Linguistic Biography – Interview Questions

1. Basic Personal History – Where were you born?
   What is the native language there?
   How long did you live there?
   At what age did you learn English?

2. What resources did you have available for learning English?
   - Classrooms, ESL / Bilingual classes, playmates, television, etc.

3. What was helpful and what was not helpful for learning English?

4. Can you tell me about your family members, and what they speak? How did they learn?

5. Do you know any other languages besides your native one and English?

6. Can you briefly give me any information on your native language?

7. How do you feel about your first language?
   When do you use it?
   With whom do you use it?
   Is important for you / your kids to retain fluency in it?

8. How do you feel about your English?
   Confident, self-conscious, proud, ashamed?

9. How do you perceive society’s acceptance of your use of your native language?

10. How does society perceive your use of English?

11. Have you ever felt discriminated against because of your accent?

12. Were you eager to learn English? Apprehensive?
   What was your reason for learning English?