

# Multilingual journeys through volunteering: A dialogic inquiry of identity through Ukrainian, Japanese, and English

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# MY TEACHING BACKGROUND

Jin-ai University 仁愛大学コミュニケーション学科	Lecturer, language instructor 特任講師（英語）	April 2021- Present 2021年～
Fuzoku Compulsory Education University of Fukui 福井大学附属義務教育学校後期課程	Junior High School ALT 中学校のALT	April 2020- March 2021 2020年4月～2021年3月
Fukui City Board of Education 福井市学校教育課	Elementary School ALT 小学校のALT	August 2013- March 2020 2013年8月～2020年3月
Fukui Pref. Board of Education 福井県学校教育委員会	Junior High School ALT 中学校のALT	August 2008- July 2013 2008年8月～2013年7月

# LANGUAGE IN REAL-TIME



On February 24<sup>th</sup>  
Russian invaded  
Ukraine

To date more than 5  
million Ukrainians  
have left Ukraine

Currently there are  
more than 1000  
migrants from  
Ukraine in Japan

Common languages  
(Ukrainian and  
Russian)

## Translation services

- Online
- Face-to-face
- Pocket translation devices

# NEEDS ASSESSMENT

Ukrainians arriving to Fukui

Prior to February 24<sup>th</sup> (10 Ukrainian nationals)

Ukrainian-Japanese speakers (unknown)

Assistance Provided

# MY BACKGROUND IN TRANSLATION AND INTERPRETING WORK



# INFLUENCES ON MY ROAD TO DAMASCUS

Canadian-born  
and raised

My home is Japan

My heart is  
Ukrainian

I speak Ukrainian,  
Japanese and  
English



Are you American?

Coming to Japan  
learning Japanese / speaking English

What are you?

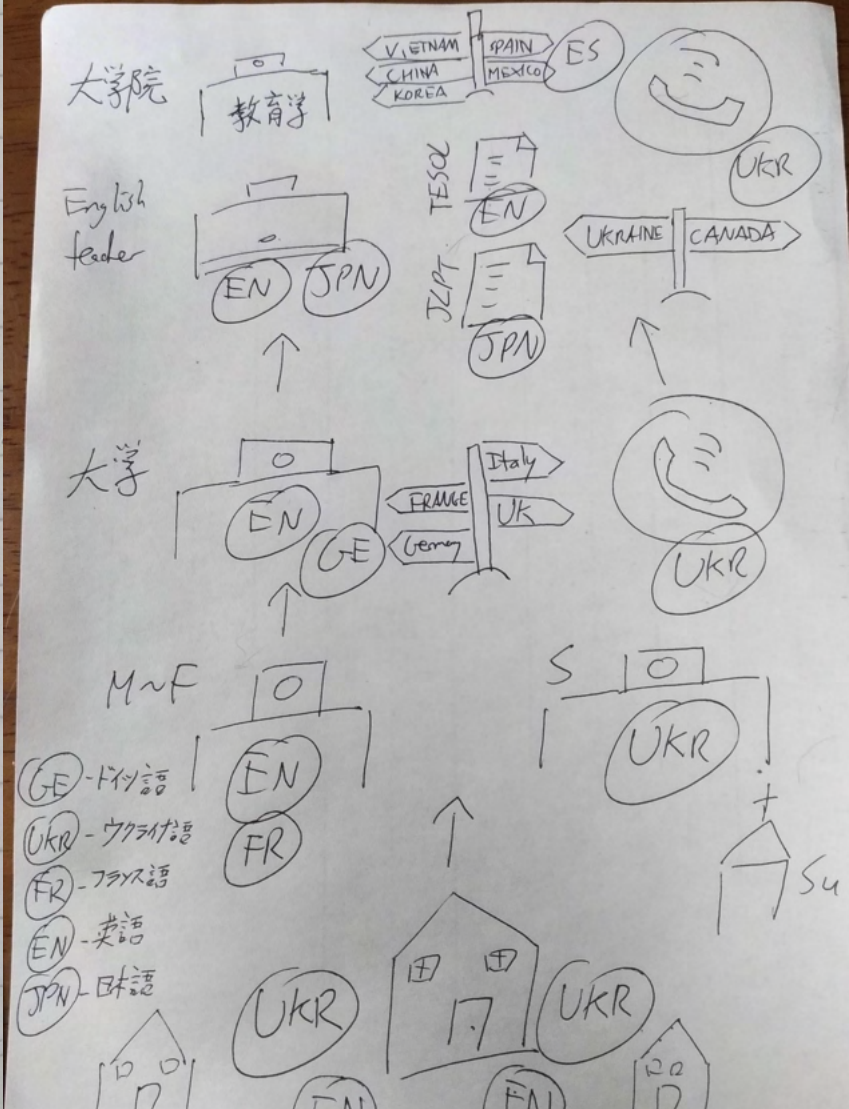
Attending Ukrainian School  
on Saturdays (Heritage school)

What is language?  
How do you say that?

Encarta 1995

Children's books  
Ukrainian and English

interacting with relatives and  
close family (Ukrainian)



MY LANGUAGE LANDSCAPE

# DIALOGIC INQUIRY OF IDENTITY





# INFLUENCES ON A DIALOGIC INQUIRY

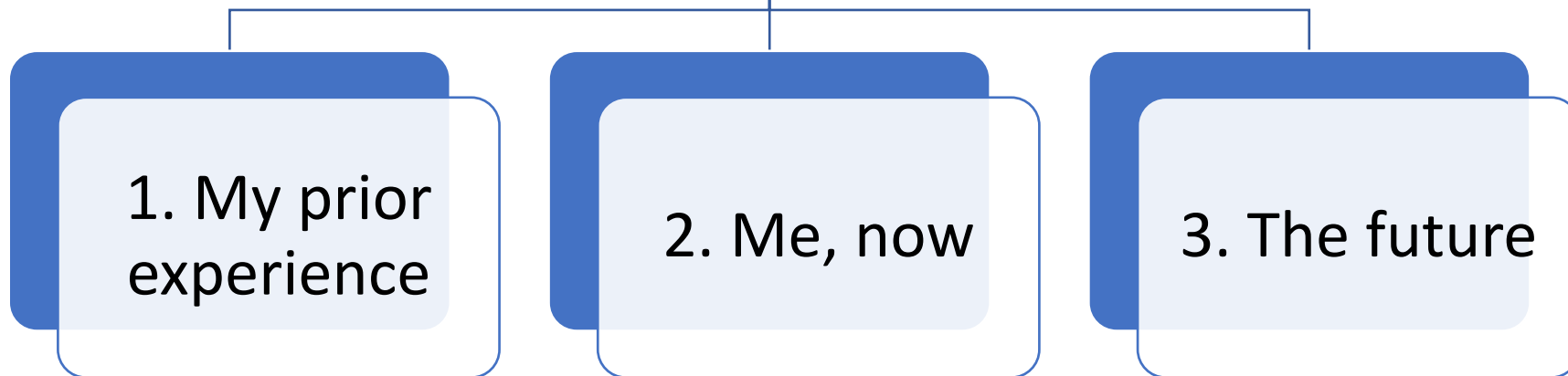
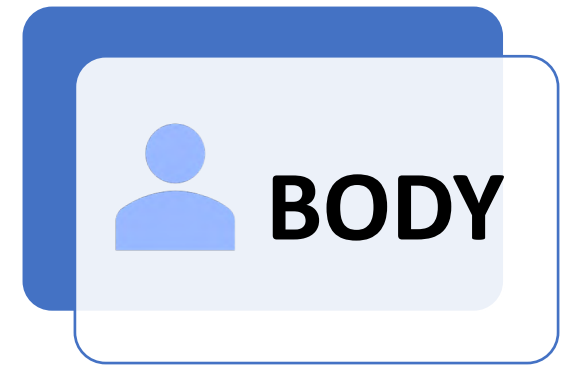
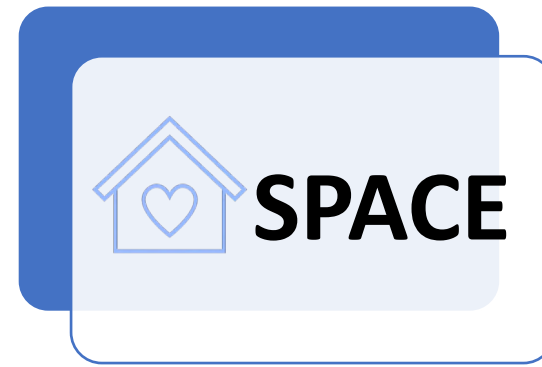
When I have a  
chance to listen  
and offer advice

When people  
realize I have  
something to say

When people are  
happy to talk about  
themselves and their  
experiences

When I have a chance to be  
critical and am offered  
criticism without simply  
accepting my words and  
actions for face value- it  
strengthens my values

# PHENOMENOLOGICAL APPROACH





## **TIME**

### 1. My prior experience

Family roots

Existential dilemma

Ukrainian diaspora



## TIME

### 2. Me, now

My name

Studying Ukrainian

Work as translator and interpreter

Influence on my classroom discourse





## TIME

### 3. The future

Translation and Interpreting

Crisis management

Influence on my career

- Counsellor
- Psychologist
- Humanitarian work
- International relations



# SPACE

My outlets

Drawing from experiences

Reminders of my identity- language landscape

Support networks



# BODY

Embrace myself

Validation

Alone time

Being seen



CONNECTING TIME,  
SPACE AND BODY

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# What's Next?

Embracing myself



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graph TD; A[Embracing myself] --> B[Self-awareness]; B --> C[Self-worth, self-respect]; C --> D[Finding my purpose]; D --> E[Career re-thinking];
```

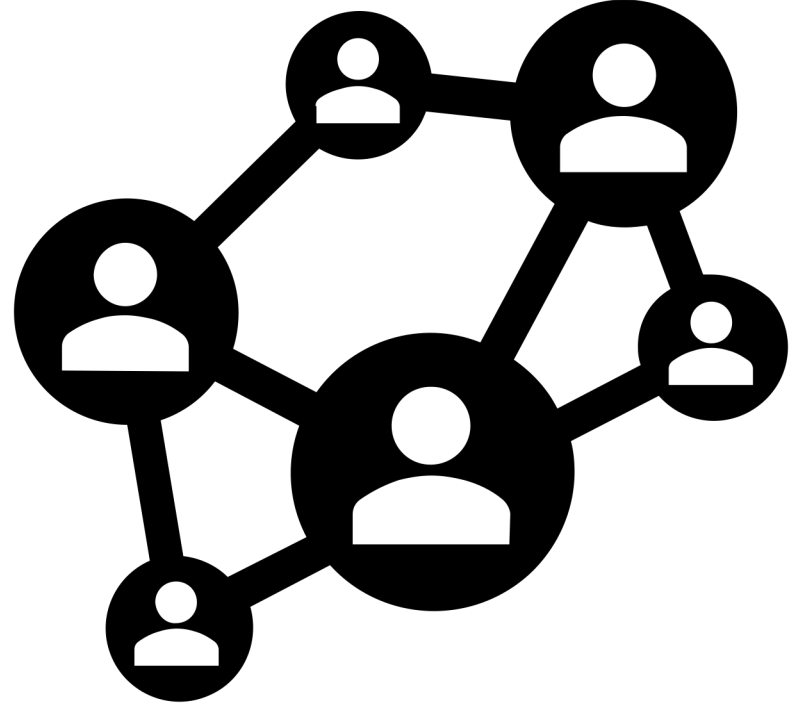
Self-awareness

Self-worth, self-respect

Finding my purpose

Career re-thinking

Thank you for your time!



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