

Turn	Speaker	Lines
1	BJ	((Sound of water running, dishes clinking, clock ticking, in background.)) Um...now let me ask you some more specific questions about...language. Have you ever heard of Pittsburghese?
2	CC	Yes.
3	BJ	What is it?
4	CC	((Intake of breath)) It's, um...sayings, phrases, words that, apparently, are unique to our city.
5	BJ	((Intake of breath)) Yeah, like what?
6	CC	Like-
7	BJ	I mean can you give me [some examples?]
8	CC	[Like "YINZ" and] "YUNZ."
9	BJ	Mm-hmm. ["YINZ" and "YUNZ"? Are they...?
10	CC	[And...] Uh- ((Water is turned off)) uh- [I've never-]
11	BJ	[Are they] different, or...?
12	CC	I've never figured out, but it's- it seems to be...you plural.
13	BJ	Mm-hmm.
14	CC	But I've heard both used in the same situation.
15	BJ	Yeah. Uh-huh.
16	CC	For the same thing. So they may be interchangeable.
17	BJ	Mm-hmm. ((1 second pause)) And what would be some other examples?
18	CC	Um... I think the accent. Like, "DAHNTAHN."
19	BJ	Uh-huh.
20	CC	And... "STUFF," if you say, "I'm going to do STUFF and that ((N'AT)), " kind of, is local. ((The use of "STUFF" seems to be what is identified as Pittsburghese, not the "N'AT" which she seems to perform unaware. See 163-164.))
21	BJ	Mm-hmm.
22	CC	Uh... "J" and "L" runs together, like, "JAYNELL."
23	BJ	Mm-hmm.
24	CC	That kind of thing.
25	BJ	Mm-hmm. ((Sound of someone using a microwave, beeps sounding as the time is set, etc.)) ((2 second pause)) ((Intake of breath)) So how do you know about...those things, I mean is the ((Clears throat)) are these, uh...just things you've noticed...because you heard other people say- ((1 second pause)) you've heard other people say them, or you've heard them yourself, or...?
26	CC	I...never noticed it actually, but, ((Microwave beeps)) um, other people from out of town noticed it, and I think over the years it's-it's gotten to be kind of a joke and pointed out...to us. And, in fact, I have a...I have a pair of- of cups that have Pittsburghese written

		all over them. I was trying to think of what was written...on the cups. ((Laughs))
27	BJ	Yeah. ((Laughs)) Yeah, I think those cups were from the Pittsburgh Press, or [something?]
28	CC	[Yes they] were.
29	BJ	Yeah. Somebody [else told me about them.]
30	CC	[Yeah, my uncle] who was from Philadelphia found a Pittsburghese pamphlet at the airport he bought...and brought it when he came-when he came over. ((Laughs))
31	BJ	((Laughs)) Yeah?
32	CC	((Laughs)) Yes.
33	BJ	What was- Do you remember what that looked like? Was it a little black-and-gold book, or...?
34	CC	Mm-hmm. It looked like a map, but it wasn't that- but that shape.
35	BJ	A map?
36	CC	A map if it's folded up. [It] was that shape.
37	BJ	[Oh.] Mm-hmm. Mm-hmm.
38	CC	And in- in one of those, um... They're not called carousels, but the things that turn around...
39	BJ	Mm-hmm.
40	CC	That...have postcards in them [and that kind] of thing.
41	BJ	[Yeah, yeah. Uh-huh.] Yeah. ((1 second pause)) ((Intake of breath)) Yeah, and then, uh, I guess there're other things that have Pittsburghese written on them.
42	CC	Yes, I'm sure.
43	BJ	Like T-shirts, and...
44	CC	Yeah. ((Laughs))
45	BJ	If you ever go down to the Strip you see T-shirts there...or refrigerator [magnets]...you know, postcards, [that kind of thing... Uh-huh, uh-huh.]
46	CC	(((Laughing))) Yes.] [Otherwise...I didn't] really notice.
47	BJ	((Intake of breath)) So you wouldn't have noticed if other people hadn't...
48	CC	((Laughing)) No.
49	BJ	Kind of started making fun of it?
50	CC	((Laughing)) I don't think so.
51	BJ	Yeah? Uh-huh. I think you're- I- I think you're exactly right about that.
52	CC	((Laughs))
53	BJ	((Intake of breath)) Uh, would you say you ever use any of these...Pittsburghese things? ((2 second pause)) Or [do you have...?]
54	CC	[I think I] do and don't know it.
55	BJ	Uh-huh.
56	CC	My dad was very strict with us. We were never allowed...to say

		“YINZ”...or anything like that. [He’d] say, “Nah, nah, nah, nah...”
57	BJ	[Uh-huh.] ((Intake of breath)) Did his...family talk- have a local accents? Where were they...? ((1 second pause)) That you remember, [or your grandparents?]
58	CC	[They- It’s not so] much accents as words.
59	BJ	Oh.
60	CC	Like my aunt- my aunts will say that she “got a DINGE in her car.”
61	BJ	((Intake of breath)) Mm-hmm.
62	CC	You know, and that’s...“A what?” ((Laughs))
63	BJ	Uh-huh.
64	CC	((Laughs)) But I- I knew she had a dent, so I put one and one together.
65	BJ	Uh-huh.
66	CC	Yeah, that kind of thing. And, um... ((2 second pause)) uh, what...? Oh, she drops her “T’s.” She’ll “MAT-RESS.”
67	BJ	((2 second pause.)) “MAT-RESS.”
68	CC	“MAT-RESS.” [Yeah.]
69	BJ	[Huh.] Mm-hmm. That’s interesting.=
70	CC	=She’s the only one. My dad doesn’t do it. He’s...
71	BJ	Mm-hmm.
72	CC	But- but she’s the only one in the family who knows- My grandma...always called “the car,” “the machine.”
73	BJ	Really?
74	CC	Mm-hmm.
75	BJ	I never heard that. “The machine.”
76	CC	Yep.
77	BJ	Uh-huh.
78	CC	Always.
79	BJ	Uh-huh.
80	CC	And sometimes my aunt will still do it.
81	BJ	Mm-hmm. Now, these were your father’s... [you father’s...?]
82	CC	[My- my] dad’s mom and sister.
83	BJ	Yeah, uh-huh.
84	CC	Yes.
85	BJ	((2 second pause)) What did they...do? What does your grandfather...do? What’s he...?
86	CC	My grandfather...worked for the city for- in a number of jobs, so it was...during the depression, so it was [like], whatever. Um... His brother was a tool-and-die man.
87	BJ	[Mm-hmm.] Mm-hmm.
88	CC	And my grandfather was very handy.
89	BJ	Mm-hmm.
90	CC	He could do...anything. Hang wallpaper...um, fix stuff. He [worked] for the...fire department opening the fire hydrants.
91	BJ	[Mm-hmm.] Hmm.

92	CC	Um...usually when they sat down to dinner my ((laughing)) dad said there would be a fire.
93	BJ	((Laughs))
94	CC	That kind of thing.
95	BJ	Yeah.
96	CC	So...
97	BJ	Uh-huh. What about your other grandparents? On your mother's side?
98	CC	Um, my mom's side...my grandfather worked for the railroads.
99	BJ	Oh.
100	CC	She grew up in the (Corville), Johnstown, (Evansburgh) area.
101	BJ	Mm-hmm.
102	CC	And he was, um...he had worked his way up to, um...eeh, who's the guy with the engineer?
103	BJ	((4 second pause)) The one...?
104	CC	The next step to engineer, but he wasn't an engineer yet. But he had started, literally, back of the train, in the caboose.
105	BJ	Mm-hmm.
106	CC	And worked his way up. But he had a series of heart-attacks.
107	BJ	Mm-hmm.
108	CC	So they moved to Wilkinsburgh.
109	BJ	((1 second pause)) Mm-hmm.
110	CC	And then, um, my grandma who had worked...on a newspaper, and had her own newspaper, little newspaper up in the...Johnstown area, went back to work...doing that.
111	BJ	Hmm. She had her own newspaper?
112	CC	Just a little one. Just for the town of (Corville). Just a little...
113	BJ	(Corville)? Is that-
114	CC	Gazette...
115	BJ	Uh-huh. Huh.
116	CC	Kind of the thing.
117	BJ	That's interesting. I didn't know women...did that kind of thing.
118	CC	Well, she had... She- she did- When she worked for a newspaper, she did two or three jobs and didn't get paid what the men got paid for doing one.
119	BJ	Uh-huh. I'm- I bet.
120	CC	Yeah. ((Laughs))
121	BJ	Yeah. ((Laughs)) Mm-hmm. ((Intake of breath)) Yeah. ((2 second pause)) So have you ever heard the term "YINZER"? I- Have you ever heard somebody refer to someone else as a "YINZER"?
122	CC	No.
123	BJ	No? ((1 second pause)) It's weird. That's a term some people know it and some people don't, you know.
124	CC	Huh.
125	BJ	Uh, mostly, I think, it's a fairly new term, but some- some-

126	CC	Oh. Oh...
127	BJ	Some people our age, not very many, have heard it. You can imagine what it means, I mean it's- that- it's used for someone with a real strong local [accent] and local identity and it's... It depends on who's saying it whether it's a compliment or an insult, you know. ((Laughs))
128	CC	(((Laughs)) Yeah.) ((Laughs))
129	BJ	That's interesting... ((Papers shuffling)) So, let me just ask you a few specific words. You've heard people say "YINZ."
130	CC	Mm-hmm.
131	BJ	((Clears throat)) Where? I mean, in school, or in, uh...?
132	CC	School. Around the neighborhood, mostly.
133	BJ	Mm-hmm... Mm-hmm. What about "YINZ GUYS"? Is that also [a Pittsburgh thing?]
134	CC	[Oh, yes.] "YINZ GUYS."
135	BJ	Yeah? ((Intake of breath)) Uh-huh. What about, uh, if somebody... had extra food and they said, "These leftovers need eating," or "The lawn needs cut," or "The car needs washed." Is that the way you would say...those things?
136	CC	Yeah. Is that wrong?
137	BJ	((Laughs))
138	CC	((Laughs))
139	BJ	It's not wrong. It's local.
140	CC	Oh.
141	BJ	I don't know what- [I mean wrong is sort of a relative term, but...]
142	CC	(((Laughs)) Yeah. That's- that's- that's) what we say, [actually.]
143	BJ	[Yeah,] that's what people say. Yeah, that is a local thing. ((Intake of breath)) Although, it's not just local to Pittsburgh. It's- You hear that- You hear those things all through the- this part of the- not this part... If you went straight west from here there's this kind of slice of the Midwest where you...[uh...]
144	CC	[Oh.] Really?
145	BJ	Where you hear those...
146	CC	Huh.
147	BJ	Where you hear people use those expressions. ((2 second pause)) But not just those expressions, it's actually a little bit of grammar that's...
148	CC	Oh.=
149	BJ	=And it's from Scotch-Irish.
150	CC	Oh. Okay.
151	BJ	From Irish- the English that the Scotch-Irish spoke.
152	CC	Huh.
153	BJ	((1 second pause)) So, you know. ((2 second pause)) ((Intake of breath.)) What about "REDD UP"?
154	CC	Yes.

155	BJ	“REDD UP,” what...?
156	CC	That’s what we did before you got here.
157	BJ	((Laughing)) Yeah?
158	CC	Yes. ((Laughs))
159	BJ	Well, uh... ((Clears throat)) So that’s what you- That’s the word you actually use, or...?
160	CC	Yes, we use... Yes. Often.
161	BJ	Mm-hmm.
162	CC	Yes.
163	BJ	You mentioned “N’AT,” before. ((Intake of breath)) Do you use that, or is that just- were you just using that as a- giving me that as an example? ((2 second pause)) Do say that? Do you say, “N’AT”? Like- like, “The Pirates N’AT”?
164	CC	((2 second pause)) Uh, yes, I do.
165	BJ	Mm-hmm. Mm-hmm. And you know people who do. Have you ever heard of a “GRINNY”?
166	CC	Mm-mm.
167	BJ	((Smacks lips)) That’s an old...
168	CC	No.
169	BJ	Old local word for a chipmunk. I think. [Or] a chipmunk, or a mole, or something. A little [animal?]
170	CC	[Oh.] [Oh.] No.
171	BJ	Not very many Pittsburghers...use- [use] it. Only one or two people I’ve talked to have...known that word. But it’s an old...
172	CC	[Oh...] Oh.
173	BJ	Might have- Might have been more of a rural...word.
174	CC	Oh. Perhaps.
175	BJ	Um...
176	CC	Yeah.
177	BJ	What about people who say “PICKSBURGH”?
178	CC	“PICKSBURGH.” I’ve heard [it. I don’t] use it...[but I’ve] heard it.
179	BJ	[You’ve heard it?] [Who use-] You have an- a sense of who says that, or...?
180	CC	Yeah, my- Actually, my mom heard it the most up at (Woodier). On Mount Washington, the- her kids.
181	BJ	Really?
182	CC	Yes. [And a number of them-]
183	BJ	[And what was Mount] Washington? It was German, or...? I mean, ethnically...what was it when you’re mom was teaching there?
184	CC	I don’t know ‘cause kids were bused in from all [over the city.]
185	BJ	[Oh, yeah.] Mm-hmm.
186	CC	So it was a mixture.
187	BJ	Mm-hmm.
188	CC	What the neighborhood actually was, I don’t know.
189	BJ	Mm-hmm.

190	CC	But, um... ((2 second pause)) Yeah, they said that a lot and...she said a number of the parents called the school "Whitaker."
191	BJ	((1 second pause)) Really?
192	CC	And they had gone there.
193	BJ	"Whitaker."
194	CC	Yes.
195	BJ	So they just added a...
196	CC	Yeah, they just- [Yeah, they just stuck it in there. Yeah.]
197	BJ	[((Cough)) Added another syllable in the middle.] Yeah. Uh-huh.
198	CC	((Laughs.))
199	BJ	Mm-hmm. ((Intake of breath)) What did you, uh, major- I mean, what- what was your specialty in English when you were doing English lit.
200	CC	Engl- Uh, that was it. English lit.
201	BJ	But, I mean, did you have a particular period or...genre or something that you liked?
202	CC	No. [No.]
203	BJ	No? [Just] everything?
204	CC	It was just a general...
205	BJ	Mm-hmm. Do you still read a lot?
206	CC	Yeah, I do. ((End section on Pittsburghese. Remainder of interview reveals that CC enjoys Jane Austen, and finds here very romantic, etc.... Also enjoys Dickens!))