



Viskleken (Whisper Game)

2018 - ongoing

social project (collection of sound recordings, portraits, notes: a diagram)
Södertälje, Sweden / as a part of project *After-Ripening & Corruption*

Instead of whisper, *Viskleken (Whisper Game)* uses translation from one language to another to “grow” the message. Each translation is recorded to be passed on to the next person, who handles the same language as the previous person, and its chain is not linear but spread in an arborescent manner.

It is a part of the project *After-Ripening & Corruption* that deals with the language and cultural translations in the moving lives of our time, where I shed a light on the shades in the process of movements, such as emotions, deviations, and assumed errors, inspired by my migratory everyday life as an exophone.

GROWING IN THE GAP OF MY VOCABULARIES

I composed a sentence in Japanese, my mother tongue, and translated into English: “Growing my thoughts in the gap of the vocabularies of various languages”, which reflect how I process my thoughts using the different languages I have acquired. It is the original sentence to be used in the play.

HOW THE GAME PLAYED I commuted to Södertälje in Sweden where more than half of the inhabitants have foreign backgrounds. Around the city’s kulturhuset, a complex of a konsthall, a library, and the spaces that the residents can use for their activities, I casually approached people and asked if they can help me with their languages: to translate a phrase from one language to another. In general, one is not supposed to talk to a stranger in Sweden: but in Södertälje, all were friendly and got sincerely engaged in my project.

When people accepted to help me, I asked which languages they can speak. Accordingly, I chose a recording in the language they handle, and asked them to translate it. The translation from a person could be relayed to several people, and a person could translate into several of their languages, and in this way, it grew in plural directions like a network.

In the play, no internet search was allowed. Often the people discussed with other people around in order to process the translation, using various languages between/among them: most of them speak multiple languages, and the shared language(s) depend on each relationship.

COLLECTION OF SHARING PROCESS Each time, I recorded the translation being read out by the person, and took a photo of them together with those who helped the translation process through discussion.

Many of them took notes on paper during the translation process, which I kept. I continued to draw a “family tree” of the participants, to facilitate finding the language chain and to visualise its growth.

Through the play, I also spent time talking with them, about our origin and experiences, and we shared the knowledge on our respective languages and cultures.

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مزینہ لوغت در انگلری -

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imi plimter gōndevile tim in limli diferite,
im apatim vocabulariile.

(left page) portraits of some participants (right page, top to bottom) some of the notes taken by the participants during their translation process [Urdu, Arabic, Kinyarwanda, Amharic, Bulgarian, Rumanian]; the “family tree” of the translation and its participants

