



Bob Long talks a little about his research

# ROBERT WILLIAM LONG

**February 26, 2015**

José Cruz: I'm going to interview you. Even though I've known you for how long now? I think like 15-

Robert Long: 20 years now

José: 20 years? (20 years) Has it been 20? (20 years). Well, that's how long you've been in Japan, right?

Robert: No, I've been in Japan 22 years.

José: And **when did you get here?** (20 years ago) No I- you mean Kitakyushu? (This university) And you started here the same year that I started here?

Robert: That was April, you know, Two thous- 1996.

José: Wow! Oh wow! 20 years that's amazing. (Mmm) Um, what brought you to Japan?

Robert: Well, I had been to Europe a few times and uh, and you know, I had scoped things out and it was fine. It was- I wanted to see something completely different and make a little money and establish myself and the world. And it was uh, Japan was the next best stop. And one of my colleagues had recommended me to a person that was- a professor that was working at Hiroshima Shudo University. We got along fine and he recommended me for the position of visiting professor and it took off from there, so I got the job there. And then moved on to Fukui

**Ken**, where I was hoping to get a job at Kansai **Daigaku**, which started in October, but I found that uh that I came up as #2 out of 70.

José: You mean in terms of the um the potential candidates.

Robert: Potential candidates (Uh-huh) And so I was stuck in this really hellish Mormon language school um typical situation, **so**.

José: Well English language schools themselves are an interesting phenomenon in in Japan.

Robert: Well, you have had several stories.

José: Oh I've had some very interesting ones. We'll uh, we'll get on to that in another thing. But you're you're you're one of these people I call "lifers". I think people look at me and they think I'm a lifer. I've been here longer than you. (Yeah) and uh, well are you **going to** basically, like, gon- **because** I get this question a lot with my Japanese friends, are are you thinking about staying here long term?

Robert: Well, I have no choice. I have to finish out my ten years to get my Japanese pension, so... yeah.

José: And you've just uh, I think you've just started paying for a house, right?

Robert: No, I I paid cash for my house.

José: Oh you paid outright for that. (Yeah) Oh, good for you. (I'm free) That's fantastic. (No debt) That's fantastic. (So) Fantastic. Um, you have two uh, very very bright sons too, don't you?

Robert: Yes, one just got done finishing the Kyushu University exam today. I asked him how it went yesterday and...

José: Hm. Oh, for- two days to sit an exam?

Robert: Two days for Kyushu University, yeah.

José: Um, tell me about your current research. What are you up to these days?

Robert: OK so the current research that I'm realising that's uh, very very important, is um, looking at gender discourse. Now gender discourse is conversations between men and women. And to find how this conversations... **how these conversations** are uh dysfluent and who has the most

hesitation phenomena. Uh, who has the most problems, and also to look at stress levels. So there's a stress anxiety uh survey that I would give to see who is more stressed in talking to the uh opposite sex. I have had, as you have had more um, more conversations with women, "what do you think about talking to men?" and they'll say, "Oh it's very troublesome." furrowed brows... And this is one of the population- this is one of the reasons the population's dropping because uh, no one's dating (Ahhh) you can't date unless you have conversations, and if you don't date you're not going to have a relationship, and if you don't have a relationship you can't get married.

Word count	Time	Words/Min.
648	3:37	180.00

Pointers:

**when did you get here** José says these four words very quickly and connects the pronunciation of "did" and "you" to make them sound like "JYUU" (0:13)

**Ken** is Japanese (県) for "prefecture"

**Daigaku** is Japanese (大学) for "university"

**so** Robert has a conversation habit of sometimes ending his sentences with the word "so". The word has no real meaning in this case. (1:35)

**going to** José uses the colloquial pronunciation of "GUHNA" (1:55)

**because** José uses the colloquial pronunciation of "KUHZ" (1:58)

**how these conversations** Robert realised that it was better to say "these" instead of "this" and corrected himself. (2:52)

Discussion:

Do you think you could live and work in a different country?

Robert Long is researching how well men and women talk to each other. Are you good at talking to the opposite sex?

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