

Physiology: a Questionnaire

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Volume 30, numéro 1, mars 1985

Interprétation de conférence

URI : <https://id.erudit.org/iderudit/003381ar>

DOI : <https://doi.org/10.7202/003381ar>

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Éditeur(s)

Les Presses de l'Université de Montréal

ISSN

0026-0452 (imprimé)

1492-1421 (numérique)

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Citer ce document

Lambert, S.-M. & Lambert, W. E. (1985). Physiology: a Questionnaire. *Meta*, 30(1), 68–72. <https://doi.org/10.7202/003381ar>

PHYSIOLOGY : A QUESTIONNAIRE

Cognitive psychologists are somewhat intrigued by the fact that people, whether they be right — or left-handed, may pick up a ringing telephone with one hand or the other, then place the receiver on their 'preferred' ear.

Most of us do this automatically, without thinking, although if we have to take notes while conversing on the phone, we may have to 'cradle' the phone on one ear or the other in order to be able to write, or we may simply hold the phone with the hand that is free.

In order to determine just how right — or left-handed you are, you will find a short questionnaire called the *Edinburgh Inventory of Handedness* appended hereto which only requires a few minutes to complete.

Where you, the interpreter, come in is even more interesting. Most interpreters who have been working for many years claim that they often like to move one of the ear phones slightly off one ear. Several reasons are given for this phenomenon ; for example, the fact that the headphones are too tight or that the interpreter prefers or needs to hear the sound of his or her own voice. It could also be related to the telephone ear in that we simply prefer one ear or pay better attention (process incoming information more deeply) when listening with our 'preferred' ear. Remember that booth conditions are not always ideal and that if there are two interpreters in the same booth, at times, an interpreter may choose to keep both headphones firmly on both ears simply to block out all external stimuli.

We would be very grateful for your help in this research. What we ask is that you answer the following questions, *taking time in doing so* and thinking carefully about it before answering. Feel free to take this questionnaire home and fill it in at your convenience. If so, kindly leave the completed questionnaire in my pigeon hole at the Institute.

SYLVIE-MICHÈLE LAMBERT
WALLACE EARL LAMBERT

1. Do you keep *both* headphones on *both* ears during simultaneous interpretation?
(Assuming that booth conditions are ideal in that you are alone in the booth or that there is no need to block out interference from adjoining booths, etc.)

Yes_____ No_____

If the answer is YES, why do you keep both headphones on ?

2. If you remove one headphone, which one do you remove ? I usually try to
free my LEFT ear. Yes_____ No_____
- I usually try to free my RIGHT ear. Yes_____ No_____
- Why do you feel to have that ear free ?

3. What percentage of the time is that ear (left or right) uncovered,
approximately ?

_____%

What factors affect your tendency to free one ear ?

For example : tiredness ?

difficulty of the material being interpreted ?

pain due to heavy headsets ?

Please list other possible reasons :

4. Does the language direction you are working into come into play ? For
example, when interpreting from B to A, will you remove your headphone
from one ear whereas when working from A to B you will not ? or vice-
versa ? In other words, does the language direction have any effect on your
headphone removal ?

Yes_____ No_____

Please explain if YES :

5. What is your mother-tongue ?
What is your A language ?
What is your B language ?
What is your C language ?
6. Are you left- or right-handed ?

Left-handed_____

Right-handed_____

(Bearing in mind that a more thorough handedness questionnaire is included fur-
ther on.)

7. When your telephone is ringing, which *hand* do you normally use to pick up
the receiver ? Pretend that the phone is a wall phone and that the receiver is
centered in the middle of the phone, which *hand* would you use then ?

Left_____ Right_____

8. Once you have picked up the receiver, which *ear* do you now place it on ?

Left_____ Right_____

9. If someone is giving you instructions over the phone and you are writing them
down, what do you do with the receiver to be able to take notes and listen at
the same time ?

10. Suppose you are listening to a casual conversation with the receiver placed on one or the other ear, do you have to switch to the other ear in order to write something down with your preferred hand ?

Yes_____ No_____

11. Do you ever 'cradle' the receiver between your cheek and your neck when you are taking notes and speaking on the phone at the same time ?

Yes_____ No_____

If YES, which ear do you cradle ?

Left_____ Right_____

12. Have you ever picked up a ringing telephone, placed it on your 'non-preferred' ear (for whatever reason) and then suddenly decide to switch it over to your 'preferred' ear because you felt you weren't hearing well enough or processing deeply enough with your 'non-preferred' ear ?

Yes_____ No_____

Could you please describe an instance of this occurrence ?

13. Which is your 'preferred' ear (for the telephone, for interpreting, for just listening in general, or when you 'cock' your ear) :

for the telephone :

Left_____ Right_____

for interpreting :

Left_____ Right_____

when listening in general :

Left_____ Right_____

when 'cocking' your ear :

Left_____ Right_____

when listening to whispering :

Left_____ Right_____

when listening to popular music :

Left_____ Right_____

14. Which side of your face (including your ears) do you think is the most attractive ?

My left side_____ My right side_____ No difference_____

15. For you, which side of the brain seems to be more active for the following activities ?

— listening to popular music ?

Left_____ Right_____

— listening to classical music ?

Left_____ Right_____

— listening to a friend talk ?

Left_____ Right_____

— listening to lectures ?

Left_____ Right_____

— listening to the radio ?

Left_____ Right_____

— listening to T.V. programmes ?

Left_____ Right_____

16. Some vital statistics :

Name : (optional, but I don't want to hand this questionnaire to the same person twice)

Age :

Sex :

Number of years as a simultaneous interpreter :
(students are included)

Do you have any *visual* or *hearing* impairment that you know of ?

Please describe :

17. Assuming that your mother-tongue is given a score of 4, can you rate your degree of bilinguality for your other languages and the age at which you acquired them ? Please list the languages.

	READ	WRITE	SPEAK	UNDERSTAND	
Mother-tongue	4		4	4	4
A language					age : _____
B language					age : _____
C language					age : _____

EDINBURGH INVENTORY OF HANDEDNESS

Please indicate the hand or the foot you use when :

	right	left
1. Brushing your hair	_____	_____
2. Brushing your teeth	_____	_____
3. Writing	_____	_____
4. Cutting with a knife	_____	_____
5. Eating with a fork or spoon	_____	_____
6. Throwing a ball	_____	_____
7. Drawing a picture	_____	_____
8. Cutting with scissors	_____	_____
9. Sweeping with a broom (which hand is on top ?)	_____	_____
10. Striking a match (which hand holds the match ?)	_____	_____
11. The foot you kick with	_____	_____

12. Eye used to look inside a telescope _____

Handedness in your family :

	Right	Left
Mother :	_____	_____
Father :	_____	_____
Brother(s) :	_____ ; _____ ; _____	_____ ; _____ ; _____
Sister(s) :	_____ ; _____ ; _____	_____ ; _____ ; _____
Children :	_____ ; _____ ; _____	_____ ; _____ ; _____

Thank you

If you have any questions, kindly contact me on (408) 373-6783 or Dr. W.E. Lambert on (514) days : 392-4886, evenings : 735-2068.