JF – Speaker 8 Native French Speaker with Dutch and English skills

Mod: OK so I’d like to start with some of the general questions, and I would like you to maybe tell me a little bit more about your experience in working in and NGO environment

S8: (inhales)

Mod: in general/

S8; ok so

Mod; it doesn’t have to be chronological?

S8: yeah, yeah, yeah. So, uhm (.) before CAN

Mod: mhm

S8: I worked for the Belgian (vulue) ministry of energy and before that I worked for Greenpeace. That’s my NGO experience.

Mod: mhm

S8: and/

Mod; and that would be about how many years?

S8: 10 years

Mod: 10 years uhm, so you have quite a good knowledge of the,

S8: yeah

Mod; how the environment works?

S8: and it was language wise it was very(.) different

Mod: mhm

S8; it was not completely differnet but it was different because when we were uhm with contacts with the other Greenpeace offices it was like here being in contact with the members

Mod: mhm

S8: things were happening in English, but some things were happening in national languages because (.)/

Mod: /mhm

S8: we had them in common? But between colleagues it was very differnet because in the Belgian office there are Dutch speaking Belgian people and French speaking Belgian people

Mod: mhm

S8: so er while here we got people from many different countries. But er: (.) I’m focusing on languages right?

Mod; yes, good! [2:52:606]

S8: But because Dutch speaking Belgian people speak better French than French people speak Dutch

Mod: mhm

S8: er a lot was happening in French. Even though the rule was that everyone would speak in his or her own language.

Mod: mhm

S8: a lot of the Dutch speaking Belgian people would speak French.

Mod: and who had set that rule?

S8: It was sort of informal rule. I mean it was the efficiency rule, I mean you speak better in your language if the other one understands it’s better if everyone speaks in the other people’s language?

Mod: yeah

S8: it’s happen from time to time. You lose a lot of the nuances and that

Mod: mhm, mhm

S8: but anyway, but I think, but since I left or just before I left the policy was to more and more write, maybe not speak, but to write (in as far as) in English.

Mod: mhm

S8: within the Greenpeace Belgian office which I find ridiculous and a shame, because you know @@ when Belgian people speak English among themselves it’s (.) I do it here because it’s

Mod: well, you

S8: the context is er: English speaking but otherwise you know

Mod: mhm. What do you mean by English speaking? You have such a (.) variety of languages here.

S8: yeah, yeah, but I mean the common one is clearly English here [4.13.178] because of the variety

Mod: mhm

S8: we can, we could say ‘OK on Monday we all speaks Polish

Mod: mhm

S8: and on Tuesday we all speak French and on Wednesday we all speak Spanish’ but it wouldn’t work.

Mod: mhm, yeah

S8: Unfortunately. Er so that’s one experience and [cliques the tongue] I’m (.) going to mention the working for the ministry of er

Mod: mhm

S8: energy? Of the Walloon government as well the Walloon region is French speaking so everything was in French but when we had contact with the other regions and with the federal government it was Dutch

Mod: mhm

S8: the Dutch language was also (.)

Mod: used?

S8: involved, and for the European (unintelligible) documents were in English as well.

Mod: mhm

S8: so the three languages were necessary

MoD: how about German? Because I know that German is also used in:/

S8: /Yeah

Mod: the Eastern part

S8: it’s an official language, but, er only er I think 70 thousand people speak it, so

Mod: mhm

S8: it, yeah (.) I think it should be more respected but

Mod: mhm

S8: it’s a

Mod: but they do function in other languages like French and Dutch?

S8: Er F:rench because, it’s a it’s a German speaking community but they are in in the Walloon region

Mod: mhm

S8: er so, f- I never, I speak a little bit of German but not very much just a few words to be polite, like in Polish @

Mod: mhm

S8: but, yeah in secondary school in Belgium you can choose between English and Dutch first

Mod: mhm, yeah

S8: and you can choose both if you want but you can also choose only one so, so not even choose Dutch but choose English first. And then you can choose er, depends on the school but in my school we could choose in addition to English and Dutch we could choose Spanish or German. And I took Spanish because I found it was more interesting to travel

Mod: mhm

S8: than German. That’s it, basically. But yes, it should be more respectful to have, to have everything in er I mena in German and to speak German.

Mod: yeah and Now(.) if we could compare your experiences like past experiences in working in different NGOs or different er ministry and NGOs and CAN in terms of language er what were the similarities? You said obviously you had different languages here? And there but here it’s obviously as you said English

S8: mhm, yeah

Mod; whereas in Greenpeace it was then at some point they just developed that rule [6:45.099] for emails to be in English

S8: yeah

Mod: but is there anything else that you think is is very different or very similar to what it is in CAN now?

S8: well, difference is that here English er in greenpeace Belgium there were two languages or three languages actually

Mod: mhm, like official?

S8: er yeah, in a way. French Dutch and then English as the, er sort of work language

Mod: mhm

S8: here English is the work language as well obviously but there is more diversity.

Mod: mhm

S8: there’s a few Belgians @ but also people from differnet countries, so I think the: (.) use of language happens at two levels?

Mod: mhm

S8: that, top, general level is English used

Mod: mhm

S8: spoken, written between everyone and then when you have like more bilateral er conversations or email exchanges some, some things happen also in other languages (unintelligible) by the two, or three or more people.

Mod; ok, so bilateral you mean like between maybe you and two or maybe three people/

S8: if I write an email to (person from the office whose L1 is French) I write it in French for instance.

Mod; OK

S8; but somethimes I forget, it’s automatic I write it in English.

Mod: mhm

S8: Same for (S6) I usually write it in Dutch sometimes in French, because I really want the nuances to be in there and I know S6 understands the nuances when I write it that

Mod: mhm

S8: sometimes I just type in English because S6 wrote in English and I/

Mod; just reply

S8; don’t pay attention

Mod: mhm

S8: but I try to, if I s- , (1) if I have a conversation or interaction with someone from one country I try to use the national language first

Mod: mhm

S8: it’s also a way to a (.) (inhales) to keep a, my knowledge of this language

Mod: mhm, mhm, so you’d pay attention to that. But also you, I’ve noticed that in this office like you nad S4 and some other people are willing to erm to learn other languages, even like, small phrases

S8: yeah

Mod: that’s very nice/

S8: /It’s just politeness I guess/

Mod: mhm

S8: and fun.

Mod; yeah, OK, how about role, could you erm describe your role in a little bit more details, so that we more or less know what you’re doing and, it doesn’t have to be from the perspective of language. It’s/

S8: /uhm, yeah

Mod: just general what, what you do

S8: yeah,

Mod; here in CAN

S8: I’m called renewables policy coordinator, before that I was renewables officer. I left the army since then @

Mod: mhm @

S8: well there are two sides of the coin I would say. One is to er liaise and coordinate with the Brussels based NGOs

Mod: mhm

S8: erm, the big ones and small ones but usually bigger ones {the European offices of Greenpeace, WWF and Friends of the Earth and so on – provided examples of the bigger organizations} And the other side of the coin is to liaise and coordinate our members in the European countries and tell them what’s happening in Brussels and ask them to basically to influence the government to have an influence on a a European commission

Mod; Their national government you mean?

S8: yeah national government, yeah

Mod: mhm

S8: yeah

Mod; and (.) you say liaise, sort of communicate with those organizations, so what would you, what’s your choice, what’s your langauge choice for those two levels?

S8: Well, again, usually English, but if I write to a French person I write it, I try to write in French.

Mod: but that would be just again like you and/

S8: yeah

Mod: that person

S8: yeah

Mod: general? Like you said

S8: general English

Mod; OK

S8: I mean, there’s no doubt about it.

Mod: mhm

S8: sometimes I share information I mean if er (.) I don’t know. Sometimes I get access to er (clicks the tongue) er internal information?

Mod; what do you mean internal information?

S8: I mean er in in to er insider information?

Mod; Inside meaning the network or inside meaning in your field?

S8: No I mean, inside from the European institutions

Mod; OK

S8: sometimes it can be in French, for instance

Mod: mhm

S8: I try to translate a summary but sometimes, depending on the document and so on. Sometime I send

Mod: mhm

S8: send a document in er; French with a shrot accompanying message, people can always choose Google translate if they can, yeah

Mod: mhm

S8: If I do that in French a lot of people will read French so it’s easy, but If I get access to documents in er Dutch for instance, then

Mod: mhm, you have to/

S8: the Germans read Dutch more or less but many people wouldn’t understand a word so they have to use Google translate and then they sometimes get back to me to ask whether they understood correctly and so on.

Mod: mhm, so is it only emails that you engage in, in terms of communication? Means of communication whilst working?

S8: no, also the phone, or meetings.

Mod; mhm, and could you tell me a little bit more about this in terms of language. Wha- what would you

S8: again, it’s: the same

Mod: mhm

S8: I mean I try to use er, use few words of many languages, you know, to be polite and @ to break the ice

Mod: mhm

S8: er, but the most of the people, the conversations in meetings are in Englihs because it’s the language we share

Mod: mhm

S8: er but again I speak English, Dutch, French, Spanish

Mod: mhm

S8: to reasonable level so if I speak with a French person or a person who speaks French like me we speak French, For a Spanish person I, in Spanish, and so on, but then yeah, you can only know a @@ certain amount of languages so I don’t speak Finish

Mod: mhm

S8: or Slovenian

Mod; erm, and when you communicate with members, either on, like general level so you send an email let’s say to all your group or you know, one or two people do you every experience problems communicating something across? Have you ever had any problems that people maybe misunderstood your messages?

S8: mhm:

Mod; emails, or whatever?

S8: erm: (exhales) generally not, but yeah, sometimes, even myself, I, I re-read my the, er email I sent in English and I find that it’s not so clear?

Mod; mhm

S8: or it can be ambiguous, so I mad- I sometimes send a second message to say I meant this. Because yes, of course, I mean it’s especially for the work with er: Brussels based NGOs, there’s, there are a lot of English speaking people, English ,Scottish, Irish and so on, native.

Mod; like native?

S8: and they have er big advantage of course, because they

Mod: do you think so?

S8; yeah!

Mod: mhm

S8: Well, when writing an, for instance, if we publish documents or [14:05.880] or press releases and so on, when we do it always has to be checked by a native, English speaking person.

Mod; and/

S8: yeah

Mod: who set that rule?

S8: I think my documents

Mod: mhm

S8: because them

Mod: mhm, so you’d always have them checked by someone

S8: yeah!

Mod: like S7, or someone who’s native?

S8: well S6 does it, S3, but I also correct things form S3

Mod: mhm, but they’re not, OK

S8: even if they S3 doesn’t ask me because I spot mistakes and so

Mod; but you’re not a native speaker of English

S8: no! /but if we can/

Mod: so it doesn’t mean, mhm

S8: spot each others’ mistakes yeah

Mod; so instead of editing yeah but would you say if you produced a text would you have it, would you prefer to have it done like edited by a native speaker/

S8: yeah

Mod: or anyone who’s sort of in the office

S8: no, native, yeah

Mod; why native?

S8: because it’s their language, I mean

Mod: mhm

S8: we have for instance, er preparation, er policy recommendations on renewables governance or whatever

Mod: mhm

S8: and it was written by [WWF] German person, and {name of the person from another organization – Greenpeace} Irish, from [Greenpeace] has made comments, but the comments, make the text much more readable and better and so on .

Mod: mhm

S8: I mean, there wasn’t there were not really mistakes in the text but it reads better

Mod: mhm, OK

S8: it’s not, otherwise it’s a sort of, you know, STANDARDIZED er; average, European English which is much, using maybe 200 words which is much poorer than er, than, er

Mod; native?

S8: native, even though I’ve also read that English people also use only a few hundred words @ for their lifetime

Mod: mhm

S8: but, still I’m, the way I mean, the way the sentences are structured and so on

Mod: mhm

S8: it makes a difference. I think.

Mod: that’s very interesting what you’re saying. (Digression)

S8: and also I’ve noticed that sometimes native English speakers, press officers, for instance, they write in a way that’s not always understandable for a European audience.

Mod; yeah

S8; I’ve seen words and titles of press releases which I didn’t know

Mod: mhm

S8: even though I was an an exchange student in England during my studies nd I speak reasonable well English

Mod: mhm

S8: so the word I had to had to look up in a dictionary. When it’s in a title of a press release I think it’s a mistake,

Mod: mhm

S8: it’s too complicated

Mod; yeah, yeah, but mistakes not like language mitake, but mistake in the sence

S8 no, no, just a word that’s a word that’s almost never used. And I sent an email, not to the press officer, but to a colleague just to mention that and the person said {a person from another big NGO in Brussles} Irish, and she said ; oh why, I use this word all the time’, well I’ve never seen it anywhere@ so yeah

Mod: yeah

Mod: let’s go back to the fact that English is the dominant language in in CAN Europe, er and er let’s say in the office when you communicate with others

S8: mhm

Mod; and on a general terms and in the network, what is your opinion about that. The fact that English is the dominant language

S8: er I’m really in favour of er, of using all the languages in the world @ and I I find it for instance great that people have to learn Irish or Gaelic in Ireland and that kind of thing. In, in Walloonia in French speaking part of Belgium there is the Walloon language which is, that looks a lot like French but its like all French maybe

Mod; Oh

S8; I know a few words, but no one learns it an speaks it except the very old people which I find a shame, but at the same time if you want to communicate er you know with

Mod: mhm

S8: a lot of people from different countries, I don’t see any other solution that than using a lingua franca language? You know, language

Mod: mhm

S8: that’s used by EVERYONE and for me it could be French or it could be Spanish and so on but the fact is that most people learn English as their second language so it’s the (.) the BEST solution or least word solution to, for the quality of the the communication

Mod: mhm

S8: in the European Council? The energy ministers meet twice every six months and er usually they all speak their own language all of them and there’s translation direct or to English and then to national language, but er the Belgian minister from time to time speaks in English

Mod: mhm

S8: and ALWAYS the French Minister after that makes remark, says something like it’s a shame that one of the member states doesn‘t use one of it’s national languages @@

Mod: @@  
S8: in the Council because they really defend the the use of the French language as well

Mod: mhm

S8: I mean, yeah it’s nice but (exhales) when you have (.) simultaneous translation you can do that, but otherwise no one would understand they would all speak in in Hungarian and Finish and so on, they would look at each other and they wouldn’t understand.

Mod: mhm

S8: Some people would understand what maybe five other people have said and [21.04.559] (.) and and simultaneous translation is OK but sometimes I listen to er I hear what the Belgian minister says in French and I listen to the translation in English and sometimes there are mistakes in things you know. Er

Mod: yeah, but it’s simultaneous so (.)

S8: Yeah, yeah, it’s all very fast and so on.

Mod; yeah

S8: so yeah I think the, I mean it’s a reality, I mean

Mod: mhm

S8: you can change the system and try to use more languages

Mod: mhm

S8: but at the same time in the short term you want to be efficient so I think it makes sense to use E- English.

Mod: And would you say, cause again I am going back to research and

S8: mhm

Mod: different [21:44:549] people’s positions on on English, so some of them actually claim that English umm may become a threat or IS a threat to other languages because it’s. because of it dominant

S8: mhm

Mod; position and it may refer to different areas like for instance education, work place whatever. Err Do you thin that could be the case or is the case in CAN E.? in the network,

S8: mhm

Mod; or in general?

S8: mm no, I think it’s more to CAN network to communicate among. I mean, I am not supposed to ask you questions but,

Mod; yes, you are

S8: how (.) how wou- (.) how would we communicate otherwise? I mean, we would have er CAN Europe list French speaking, CAN Europe list Spanish speaking and then we would have to, everyone would have to fint in one of the lists? Er would have to multiply the translations and so on

Mod: mhm, yeah

S8: you see it a tt he Belgian level. Everything has to be translated in two or three languages all the time it’s: (.)

Mod: do you think it’s a good system, or?

S8: well its respectful for diversity and languages and cultures and so on. But er for CAN Europe a:nd (.) for Europe in general I think (.) when you see that all the documents all the important ones are translated to I don’t know how many language including er Catalan and Gaelic

Mod; mhm

S8: and so on it’s, it’s a waste of time I think

Mod; mhm so would you mhm/

S8: /because I am more pragmatic maybe

Mod: uhm

S8: but it doesn’t mean that I find important that (1) that people speak their language because it’s

Mod: mhm

S8: it’s a richness and there are (.) some things that cannot be said in another langauge

Mod: mhm

S8: and also yes, I mean I’ve learnt (uninteligible) Latin and Greek also in secondary school, ancient Greek

Mod: mhm

S8: because we had to, I didn’t like it but I must admit now@

Mod: @

S8: that it’s, it’s it’s interesting now because there are, because you learned the roots of all (.) all the words in French come from Latin or er Greek

Mod: mhm

S8: and it’s, it’s quite interesting to know. Sometimes I tell my children where it comes from and they are like OK me like it @@

Mod:@@

{digression about origin of other languages}

S8: Countries don’t live in (.)

Mod: isolation

S8: isolation anymore so there will be influences

Mod: mhm

S8: which will make things, some things poorer but will also enrich

Mod: mhm

S8: langauges in a way so yeah.

Mod: do you think this also happens like sort of across different types like, for instance, CAN Europe is a community already,

S8: mhm

Mod: with so many influences and so on so many differnetr backgrounds not only cultural but also linguistic

S8: mhm

Mod: do you find it that sort of, that maybe English that’s being used in CAN Europe is somewhat different to lets say, I don’t know, uhm any like sort of business, maybe bigger business, but like for profit organizations or I don’t know (.) we certainly know that it’s different from native language/

S8: /yeah, I would say no

Mod: mhm

S8: it’s (.) I would say it;s a bit similar to the: general English, Brussels English

Mod: mhm

S8: but also I mean we work with or against the business community and with or against politicians so it’s (.)

Mod: so it’s more like into political area?

S8: yeah I am sure that in football teams they all speak English because they come from a different countries. But I am sure that the kind of English is probably different @

Mod: @ could be. I would just like to ask you another question, you have probably answered it already but I would like you to reiterate your answer. What is your opinion on the role of languages in organizations like CAN Europe? In the network for instance? What do you think of the role of language?

S8: er:

Mod: here

S8: well I (.) I find it, I find that there is no rule

Mod: mhm

S8: actually

Mod: written rule, you mean?

S8: yeah, no written rule, but

Mod: mhm

S8: of course, yeah I mean it’s pretty obvious that everyone uses English

Mod: mhm

S8: but er: (.) that’s that’s fine but I find it important that people who work for CAN speak different languages if possible.

Mod: mhm why?

S8: I mean, English, English is obviously compulsory

Mod: mhm

S8: and it’s better to have someone that’s competent than doesn’t speak other languages than to have someone that speaks 5 languages but is: (.) bad at his or her job

Mod: mhm

S8: but er: there are advantages if people speak varous langauges because for instance, if someone, a colleague from Spain has got a document in Spanish, a long document and send it to me and I can read it and it’s of course easier than having to translate it

Mod: mhm, yeah

S8: er it’s also part of er respect I think for the culture

Mod: mhm

S8: and also, I think when you speak different languages you, you also, you’re able to think differently

Mod: mhm

S8: because I mean, for instance the Dutch langauge is very difficult for us to learn

Mod: mhm

S8: French speaking people, because for instance because you keep the verb until the end of the sentence, you put like in german, so it’s like a completely a different way of speaking

Mod: mhm

S8: So I am sure, I mean I haven’t analysed the way my brain functions, but I am sure that it’s it makes the brain function differently

Mod: mhm

S8: Spanish, Portugese, Italian and so on, they are all very similar so it’s (.) doesn’t need a lot of effort and [Digression]

Mod; but then you also mentioned like for instance, if you get something in Spanish you can read it, so it doesn’t mean that you sort of, other language not only English, for instance, you’ve got English at the main level

S8: mhm

Mod: but then you have variety of different languages/

S8: /yeah

Mod: that sort of aid also your work/

S8: yeah

Mod: help?/

S8: /yeah, yeah of course

Mod: to sort of be more efficient/

S8: yeah yeah,

Mod; so it’s not only English that’s important or/

S8: yeah

Mod: is that what you’re saying?

S8: yeah, yeah, other languages are important. AS MANY as possible, but (.) as always, I mean, of course [31:56.254]

Mod: yeah

S8; but I think it also influences other things (inhales) that comes to my mind.

Mod: mhm

S8: er I think it also influences er the work and the contacts. I think that’s er

Mod: mm?

S8: maybe not voluntarily but, if one speaks other languages the contacts are easier and more frequent maybe with other

Mod: mhm

S8: with the members or colleagues speaking the same languages

Mod: would you say that it also enhances the, like (.) your er sort of outreach? As well?

S8: yeah

Mod; mhm. So you, for instance you know that this person, maybe, that person is not part of the network but I know that this person is, I don’t know, Spanish

S8: mhm

Mod: and because you speak Spanish, you’d sort of contact that person/

S8: yeah

Mod: to (.)

S8: or may- maybe that involuntarily without noticing your contacts, even without noticing you contact (inhales) or exchange more information and communicate more with people who speak

Mod: mhm

S8: (inhales) common language

Mod; yeah

S8; than with the other ones

Mod: mhmm that’s really interesting

S8: maybe?@@ we would have to check that, but

Mod: yeah [summarizes what has been said so far]

S8: but, I, one other element is that

Mod: mhm

S8: er well maybe (.) my opinion would be different if I if my native langauge, and the langauge I know are relatively less spoken

Mod: mhm

S8: because I speak French, Spanish, English, they are major languages

Mod: mhm

S8: in a way if I was Finish and I would also speak Greek @@ maybe I would have different analysis.

Mod: mhm

S8: But also I find that in my field of work renewables and energy in general er, a lot of a lot of the documents when they are not in English they are in French or in: German

Mod: mhm but would you also say that this is because of, ok, first of all because you work on: er/

S8: because of the topic

Mod; in that area, yeah

S8: yeah

Mod; second of all, you work in, well, on European level

S8: mhm

Mod: so those are the three

S8: yeah

Mod: languages that ARE working languages?

S8: yeah, yeah

Mod; so would you say that this also plays er plays erm:

S8: yeah, it has, it, it’s related to that but also to the fact that for, for instance, for renewables the big country in Europe is Germany so there are many with their, even you know they produce many documents in german

Mod: mhm

S8: so I, which I cannot really read. I can understand a bit but, yeah it would be useful for me if I could

Mod: mhm

S8: read German better but. But also they translate a lot of things for European audiences so

Mod: mhm (inhales to say something but stops as the interlocutor starts another sentence)

S8: The French tend to translate less. It’s funny because when they send a position paper to er: (.) to other countries

Mod: mhm

S8: within the Council? I mean er most countries send their documents in English

Mod: mhm

S8: sometimes they send it to in their languages and then they send er a curtesy translation

Mod: mhm

S8: it happens from time to time, maybe the Czech Rep., Poland,

Mod: mhm

S8: but the French they always send their document in French first and then three days later you get the translation but they ALWAYS send their document in French fir- .

Mod: mhm

S8: it’s an advantage because I can read it immediately, but @

Mod: mhm

S8: but the other ones (1)

Mod: they just do it in English?

S8: yeah

[short digression about the French people’s attitude and attachment to their language]

Mod: is there anything that you’d maybe change about the practice? In terms of languages here in in the office and in the network?

S8: mm no. I I would say when hiring people pay attention to the their language skills, but I think it’s. I think maybe, I think for English it’s definitely er:

Mod: a must?

S8: a part of the, part of the hiring process

Mod: mhm

S8: but maybe I don’t know how much attention is being paid to knowledge of other languages?

Mod: mhm

S8: I think it’s important but I don’t know, I’ve never been involved in er

Mod; recruitment

S8: in hiring procedures

Mod: mhm

S8: er: other than that

Mod; how about, er: information like, for for member states, err [clicks the tongue] For member organizations? All, all of your information is in E- in English so you have the stature or the charter

S8: mhm

Mod: and they are in English. There’s no mention of the rule, as you said, no written, men- er: written language policy there

S8: mhm

Mod; but also if you have, if you look at the erm the WELCOME pack for the prospective members

S8: mhm

Mod: it’s also in English all of it is in English.

S8: mhm

Mod; would you be er: more into the fact that, OK obviously we use English so maybe we could mention the fact that English IS our main language for like ,intra- intranetwork communication er, or would you just leave it as it is? Or would you mention that, OK, you are more than welcome to send your documents in the languages we function with, for instance (.) I don’t know

S8: I think because of the limited resources and time and money it has to be that way

Mod: mhm mhm

S8: I mean we could function with other main languages but er, the thing is if you, for instance, if you offered press releases or reports. If you offered translations of the summary in French or in german and for instance Spanish, euf: I am not sure it’s really needed because (.) these are also the the the main countries

Mod: mhm

S8: and where we have most members and they they have the resources to translate anyway, if needed for the press for instance or

Mod: mhm

S8: national audiences. So it would be useful for our small members in say Slovenia or Turkey and so on

Mod: yeah

S8: but then, the the document would be be useful for smaller audience so f:

Mod: so would you include the rule lie that, for instance if you are a small organization who struggles to

S8: no because if they (.) don’t speak or write English well enough then it’s going to be very difficult for them anyway to become a member and that. I mean even if we, if we had that policy, all all, most documents that we get are in English so it would be just a nightmare. We would need a lot of money to translate. Greenpeace does it, for ins-, when I was at Greenpeace we would translate its, documents in English for instance for, several you need to French, or Spanish, or French and Spanish offices, but it was those offices were relatively small ,and (unintelligible) and had little resources?

Mod: mhm

S8: but I think with CAN it’s different because usually the bigger the country the more members we have

Mod: mhm

S8: so they can also, can

Mod: translate?

S8: also arrange between themselves to translate and so on.

Mod: mhm but then you have that eastern block that sort of is underrepresented

S8: yeah

Mod: as well and also: (.) normally thye just have fewer resources

S8: yeah

Mod: erm than the western members

S8: yeah it’s true

Mod: and in terms of language

S8: yeah, yeah

Mod: they were blocked for er some time

S8: mhm mhm

Mod: and even some of the people mentioned that ‘actually we have the feeling that, as if, you know they were sort of, maybe some years back

S8: mhm

Mod: erm when you compare them with the NGOs from the Western part

S8: mhm

Mod: so, I don’t know, maybe er a rule for that /could be useful?

S8: /but it depends/ yeah I don’t know it could be a general rule but for instance if we publsh a report on the Balkans (unintellibigle) have it in English, but also translate at least the summary in Serbian and whatever languages may be useful so four or five languages. Yes, in those cases yes,

Mod: mhm

S8: er: as a general rule

Mod; it’s too difficult?

S8: yeah, I think

Mod: yeah, fair enough. Er is there anything else you’d like to add to (.) that we haven’t really covered but you think is interesting?

S8: er, no?

Mod: no? (.) OK

S8: not at the moment, if I think of something I’ll let you know

[small digression about the last day of the researcher’s stay at the organization]

Mod: OK, thank you very much.