= Right, or social, socialize the speak, these particular Pittsburghese [terms,]
160	TB	[Mmhm.]
161	TP	but then like, [“DOWNTOWN”] is not a, uh, uh, the, the actual ... dialect
162	TB	[“DOWN-”] Mm mm (no)
163	TP	Never ever, ever actually
164	TB	Mm mm (no)
165	TP	became the way, a part of the way you speak
166	TB	Mm mm (no)
167	TP	Really? =
168	TB	= No. =
169	TP	= That’s interesting. Wow, okay. Alright.
170	TB	((laughs))
171	TP	Well that’s, that’s something to, to be said then.