Tape # 277
NAVAJO
Emilio Castillo and Ray Yazzie
December 12, 1969
Michael Husband - Interviewer
Side One

MISCELLANEOUS HISTORY
JOHN COLLIER
CHEE DODGE
PERSONAL HISTORY
THE WHITE MAN

QH.-Michael Husband AE. - Emilio Castillo AR. - Ray Yazzie

- AE. I'meright now 70 years, I went to school in Albuquerque, that is an old town and it just had a few at that time.
- QH. You were at the boarding school there?
- AE. Yeah.
- QH. Oh, it is an Indian Boarding School, huh??
- AR. Yeah, I used to go to school over there. There were some Mexicans too you know. And we had been fighting all the time with the Mexicans over there, there were some Mexicans over at the Menaul school you know....they are the ones that half Indians, they are the only ones that went to that school over there.
- QH. Did you like boarding schools?
- AE. Yeah, long time.....
- QH. Long time, you are seventy buh??
- AE. Seventy years ago, I am eighty three now.
- QH. Really??
- AE. Yeah, In November the 14th, that is my birthday.....
- QH. You look like a young man.
- AE. Well you know these Indians used to swim under the ice and roll in the snow.....
- QH. Tough... ??
- AE. This is why the people catch cold.....
- QH. That is right.

----NAVAJO LANGUAGE

AR. You are from Albuquerque aren't you?

- QH. Yeah, I am from Albuquerque.
- AE. Albuquerque, you know some people usually come and visit me sometimes, well what do you came, doyyou want to talk with me....?
- QH. Yeah, you have lived here how long?
- AE. Here, well they survey for us here, since 1908, but this is our home, but our old people, our old chief, he used to be over here in Cuba, and one over here and one over here, then these Mexicans they are from the Osage, they come across and put Santa Fe, they travel, they get mad at these Pueblo Indians, they get mad, they want to kill us, all the Navajo people, because we are living on the hills and the mountains, you see, but Pueblo is right there. They want to kill us all, but I am glad that the white people they help us. Take us out and put us in Fort Sumner, they feed my old ancestors bad and then they put them back on the reservation, that is the way I talk.....I like white people see, they are all my friends. They are the people that raise trouble, they are the ones that live in old Mexico.
- QH. Yeah, Spaniards??
- AE. Yeah, they used to work over there, along time ago, I used to work for the government railroad and I get railroad retirement for 11 years.
- QH. Oh, you get a pension, they give you money??
- AE. No, I just get retirement that is all. I have been getting just \$82.30 that is all I get a month. They sent it to me.
- QH. Is that enough?? You live on that?
- AE. No, that isn't enough, you know
- QH. You could always use more.
- AE. I wish you would help me to get a little more.....
- QH. Talk to the President...huh?? How long did you work with the railroad then, a long time?
- AE. Well, since they start to work pulling these big rails you know, I started from over here, below Threau, what do they call it south, south.....

--NAVAJO LANGUAGE

- AE. I forgot the name of that place.....
- QH. In New Mexico??

- AE. Yeah....that is below Thoreau, we take all of these you know, and at that time, I help foreman and that is where I learn and I was working up here and they were hauling the rails with the cranes, I was home there 70 years.
- QH. Oh really?
- AE. Yeah, but these the people that came here was an old man, Frank Porter, from West Virginia....
- QH. From West Virginia huh??
- AE. Yeah, and they get, right there in Bernalillio, and you know, I work for the Bridge outfit too, you know at the Indians School, that saw mill, I didn't work for McGaffey, that is the one that got killed when he fell out, got kill when in the airplane, that one got killed up here.....
- QH. Yeah.
- AE. I know everybody you know....everywhere.
- QH. Been there a long time huh??
- AE. I usually take there youngsters, you know when I start to work, you know, I start with 15¢ an hour, and I work for Mexicans, making 6 dollars a month by gosh looks like......
- QH. How long ago was that??
- AE. That was about when I was 15 years old, I think.
- QH. 60 some years ago.
- AE. By gosh, lots of money now right??
- QH. They couldn't live on that now??
- AE. You know during that time there were alots of sheep lot of cattle here, Navajo......
- QH. Where did they all go, I mean, why don't the people.....
- AE. Well the government took it away from them.....
- QH. Stock reduction?
- AE. Yeah. They kill all the horses over there, just below Gallup, they just give us two and a half horse.
- QH. What did they say, not enough grass for the sheep and the horses??
- AE. Yeah, that is what they say
- QH. And now nobody has any??
- AE. Nobody eat grass right now.....

- QH. too much grass and not enough stock ...
- AE. Yeah, I used to run cattle and sheep and horse, you know, when they were, the time when they were not paying for a grazing fee, you know, but now when they start to do that, I turn every= thing to my children you know. We are getting old....man is getting old......
- QH. Oh really?
- AE. Yeah. They are all working now.....
- QH. They have jobs?
- AE. Yeah, and old, lady stay home and take care of what we got, clothes, take care of her grand-children too, and I have been looking after these allotments, I have got paper in there, now we will try Window Rock, Arizona, right here is my name, Torreon, your brothers name is Hosteen Tsosie Santiago Castillo this is his allotment number, his name is right there, and here is you mother, and here is her number, and here is yours, and you better look after your allotment over there, that is the way that they have been telling us.
- QH. Yeah, it is your land. You own it?
- AE. Yeah, yeah!
- QH. How much??
- AE. 160 acres.
- QH. Right around here?
- AE. Yeah, there is a gate over here and way down there where that fence over here and then they run pacific pipeline too, that land right here.
- QH. But this was given by your grandfather? Your grandfather got the allotment?
- AE. This is my own, they allot it to me.
- QH. Yeah.
- AE. This is here in 1908, old man Peterson was the boss and......

----NAVAJO LANGUAGE

- AE. And he used to stay in Window Rock, but I don't know where he is right now....
- QH. He surveyed it huh??
- AE. I don't know the people that surveyed it, I think that they are all gone now.
- QH. Do you have any livestock here?

- AE. No.
- QH. Used to though huh?
- AE. See, they don't pay grazing fee in the reservation, so we have it over here.
- QH. Do you think it would be better to live on the reservation or?
- AE. Well both side, well I was born here, so when my family was over there in McKinley county, everybody knows them, make everybody go over there, and they say Hi, buddie, we sure miss you, where have you been keeping yourself?? Well everybody likes me you see.
- QH. But they are on the reservation huh?
- AE. Yeah, they are on the reservation, and you know one time we were living way over, by Chaco Canyon, close to, and I take the wagon wheels, you know one time we fix together one guy had a pickup and they have blacksmith shop right there, and I told the man, the boss, I am way off, I just hire these men to bring my wagon, I have no car, or I use it everyday and I need to have it worked on first, so I can take it right back home right away, so I paid him right there, so one man came in there, but that boss was going right around here, just like Navajos, these guys working there, and that man ask me what are you and I said, Indian, what tribe, and I said Navajo, and then he start to say, these Navajos cheap cheap, and I heard about it later, that is what he said. And that mad got mad, the boss said, where are you from, you don't even know what you are talking about, this whole mountain belongs to the Navajo Indian people, that is the way where did you come from, you better get out of here, and then he chased him out that is the way some people, you know, they try to get the money out of the Indians, that is the way that they do it, they have alot of money inside, you know when I was working on , the time when these people that ones, that go around with cash here, they sent, a letter to me, you know way over there, I was close to Chicago that time, and way in the morning when we start to work then when I opened it you have got allotment in Torreon, and we want to see I forgot all together there is alot of money on this thing, but the land's yours and so just to find out how much money then, it said, sent it back right away it said right there, and so I show it to the boss, and then we went over there to where the men are, and I gave him \$1.50 and he said how much land do you have, and I got 160 acres, I have an allotment, I am living on an allotment, 160 acres, and he said, why are you working for anyway, you are rich. You are rich......We

white people, not even one acres....we just paying for it, the government is holding, just a piece, it is just piece of tortillas, this belongs to the Indians, they cheat these white people from across that is the way that they told me, the man, he had to take care of that over there. If you want more, you don't have to sign it, he said to me, but I sign it, because my sister and my brother want the money see......

- QH. You were working for the railroad back there?
- AE. Yeah, I had been in Arizona, Iowa, Kansas, and Colorado and over here, thisis moon people live over here, ice people and gypsy they come from the island they say, I talk to alot of people some of them they say that Indians raise them, poor Indians help them. That is the way.
- QH. Where did the Navajo come from a long time ago? Do you know?
- AE. Right here
- QH. They have always been here huh??
- AE. Yeah.
- QH. They didn't come from up North, or they just???
- AE. No, right here, These mountains all....way over there, Mt. Taylor and Flaggstaff mountains, and Durango they started from way down there, where the people start, they put them way down there, way back over here.....
- QH. Underground huh??
- AE. And Indians could do anything, if the white people want to cross the white ice, they going to say something to that ocean, let them pass they are you see over there in Japan, now Russians they want to fight us again, but they stay over there, these Indians know everything, how....
- QH. Were you in the Army??
- AE. Well I was going over there, but only two boys Johnson and Paul, they take my hand over there, I fight, with them, my heart go around and stay with my boys. My oldest boy, Johnson, they are a little over 50, their mother died you know. They have been over there, Paul he is over at Zuni, and Johnson he is over here. He used to stay with me, but they don't even, just bomb, you know when they throw it down, some of them, they take them out of here, Johnson, but Paul, I don't see how I didn't get hurt there he said, cause I pray for you over here, that is the way we did, over there in the mountain, at that time....

- QH. For the soldiers huh??
- AE. Yeah, from all the soldiers here. Every people is our friend, I don't know why they are fighting over there.
- QH. Fight anyway...huh....How long have there been traders here?? At the trading posts?? How long have they been here, do you remember??
- AE. Well..... NAVAJO LANGUAGE
- AE. Gib Grand, he cheat too much people, and so they run him out of here. He went over to old Mexico and I think.....-NAVAJO LANGUAGE-----they cahse him from here, he rob too much people, they kill his boy over here too. They take wagon away from the people harness and anything that they have,....that is why they cahse him away, and I saw his wife and she cried when she see me, she was working over at the Navajo shopping center. For Tanner in Gallup.-----NAVAJO LANGUAGE-------To make good friends with them, but I talk to them I scold him, it is your own fault, why take things away from the Indians, they are man, just the sam as you are, they will kill you, kill you, they got hand, they are going to do that, you better behave yourself.
- QH. But he didn't did he??
- AE. Just only his wife cried when I talked to him.
- QH. Must have not been too smart. Cheat people like that, this is not Torreon Trading post is it?
- AR. Yeah.
- AE. Then he sold it to Bronson, the one that had the bar over there, down in San Isidro, you know I talk to him while I was still working for the government in Crownpoint, then when I came I found Bronson, he is a good man, and I told him don't be like Gib Grand again, he always say that to me and alot of people there in the bar and these Indians they know everything, they are smart, and any people here, that is the way he say, your people just come in and try to rob poor people that is all you know, that is the way, these law, law, I don't like law, Morris kill and then they make law. I belong to the cross, Jesus....—NAVAJO LANGUAGE cause I know everything, even though you just make something, and then that is the way, I don't like this morris law, you go up with snakes and sticks cause poison from the mouth......

That is what he told me. You know these Indians say that it doesn't belong to us it belongs to the white people, but I read in the bible, it is just the same, cause I know the Indian way. You know even a twig around here.————NAVAJO LANGUAGE—————you know when we plant corn, you know the Indians usually dig that brush that is right there, see they used to plant with it see......

- QH. With a stick??
- AE. Yeah, then the women behind, they make this way and then the women drop corn in there, and then they paint this way.....
- QH. Cover it up?
- AE. Yeah, but when we dig, there is where the children come up through the trees that grow. That is the way that everything goes.
- QH. Is there enough water here to grow corn?? It is pretty dry.....
- AE. No, we just depend on the rain that is all, no rain, it dries up, but I like over in Shiprock by gosh....those Indians they got good medicine.....
- QH. Rain huh??
- AE. Yeah, well there is a railroad over there, I might marry over there...and some of those old people they say that they want a young girl....I don't think it is wrong, that is only 65 and like that, but now, just like......
- QH. You live here by yourself then??
- AE. Yeah, I stay over here, but the people over here visit me, you know my nephew and some of my friends, they want to go with me to Cuba, but you know I don't want to go around much, two times they break window, here and you know, they rob some of my blankets and bedding covers, that is why I have been looking after all the time.
- QH. Steal??
- AE. Yeah, you know some of these young they run around and they take things away and then they pawn over there and drink....why don't they just work, they can work, if they want to drink, And some of them they don't like it, some drunkards, they don't let them work anymore.
- QH. Do they ever find the people that steal?

- AE. No, I have been watching.....
- QH. To catch them huh??
- AE. Yeah, when I catch them I am going to send them way off somewhere, so they will learn something, you know they just send them over here Crownpoint, and they come right back and they want to steal again. If I can catch them over here, I am going to send them way off, so that he will learn how.....
- QH. Jail??
- AE. Yeah, -----NAVAJO LANGUAGE----that is the way that we say.....
- QH. That is too bad. They do alot of stealing here??
- AE. Yeah.
- QH. Somebody does that is too bad.

----NAVAJO LANGUAGE

- AE. You see, my brother lives way up there, and my youngest sister, they put house for her way up there.....
- QH. Over there?
- AE. And my nephew, Robert, he lives there. Right there and my oldest sister too. Yeah, this is all allotment up that way. The other two is way over there, they call Vincenti Canyon, that is where my sister is living there. They have got sheep, that is why they are grazing over there.
- QH. Lot of sheep??
- AE. Not much, they won't let us run....
- QH. Just so many?
- AE. Yeah.
- QH. Who build your hogan here, is that??
- AE. Well we build it here ourselves.
- QH. It is a pretty good hogan huh??
- AE. Yeah, you know I went over to my cousins place over here, Frank Montoya, he got a nice hogan, just as big as this one, but he put lumber on top, and then we was sitting there and talking to each other and you know that woman that has school over there, Bernalillo where that crossing is......

- QH. The mission school?
- AE. Yeah, and that Montoya'a grandchildren were over there, and she brought it back and she came with one man and one woman, and I forgot from where, she is from way over there, I think that was her friend, that woman, and then she goes around with all those Pueblo Indians, then they come around here, and I think they look at everything. And then he was sitting right close to me, with his wife and that lady was sitting with Frank, and then Frank say, I'm sorry if I know how to talk English I could talk to you people, but my grandmother didn't let me go to school because she had sheep and I stay and take care of the sheep and that is the way that the old people did......
- QH. DIdn't want them to go to school??
- AE. No, they wanted you to take care of everything. That is the way- I just interpret for them, and I appreciate you raise my grandchildren and my daughter, that is what Frank Montoya told the teacher. And now they are working in the summer, they are getting married at the white people, that is the way that I interpret for them, then that man, I told him that I went to school, I just finish first grade and then I got sick and they just send me home, I say. I just finish sixth grade, that is all, I am not a well-educated man and that is what I told him Then that man ask me, we came from, we never see any Indians here, but this is our friend call us so we came over here, and we go around, we would see these Pueblo Indians live in a village in a house, but now they look around in these hogan, I don't see why these Navajos everywhere around they have these hogans, round, round, round, these are the words, I told him, it is a song I told him, we got the song for the hogan.....for a road. Now you see white people, they put road for us, that is the way that we know, that is the word I don't see why the white people are afraid of the dark.....that is our grandmother ----- NAVAJO LANGUAGE -come with us at night. See, now when the light, when our children sitting down right here, we don't get on top of our wife, see when it gets dark that is when that is the way that Indian know, they pray to Jesus Christ for everything, they got their another things, they go for weeks, they go with them, female go with them .-----NAVAJO LANGUAGE-----there was no sun down there, and when just like window, they used to go with that, and they used to call the earth with that. Right here is where they met.....that is

where they make deer and everything that we use, right over here. Nowadays these whitepeople say, this deer is mine, they put a tag.

- QH. Shooting the deer huh??
- AE. These belongs to the Indians, you know the time when I was young, the old men and the old ladies they used to tell, just what it said in the Bible, they say that there is some kind of people, they are living over seas, they are going to come across over here and even if we live here, they are going to put his house right there. Get out of here, this is mine. Just don't run, they are going to treat us that way, and now everything is going that way, you know I told them, these deer some of them got marks, they are cut over here, just like they don't know.....they are in the mountains, that is the way, when we go out hunting, we sing, they just, these men the ones that owns, we don't see alot of days we don't see....all of these they are hogans, they are hogans, they living there, we dont' know, just like God, we don't see hogan and I think they live there....------NAVAJO LANGUAGE------------Jesus Christ, is the God he cares for everything, they won't speak in front of him, the way the white people over here.
- QH. Do you think that the government takes pretty good care of the Navajo do you think?
- AE. I don't know, I don't know?
- QH. Do you get help from the government??
- AE. Well they help me when I went to school, but you see they give, some of these people they get relief, but I don't ask for it, but the time when I work for Mr.

 lot of Navajo people they get money from the government and they buy sheep with it.....but they want for me to do that the same way, but no, I got sheep, I got cattle, that is the way, I just spend my own money, you know.....
- QH. So you don't get any money from the government??
- AE. No....
- QH. No, food stamps or?
- AE. No food stamps.....
- QH. You don't need them huh??
- AE. It is a wonder that I have been getting this social security you know, that is what I get now -----NAVAJO LANGUAGE------that is the way that I call it, we can buy stamps, but when my

check comes, I just go over there to the trading post, and I just go over there, and spend my money there, and buy my food, that is enough for myself, but sometimes my children write to me you know and they are short on anything, and if I have any money, I sent it to them.....

- QH. Sent it to them yeah.....
- AE. Well they are my children see, but some of these traders say why don't they work themselves...

 they are too old, why don't they work themselves...that is the way they say, those traders, well they are my children......I told them, I not steal like you people, they are my heart, you see, they are my blood.....I told him.....
- QH. Got to help them.....
- AE. As long as I live, and then when I am gone, then I don't know, that is the way that I have been telling them.
- QH. You worked over in Crownpoint for the government?
- AE. Yeah.
- OH. What did you do there?
- AE. I was an interpreter.....after I came out of there, I start to work for the railroad company you knowgo around on the railroad, and first I work here on the logging camp, then when they still running the railroad up in the mountians, tear up for the train, then the time that I was foreman over there, that is the time that there was a good work with the Peak, that is the time that I see things, was the time that I work for Frank Porter.....
- QH. Logging or????
- AE. Digging you know where..... that is where we started, working with the picks and shovels up here on the mountain.....
- QH. Did the Navajo people always get along with the Pueblo people??
- AE. Yeah, they used to get zlong pretty long with them, but you know these Mexicans they, I read in the old hsitory, that they came without women and marry these, you know, the last time that I work in Lubbock, Texas, these old Mexico people they work for me, they don't talk English, I talk for them, sign papers, try to interpret, and they told me that six thousands Indians, you know, no wonder they get here at ------NAVAJO LANGUAGE------you know, just like us, they totaled six thousand Indians, and they want to take me over there and they said, everything

they don't cost much, even 12 year old girls, just for 25¢ that is what they told me, oh get out of here with that, I don't care, about that,....I don't go for that, I am just looking for my living. You know Mexicans always talking about the women.....

- QH. You don't like that huh?
- AE. Yeah...---NAVAJO LANGUAGE-----I might go over there sometimes I don't know....
- QH. Where Mexico?
- AE. Yeah, by gosh I loose my teeth you know, I got gold on this side, up here, you know that time when they had the feast over there at Jemez?
- QH. Yeah, feast day yeah?
- AE. I came back all my boys went back over here but I got left over here, but I came back with two boys, -----NAVAJO LANGUAGE------Luciano Rico and then we stop there and I stayed in the car and they went in the bar'and long time, lots of Indians, and they come out and I don't even know, and he said to open one and so I took my teeth out and I was wearing a leather coat, and usually I put it like shirt right here, and I thought I put it in there, but I think I just put it in there, but we don't get off, we came clear up here, and then he went off of the highway so he said, by gosh I am sleepy, can we stop, and I think if we had gone on, we would have gotten here someplace, but I didn't want to sleep and I thought that I had it here, and I came back here and when I took off my clothes and I search for it, I went back but I didn't find it.
- QH. No teeth??
- AE. No, teeth, so I have to go and get another one, I don't use much, once in a while I chew something, Hard things, you know.....I came back here since 7 years, and there was nothing around here, they wanted me to put one house like that, but anyway I am staying here by myself, I said and so some of my son or my daughter come over, they make it for me, that is the way that I do when my children come over here, it is for them. You see, I'm getting too old you see, if I was still young, young girl, then I would fix this house you see......
- QH. That is a good hogan though?
- AE. Yeah.

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- AE. Like over here Pete, that is why, they still have war over there?
- QH. Sure....
- AR. They are still fighting?
- QH. Yeah.
- AE. What is the use of fighting each other, just for dogs, dogs......
- QH. Doesn't make any sense....yeah.... I don't know....
- AE. You know these snow used to be flour and they mix it and then they starting drink, they spoil everything, but that was him, that is why we know-----NAVAJO LANGUAGE---- Have ever heard about Chee Dodge?
- QH. Chee Dodge....yeah.....
- AE. Big man...yeah, he was a good man and a good delegate, him and Jack Warner, Jack Warner, he wan ted to take all the livestock from the Indians.....
- AR. Yeah, like John Collier
- AE. Yeah, John Collier
- QH. John Collier, Navajo don't like him.
- AE. Well the first time they started in Lupe Arizona, because I was that time, I was an interpreter you know I work everytime...I just watch them, and then they had a meeting over here in Albuquerque, right in the middle of the town and then Chee Dodge and Jack Morgan, and Tom Dodge, not many-----NAVAJO LANGUAGE---------he died, my grandfather and at that time, Mr. Stewart he was the superintendent at Window Rock and lots of Mexican, and that time you know lots of them and then Mr. Stewart and these Mexican they said, NAVAJO, they just run in the mud and they used to rob us they said. They steal our houses, and they go through our corn fields, and that is what they said over there. Then Steart stand up and he said, well this River, this Rio Grande, it belongs to the Indians, all this belongs to the Indians, and you Spanish people are overseers, this belongs to the Indians.....you know these white people sure help the Indians....I like them, the ones that help the Indians. My grandfather has been raised here and I have been raised here, and they said, yeah, everything, these mountains, they belong to the Indians. Rio Grande River, belongs to the Indians......

- QH. Navajos don't like John Collier huh??
- AE. Yeah, that is what they say.
- QH. What do you think of John Collier?
- QH. What about Raymond Nakai??
- AE. Well I don't know Raymond Nahkai, I haven't seen him, only Paul Jones, he is a cousin of mine.
- ----NAVAJO LANGUAGE
- AE. I mean Raymond Nahkai I haven't seen him.
- QH. Do people like him?
- AE. He don't show up.....
- AR, Just one time Ojo Encino, the first time I think
- AE. You see Paul Jones he goes around, he is everywhere....on the airplane. And he is Indian and that time that we put Paul Jones, you know some Indians they head of the delegate, and Paul Jones sitting there, these four guys, he is after you and I know what the white people are doing I went to school way over there in New York somewhere....and he said, for ten years, I don't see the Navajo he said, went to school in New York and then he learn everything from the white people, and now these old men here, these Indians, they go by our old ancestral ways, way before

the earth, we got long hair here, and I know the white people, and the Indian way we start first, that is why, that is why nowadays they just tribal men ask for the Navajo people and that is why, that Paul did, the way I know, these old men he just laugh at them. That is why God, God, he have long hair,....even though you know what you did, just like John the Baptist you know even though the Indians get along without matches or anything. When he is through with the stone build fire, we just that is the way things go. You know some white people when they go out, we got lots of food everywhere, we don't use no more, but some white guys when they camp they don't know what to eat....that is the way they been telling me......

- QH. \$10 a load for wood???
- AE. Yeah.
- QH. And gas huh??
- AE. Yeah.....you know some of these guys that are running cattle, they want to give me cattle, because they know how to handle all those and I used to have liscense from Star Lake, clear out to that Gate over there, where that branch out and I used to have liscense from Albuquerque, and from over here too, on both sides, I just show them how to hold them, and my nephew he brought some cows over here, David....he bought one in from Albuquerque, and I just help them what I know, how the white people make their living and they simply, they don't understand...

----NAVAJO LANGUAGE

AE. You know these people that run down there, they say we are going to pay you for the 20 years, and then we pay the money to you, the first time and I don't know what you are talking about even yourself, tomorrow you don't know.....that is what I told them.....some people they like to rob....and they put that pipeline through my allotment you pay me for it....20 years who is going to collect the money when I am gone....that is what I told him. You know some people that is the way that they say.....

----NAVAJO LANGUAGE

- AE. Only God knows it
- QH. From the gas line, through your property....?
- AE. Yeah....-----NAVAJO LANGUAGE