

Interview of Stanley (Woodlawn Centre) by Dunraven Students

A = student

B= student

C = Stanley

A: Did you, um – sorry – did you have any other words you would use for things like money? Did you have a special word for money?

C: Ok. Let me, er, explain to you – I'm of the Jewish faith, and there's a word that we use, it's call- it's 'geldt', which is, the language is called Yiddish, and so, we say 'have you got any geldt?'.
A: Oh, um, how do you spell that?

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C: G-E-L-D-T.

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A: Oh, ok. Did you have, er, any word for police, like, some people call them bobbies and –

C: Oh yes, often people say 'oh, there's a bobby coming', there's a police person.

B: Um, seeing as that you used the, a different word for money using the um Yiddish is it?

C: Yiddish, yes.

B: Do you use Yiddish in any other circumstances? Besides speaking to your family?

C: Alright. Let me just try to answer that question. Um, you know, there are lots of different languages in different parts of the world and many of those languages unfortunately have died out or becoming extinct, um, and some of the times when my, when we were all children – I had an older sister and a younger sister, my parents would speak in Yiddish so that they didn't, we couldn't, I think, understand what they were trying to say. And that happens with people who are (?) in other languages, until the children actually get a feel and a command of that language.

B: Um, how did you feel, if you can remember, when your parents would, um, speak and you – in Yiddish – and you wouldn't understand it necessarily. Were you annoyed or anything by it?

C: Yes, I was annoyed and I once said to them, 'come on, we're living in England, you know, let's speak English'. And that didn't go down very well with them at that time.