

Interview with RK transcript

[BR1-26]

- 1 Brad: So today is July 19th, 2016. The time is 12:10 pm. And the location is Pohnpei. OK, so, um, how old are you, again?
- 2 RK: I'm 28.
- 3 Brad: 28?
- 4 RK: Yeah.
- 5 Brad: OK. Um, and are you originally from Pohnpei or (.)?
- 6 RK: Or born here, grew up here.
- 7 Brad: OK.
- 8 RK: Uh, #.
- 9 Brad: Uh, and so how long have you been living total in Pohnpei?
- 10 RK: For about uh (.) I've been here all my life. Like 28 years so.
- 11 Brad: OK. Uh, have you ever traveled abroad or (.)?
- 12 RK: Uh, never been (.) traveled abroad. Yeah.
- 13 Brad: OK. Um, so how would you describe the language situation in Pohnpei? Like what languages are spoken? What, when, when people speak them, etcetera?
- 14 RK: Uh, you mean the Pohnpeian language, or (.)?
- 15 Brad: Yeah, Pohnpeian language and other languages that people here in Pohnpei speak.
- 16 RK: Well, this from what I see today is a lot of, you know, folks (.) or even um, like in the situation where, where I am right now, it's (.) their (.) the language, Pohnpeian language kind of like, um, it's never there. Or mostly English, people using English. The youngsters, they use straight, they use English. And I'm pretty much the (.) I'm sure they use English for, you know, use only uh, uh, Pohnpeian language at home, when you congregate through families.
- 17 Brad: OK.
- 18 RK: Yeah.

- 19 Brad: So when you um, talk to your friends, what language do you typically use?
- 20 RK: Our own kind of like, mix.
- 21 Brad: OK.
- 22 RK: We use the both language, Pohnpeian and English.
- 23 Brad: OK.
- 24 RK: Yeah.
- 25 Brad: OK, OK. Um, so when did you start learning English?
- 26 RK: When I was in high school.
- 27 Brad: In high school.
- 28 RK: Yeah.
- 29 Brad: Did you go to a, a public school, or a private school.
- 30 RK: Uh, I went to a public school.
- 31 Brad: OK. Um, and when (.) So you started learning (.) so Pohnpeian was your first language?
- 32 RK: Yeah, Pohnpeian was my first until-
- 33 Brad: Until you learned it at home with your-
- 34 RK: Yeah.
- 35 Brad: (.) parents and family.
- 36 RK: Sure, yeah.
- 37 Brad: OK. Um (.) do you uh, know how to write in Pohnpeian, using like the official way of writing?
- 38 RK: Yeah.
- 39 Brad: OK. H-how did you learn that?
- 40 RK: Uh, through, going through, uh, you know, of being (.) Working with my dad kind of (.) Is he write the (.) Uh, uh, what's that, uh (.) When he preached for the church thing.
- 41 Brad: Mmm.
- 42 RK: He has, uh, a title in the church thing, and he write them pretty much, uh, uh (.) It's kind of like, formal way of you know, writing Pohnpeian language, and then-
- 43 Brad: Mmm.
- 44 RK: (.) I can kind of like go through his stuff and then learn how to do it.
- 45 Brad: OK.
- 46 RK: Yeah. And, also by hanging out with the uh, leaders or the chiefs, and they, they would talk and I would listen through, you know (.) over ah, through over sakau feast. And that's how I learned how to use the language and how to write it.
- 47 Brad: OK.
- 48 RK: Yeah.

- 49 Brad: Um, and do you know how to speak uh, uh, Meing?
50 RK: Excuse me?
51 Brad: The high language?
52 RK: High language? Yeah, I can. In some ways I can do it. When communicating to the uh, paramount chiefs, yeah.
53 Brad: Um, how well do you speak it then? Like if you-
54 RK: Not pretty good, but-
55 Brad: But, enough.
56 RK: Yeah, yeah, enough to talk to the (.)
57 Brad: Alright, and how did you learn that?
58 RK: Uh, by, like, you know, teaching myself in the traditional ways of you know, the feast and everything that we offer to our chiefs or the paramount chiefs-
59 Brad: Mmm.
60 RK: (.) I've been (.) You know, I hear them talk and I listen and try to practice it, and (.)
61 Brad: Mmm. Uh, how often do you typically use it?
62 RK: Well, as of right now, my situation here, there's, you know (.) I worked with a, she's a, I mean she's, she's a, you know, she has a title, the Luhk, Luhkpein. And I use English also, and I use the uh, you know, Meing and Pohnpeian too, just to address her.
63 Brad: OK, so whenever you speak to her in Pohnpeian-
64 RK: Yeah.
65 Brad: you use-
66 RK: I use Meing.
67 Brad: Meing?
68 RK: Yeah.
69 Brad: OK. Um, so if you could learn any language right now? What language would you choose?
70 RK: I would cover Japanese.
71 Brad: Japanese?
72 RK: Yeah.
73 Brad: And wh-why would you do that?

- 74 RK: Well (.) They have their (.) It's, it's kind @ of like an historical therapy here. And our great-great fathers, they, they taught us a bit about Japanese. Like, in numbers, how to count in Japanese. So I pretty much grew up you know, kind of like interested in their language 'cause it's been there, the, the, you know the paren (.) parents or (.) they taught me that. But I cannot speak the language. I mean, I don't really know the language. Yeah.
- 75 Brad: OK.
- 76 RK: I took Chinese in college. Yeah, back at COM but, I would love to learn Japanese as I grew up. Yeah.
- 77 Brad: Hmm. Uh, do you speak any other Micronesian languages?
- 78 RK: Hmm, I only (.) Oh, only that side is Mortlockese so, that's it.
- 79 Brad: So you can speak Mortlockese?
- 80 RK: Yeah, but not really good. I can listen to them. I can know what they're saying. But I kind of like (.) The accent of my saying it's, it's off @.
- 81 Brad: @
- 82 RK: Yeah @.
- 83 Brad: OK.
- 84 RK: Yeah.
- 85 Brad: Um, so when you're with, um, Mortlockese family or friends, what language do you speak with them?
- 86 RK: I use Pohnpeian.
- 87 Brad: OK.
- 88 RK: Yeah.
- 89 Brad: And they understand you OK?
- 90 RK: Yeah.
- 91 Brad: OK. Um (.) Uh, do you think any languages that you experience here are, are beautiful or ugly or (.)?
- 92 RK: Uh, well, they're beauti (.)interesting and you know, a lot of different languages then, then different people. So, it's fun to learn and you know-
- 93 Brad: OK.
- 94 RK: (.) interact with them, too (.) with the language, yeah.
- 95 Brad: OK. Um, do you have any kids yet? Or (.)
- 96 RK: Kids?
- 97 Brad: Kids, children, yeah?
- 98 RK: Yeah. I have a daughter.

- 99 Brad: OK. Um, do you want your daughter to learn many languages, or, you know, just learn enough, or, or, which languages do you want her to learn, eventually?
- 100 RK: Oh a lit (.) I would love, you know, I would love her for to learn uh, English. 'Cause-
- 101 Brad: OK.
- 102 RK: Yeah. We've been dealing a lot of things, and it's all about English @-
- 103 Brad: Mmm.
- 104 RK: (.) so, yeah. I see a lot of kids growing up and they kind of like got into a situation where can't, they, they cannot talk to, you know (.) Communicate with uh, our neighbors or even their friends or teacher, 'cause (.) they're kind of like scared. One @ traditional thing about us, we don't (.) One we (.) You know, that's the thing about Pohnpeian life, you don't just, if you know the language, y-you don't just, you know, burst out, and just talk in front of people and just (.) That's uh, considered disrespectful.
- 105 Brad: Hmm.
- 106 RK: Yeah.
- 107 Brad: OK. Um-
- 108 RK: And (.) Yeah.
- 109 Brad: So, are there any other Micronesian languages that you would want-
- 110 RK: My kid
- 111 Brad: her to learn. Yeah your kid to learn.
- 112 RK: Pohnpeian.
- 113 Brad: Pohnpeian?
- 114 RK: Yeah.
- 115 Brad: OK. Um, so for work, you work here, right? Um, what exactly is your job?
- 116 RK: Oh I-I'm an intern here.
- 117 Brad: OK.
- 118 RK: Yeah.
- 119 Brad: Uh, and when you work here, what languages do you typically (.) Y-you say you worked (.) You speak a l-little bit of (.) You speak Pohnpeian with-
- 120 RK: Yeah (.)
- 121 Brad: (.) coworkers-
- 122 RK: (.) but mostly English, yeah.

- 123 Brad: Mostly English? OK. Um (.) Uh, in, in what situation would you use Pohnpeian here?
- 124 RK: Pohnpeian?
- 125 Brad: Yeah.
- 126 RK: OK, when things uh (.) When, when we're uh, situations like (.) It's not about work. It's about anything else that we talk about over lunch or (.) Yeah.
- 127 Brad: OK. But if it's work stuff, you speak-
- 128 RK: Yeah-
- 129 Brad: (.) in English-
- 130 RK: (.) in English.
- 131 Brad: OK. Um, when you (.) Do you send emails and stuff for work or (.)?
- 132 RK: Yeah, sure.
- 133 Brad: Oh, when you write emails and stuff for like on the computer, do you (.)?
- 134 RK: It's, it's in English, yeah @.
- 135 Brad: In English, yeah @. Um, and d-do you use Facebook, and social media si-
- 136 RK: # Yeah.
- 137 Brad: So when you're doing that, what languages do you use?
- 138 RK: Oh, I can see all my friends. And you know, they're Pohnpeian, they're from Micronesia, but they're using English. So @-
- 139 Brad: Using English? OK @. Do you ever use Pohnpeian on Facebook? Or (.)
- 140 RK: Yeah. Yeah.
- 141 Brad: OK.
- 142 RK: Often.
- 143 Brad: Yeah.
- 144 RK: Yeah, but mostly English @.
- 145 Brad: But mostly English. OK, OK. Um (.) so when you're outside of work, like when you, you go to the store, or you know, you go to buy things-
- 146 RK: Yeah (.)
- 147 Brad: (.) what languages do you use?
- 148 RK: Pohnpeian.
- 149 Brad: Pohnpeian?
- 150 RK: Yeah.
- 151 Brad: Um, and-
- 152 RK: Guaranteed Pohnpeian.

- 153 Brad: Yeah.
- 154 RK: You gotta use Pohnpeian, yeah.
- 155 Brad: So when you're calm and stuff you use Pohnpeian. So just, just at work?
- 156 RK: Yeah.
- 157 Brad: Um, OK. So, when you speak Pohnpeian, do y-do you use a lot of English words?
- 158 RK: Yeah, like uh (.) when, kind of like mix them up?
- 159 Brad: Mmm.
- 160 RK: Sure. We use the (.) Oftenly we use (.) pretty much for my friends, we talk in Pohnpeian, speak in Pohnpeian, then, then we kind of like, we mix it up just to you know, make them feel the mood about you know @-
- 161 Brad: Mmm.
- 162 RK: (.) if you know, kind of like, youngsters doing stuff that some others don't know, but yeah (.) So we use them just to you know (.)
- 163 Brad: OK.
- 164 RK: Or, I don't know, maybe generosity, or (.) Yeah.
- 165 Brad: Um, so (.) what kind of people use a lot of English words? Like i-in where, like, people living in Kolonia, people living in the villages, young people, old people-
- 166 RK: I would-
- 167 Brad: (.) whatever?
- 168 RK: English would? The-
- 169 Brad: Yeah.
- 170 RK: (.) most of people in Kolonia they (.) Because if they're different ethnicity, or where they came from, like Mwokil and, most of them, they're speaking from (.) And most of the people from here, they kind of like, go to private school, and-
- 171 Brad: OK.
- 172 RK: (.) stuff so. When you have to come and get with them, you talk to them in English and you can mix them up in Pohnpeian too, but it's mostly in English. But people from the villagers, or where your community's from, or municipalities, you talk to them in Pohnpeian real classic way.
- 173 Brad: OK. So you don't use many English -
- 174 RK: Yeah.
- 175 Brad: (.) words in the villages?
- 176 RK: Yeah.

- 177 Brad: OK. Understand. Um, do you think, um (.) So what is your view of the history of, th-the future of Pohnpei, uh, in terms of language. Do you think Pohnpeians will still speak Pohnpeian in you know, 20–50 years? Or, how do (.) What do you think Pohnpei will be like then?
- 178 RK: Uh, I would say that uh, that it's (.) They, they might (.) This language might disappear for about 50 years from now, or from 50 years from now, because there's a lot of things about (.) things that you do at work, do in school, it's all about English. So, kids have to grow up learning English from elementary. And even in public school, their curriculum, they kind of like changed it to uh (.) Some of the teachers (.) most of the teachers in public school now, they're kind of like introducing English to their kids, you know, their students, to speak, to try and speak them through fifth grade up to eight grade. Uh (.)
- 179 Brad: OK. Um, do you think it's important that schools use Pohnpeian?
- 180 RK: Yeah. I think they're gonna have to weigh 50/50 'cause the most important thing you have to know how (.) where you came from and where, you know, what, what is, what foundations that you've built from. Then you can learn English pretty much good and excellent, great, yeah.
- 181 Brad: OK. Uh, do you think most Pohnpeians would agree with you, or do you think Pohnpeians don't care about language?
- 182 RK: Yeah. Well, from what I see, we don't have any, like, what you're trying to do here. Um, you're working on your PhD., yeah?
- 183 Brad: Mmm.
- 184 RK: So, I would say maybe how our elders that care about language now, and our language, Pohnpeian language. But today it's all about communicating. We don't even care about our uh, traditional ways of saying things, in, in a respectful way. And, yeah, I think they're not gonna agree with me (.) Wait! Oh, maybe they're gonna agree with me that our language can disappear about you know-
- 185 Brad: Mmm.
- 186 RK: (.) after 500 hundred years from now, or 50 years from now, maybe.
- 187 Brad: OK.
- 188 RK: Yeah.

- 189 Brad: So, who are the people that are trying to keep the language and the traditional ways?
- 190 RK: Uh, mostly uh, people from the uh, uh municipalities like (.) from where you can find the paramount chief from, yeah.
- 191 Brad: Mmm.
- 192 RK: And given in families like, where they pra- still practice their way of living, of Pohnpeian ways. And, yeah, that's pretty much. But here in town, maybe @, maybe you're gonna have to fi (.) Uh, you'll often find people speaking English most of the time.
- 193 Brad: OK. Um (.) OK, so um, what do you think, um, foreigners want for Pohnpei's language future. Like, of like the US Gov-Embassy or Australians or Japanese or other people? Do you (.) What do you think that they want for Pohnpei, in terms of language?
- 194 RK: I would say that uh, they would want Pohnpei to keep their language, but they have to learn how to speak English and learn in English, 'cause we're under a system of government where you have to (.) where we pick the uh, system coming from the US, so. Pretty much saying they would want us to keep our language 'cause that's our heritage, and that's the beauty of, the beauty of Pohnpei. That's the traditional ways and culture, but they also want you know, 50/50. So, they would want the people to keep their language and culture and ways.
- 195 Brad: So can someone still be Pohnpeian and not speak Pohnpei, Pohnpeian?
- 196 RK: Yeah. You can find some here @.
- 197 Brad: Mmm. But are (.) You think that they're less Pohnpeian, if they don't speak Pohnpeian?
- 198 RK: Hmm-
- 199 Brad: Or that if you speak Pohnpeian, you're more Pohnpeian?
- 200 RK: Hmm, that's a pretty much difficult ah question to answer, but for me uh, my (.) In a few, I would say uh, it doesn't make any difference 'cause, if he doesn't speak Pohnpeian, but it kind of like interrupt with the culture and living with the culture, live with the people, it's kind of (.) But he cannot say the language, but he you know, engage himself and launch into the uh, anything, any activity that the community does, I think that uh, he is a Pohnpeian too.
- 201 Brad: OK.

202 RK: Yeah.

203 Brad: So as long as you still do the stuff.

204 RK: Yeah.

205 Brad: The cultural things, then-

206 RK: Yeah.

207 Brad: (.) you're still Pohnpeian.

208 RK: Yeah.

209 Brad: It doesn't matter-

210 RK: Yeah.

211 Brad: (.) about going-

212 RK: Yeah, it doesn't matter about-

213 Brad: So if you spoke English at uh, like a at a feast or a funeral, that would be OK, as long as you're still there doing-

214 RK: Yeah.

215 Brad: (.) other things. OK. Um, is being able to speak Pohnpeian uh, important for you?

216 RK: Oh yes.

217 Brad: So if you, if you stopped speaking Pohnpeian, how would you feel?

218 RK: I wou (.) must feel lost #.

219 Brad: Hmm.

220 RK: Yeah.

221 Brad: Uh, and, and what would happen if um, l-like if, if you, if your kids someday, stopped speaking Pohnpeian? Then they moved to the US or some place and then they only spoke English or another language? How would you feel about that?

222 RK: Uh, I would (.) I'll be happy for them.

223 Brad: Hmm.

224 RK: Yeah.

225 Brad: OK. Um, so, when you get information, ab-like news, or whatever information about local things, or about world events or whatever. Um, what ways (.) what sources do you use? Like, how do you get information like that?

226 RK: Uh through th-through the radio.

227 Brad: OK.

228 RK: Yeah. And pe (.) Pohnpei is a small island, so, rumors go @ around very fast-

229 Brad: Uh-huh.

230 RK: (.) and from friends and you know, off shows like, day talk. They do talk sometimes, like-

231 Brad: Mmm.

- 232 RK: (.) that's-
233 Brad: And in, in what language is (.) Like the radio is mostly in what language?
234 RK: Um, like, there is some (.) We have fm, and that guy who you know, broadcasts from the FM, he's Pohnpeian too, but he speaks English.
235 Brad: OK.
236 RK: And we have V6AH the AM, and they speak Pohnpeian. That's uh, that's the most uh, uh, you know, uh, the radio that Pohnpeian always listen to, it's the AM.
237 Brad: Mmm. So a lot of people-
238 RK: Mmm.
239 Brad: (.) listen to the AM?
240 RK: Mmm.
241 Brad: Um, and then when you're getting news you're talking to friends about news and stuff-
242 RK: Yeah.
243 Brad: (.) do you speak Pohnpeian or English?
244 RK: Well, we speak in Pohnpeian.
245 Brad: OK.
246 RK: Yeah.
247 Brad: Um, OK. So do you ever go to like uh, sakau bars, or places to talk to people and (.)?
248 RK: Oh yes. We-
249 Brad: Yeah-
250 RK: We speak Pohnpeian-
251 Brad: You keep spe-
252 RK: Yeah, yeah-
253 Brad: (.) Pohnpeian there, yeah.
254 RK: Yeah, yeah. We kind of like finally, yeah (.) That's where we uh, kind of like root it to the ground you know, find the feeling of you know, real Pohnpeian just to drink sakau and-
255 Brad: Mmm.
256 RK: (.) talk to another Pohnpeian as in, in your own language-
257 Brad: Hmm.
258 RK: (.) Pohnpei. So it felt great to be you know, in that very environment where your surroundings, where you can see all about Pohnpei. So, it's pretty safe there @.
259 Brad: @ Mokay. So, drinking like sakau was very important for you like to be-
260 RK: Yeah.

- 261 Brad: (.) to be Pohnpeian?
262 RK: Yeah.
263 Brad: Um, do people ever use English wh-when drinking sakau?
264 RK: Uh, sometimes, but not always. They (.) just some words,
but-
265 Brad: Yeah, but most-
266 RK: (.) just for fun!
267 Brad: Yeah.
268 RK: Yeah, that's the thing. Most of us use English and we can
like, uh, what am I going to say, OK, what's the word, yeah.
We use it just for fun for communicating in between the Pohn-
peians. And it's rather funnier to, when you see your friends
speaking, and you see another person try to cut in just to try
and speak English.
269 Brad: Mmm.
270 RK: That's fun too.
271 Brad: OK.
272 RK: But not always. We, when we sit down for sakau, we speak
Pohnpei.
273 Brad: Alright, OK.
274 RK: Yeah.
275 Brad: OK, good. Um, when you (.) Do you go to church at all?
276 RK: Yeah.
277 Brad: When you go to church, what language-
278 RK: Pohnpeian. It's-
279 Brad: Pohnpeian?
280 RK: Yeah.
281 Brad: Yeah. Um, and do you ever do things with uh, the Pohnpei's
state government?
282 RK: Uh, like (.)?
283 Brad: Hmm, I don't know. Talk to the governor, governor's office,
or, maybe like-
284 RK: Yeah, recently we just uh, last Friday we did um, uh, this
little movement against the governor. And, yeah, of selling
out the sea cucumbers. So we did a protest, against them.
285 Brad: Hmm.
286 RK: And we did go over there and the, then with (.) Earlier that
day, we went to a meeting and then the governor was speaking
Pohnpei, and we shouted, "Yeah, we speak Pohnpei"-
287 Brad: In Pohnpei?
288 RK: (.) yeah.

- 289 Brad: In the protest?
290 RK: Yeah.
291 Brad: OK. Um, but then when you go to the national government-
292 RK: Government.
293 Brad: (.) What language do you use when you talk to the national
government?
294 RK: Uh, when it comes to the national level, we use uh, English
and Pohnpeian too.
295 Brad: OK. So, if the person's from Pohnpei at the national
government-
296 RK: Yeah, and then you have to speak-
297 Brad: (.) then you speak-
298 RK: (.) to him in Pohnpei-
299 Brad: In Pohnpei.
300 RK: Yeah.
301 Brad: But if he's from another state-
302 RK: Yeah.
303 Brad: (.) then you speak, English, unless-
304 RK: English is to government # I mean to national.
305 Brad: OK. OK, I understand. Um, do you think that um, if some-
one, another Micronesian (.) a person from another state of
the FSM, or from Marshall Island to ever moves to Pohnpei,
do you think it's important for them to learn Pohnpeian?
306 RK: Oh yes. To be able to get through, around the communities
and through, you know, government, or the line of work, or
the line of work you're in, you have to learn Pohnpeian.
307 Brad: OK. What about other f-foreigners? Like men who have like
come and live here. Do you think it's important that they-
308 RK: Ohh-
309 Brad: (.) Um-
310 RK: (.) they should learn the language.
311 Brad: OK.

- 312 RK: They really should learn the language. I mean, it's very funny. It's kind of (.) It's no way to get around the island. And the, the people are really kind if you did know how to speak their language. If you did speak the language, I mean, if (.) Earlier I said that uh, it doesn't matter if you don't know how to speak, but you're Pohnpeian, and it doesn't make any differences, but, yeah, in some ways if you're (.) There's a lot of folks who came here, like foreigners, like yourself. They came here, but they cannot speak the language very well, so usually you can tell by when they're speaking, they're not Pohnpeian.
- 313 Brad: Hmm.
- 314 RK: But they're actually engaging to activities that were you know, related to cultural activities. And we pay respect to those people, 'cause they're kind of like uh, an inspiration for us that's (.) they're trying to blend in, where they don't fit in, but they still went through it and through it. So, doesn't matter the language, but yeah (.) But when you learn the language, even, that's even more better when you communicate and then you, you know, interact with them, and do things.
- 315 Brad: OK. Hmm, OK. Um (.) Alright. Um, that's all I have for the list of questions. Is there anything else that um, you would like to say about language and Pohnpei or Pohnpeian or um (.) Things that you find meaningful about Pohnpeian?
- 316 RK: Uh-
- 317 Brad: Or just anything you like to add in general?
- 318 RK: Uh, well, not now, but Pohnpeian rocks @.
- 319 Brad: OK @.
- 320 RK: Yeah.
- 321 Brad: Um, so what is (.) If you could say one thing about Pohnpeian like to someone not from Pohnpei, that's never heard of Pohnpeian-
- 322 RK: Yeah.
- 323 Brad: (.) how would you describe Pohnpeian to this person?
- 324 RK: Well, I would say Pohnpeian language, Pohnpeian language or (.) we were talking about Pohnpeian language here.
- 325 Brad: Yeah.

- 326 RK: That uh, the language is easy to learn. It in (.) When you uh, you know, uh describe the, I mean, the (.) relate to the uh English word, it kind of like, in reverse, but it is easy to learn. Maybe two months or three months you can learn the language. And the language uh, in the tone of the language doesn't really act uh, come out as in like in masculine or you know, and create kind of like peaceful and quiet. And we talk, not really slow-
- 327 Brad: Mmm.
- 328 RK: (.) but in the pace where you can really understand what we're talking about.
- 329 Brad: OK.
- 330 RK: Yeah.
- 331 Brad: Hmm. What, what makes it easy?
- 332 RK: Easy to learn?
- 333 Brad: Yeah.
- 334 RK: As um, it's (.) I mean the sound of it (.) I-I mean, I'm not the, you know (.) but the sound, you can just listen, and it's kind of like um, almost in Kusaiean way, in Kusaiean language and Pohnpeian language pretty much uh, easier than Chuukese, Yapese language.
- 335 Brad: Mmm.
- 336 RK: There is, there is a tone in it 'cause, that is so obvious that you can tell by that person who's speaking that language h-he was trying t-to tell, you know, describe something that you can just sit there and see that he's talking to you or saying something @ angry back, yeah.
- 337 Brad: Mmm. OK.
- 338 RK: 'Cause it's easy 'cause, when we talk we put on an expression of what we're talking about. We don't just sit and talk, speak or, but we don't (.) We kind of like into the mood of talking and it's easy to learn, yeah.
- 339 Brad: OK.
- 340 RK: Kind of like English too, though.
- 341 Brad: Hmm. OK, I understand. Um, when you (.) people speak Pohnpeian-
- 342 RK: Yeah?
- 343 Brad: (.) is uh, or rather, is it, to be respectful in, in Pohnpei, um, are people who speak Pohnpeian more respectful than the English, or is it easier to be respectful if you speak Pohnpeian?

- 344 RK: Yeah, when, when you, when you created that um, that uh person, out of respectful then you're going to have to learn the language very fast. Yeah. I mean, you're going to learn the language very fast, no doubt. If you created a feeling you know, or ah, you know, you're your own, uh, what am I going to say, be respectful. 'Cause that's what it is. And today, you don't see that much, because of the media. I mean, the young, the youth today, they learn things from the media and that's one thing I know we talk, like, you know, homies and such, and that's, and that's even make the language you know, going to disappear. Because of the media and what we see from the movies. Kids see more movies. But-
- 345 Brad: Hmm.
- 346 RK: (.) to be able to learn the language you know, easily or very fast, you're go to have to create your own self very humble and respectful.
- 347 Brad: Mmm.
- 348 RK: So you're gonna learn very fast.
- 349 Brad: Mmm. How do you show (.) h-how do you be humble and show respect through language and through Pohnpeian?
- 350 RK: The, they say that the foundation of respect or humble of a man from Pohnpei, the way to create you know, the foundation, yeah. That's what they say. It's, it comes from saying, hi or hello. We (.) two strangers going past each other on the road, and then, when one of them or even both of them, they have to stop and (.) Almost like Japanese culture, too uh-
- 351 Brad: Mmm.
- 352 RK: (.) yeah, say kaselehlie, yeah. The uh (.) That particular word, kaselehlie means that it, you describe your inner soul, that it's (.) The day was great and you're expressing the day to that person to, to experience what are you feeling, in the humble way.
- 353 Brad: Mmm.
- 354 RK: Yeah. But, yeah, I'm not a histor- @, but uh, historian, but uh, that's what I heard from my great grandfathers or from the chiefs. They say that the uh foundation of cultural, and traditional Pohnpei cultural, it comes from saying hello, or kaselehlie, yeah.
- 355 Brad: Hmm.

- 356 RK: That's the first thing that uh, built the uh, you know, the uh, network of, or the system of respect. It come from that particular word, kaselehlie. And we have uh, we like good afternoon, like kaselehlie. As I said before, yeah, you describe what is in you, share it to that person like, kaselehlie means beautiful, beautiful day. And wh-when we say, good morning, like, as an example, you say, menseng mwahu, means, morning, good.
- 357 Brad: Mmm.
- 358 RK: Yeah. And then you tell it that person, you say, menseng mwahu. And that person can say, menseng. But you guys are real (.) What are you guys trying to do is, your guys are complimenting the day. That ear-that means, that morning was very great, means good, it's good. So that's what you guys are complimenting, on your way of passing each other. When you hit the (.) I mean, noon, you say, souwas mwahu. In Pohnpeian language when we say sun, you mean the sun means, in the old way, they say sou. S-O-U. Souwas, was means not good, being naughty or uh, uh, horrible. Was, like a naughty kid or someone horrible. And we say souwas, that's two word they combined together means, the sun being naughty. It's very hot when it's right there. So we say souwas mwahu @.
- 359 Brad: @
- 360 RK: It means naughty good @.
- 361 Brad: Right @.
- 362 RK: Kind of like complimenting the day to each other.
- 363 Brad: Hmm.
- 364 RK: Yeah. And soutik too. When we say soutik, means the sun was sou-tik, means evening. Good evening. The sun was right there about to sit, 'cause it was getting smaller.
- 365 Brad: Oh yeah. Tika-, like tikatik.
- 366 RK: Yeah, tikatik.
- 367 Brad: Yeah.
- 368 RK: Yeah. Yeah. But that's, that's, yeah, that's Pohnpeian life. Which we (.)
- 369 Brad: Hmm.
- 370 RK: That's what they say about you know, the respect that's coming, that foundation of the build up of respect and our talking from uh, complimenting each other and you know, saying hi or little kaselehlie #.

- 371 Brad: OK.
- 372 RK: And then after that, it comes after that, then you have to offer feast to the um, marquis, and you know, offer the first offering.
- 373 Brad: Um, do you think that this, like that Pohnpeian is like tied to Pohnpei, to the land, to the island, in any way?
- 374 RK: The language.
- 375 Brad: Yeah. So, if you took Pohnpei outside of po- (.) outside of the island, would it be different?
- 376 RK: I don't think so.
- 377 Brad: OK.
- 378 RK: Yeah. I think it's (.) The, the people in that island, the particular island, it's the uh (.) I mean, they're kind of the heart and the soul of the uh, the culture that is living on the island.
- 379 Brad: Hmm. OK. Hmm. So, do you think Pohnpeian, the language would have to change, like if you spoke it in Guam, or in or on the US mainland, or in Hawaii? Would it be any different? Like, would you have to change anything?
- 380 RK: Hmm, no, no. I don't think so.
- 381 Brad: OK.
- 382 RK: Yeah.
- 383 Brad: OK.
- 384 RK: Yeah.
- 385 Brad: Well, those are all the questions that I have.
- 386 RK: Well, sure.
- 387 Brad: So, well, thank you so much.