

Complete Journal

December 10, 2021

Day 1 37.68 hours Week 1 Monday

Today was the first day of my second attempt, I retained more words than I thought I would, but I think my ability to tell where one word ends and the other begins has gotten worse. The only thing I've read today is a comicbook called One Piece, which I've already seen in Japanese. Reading is far easier than listening, I think I learnt more in today's 7 hours than in the 30 hours of my previous attempt. After experimenting with different things, by the end of the day I had found the adaptation of this comicbook in Spanish, with subtitles that match most of the time. I think these will be my main source of input. I may be digging myself into a corner by relying too much on reading, but I hope my listening will catch up after I get better. As for how conscious I am of my acquisition, I'm unsure, I'm making guesses all the time, concerning both words and grammar structures. For example a verb conjugating to end in 'a' is probably some form of imperative (mira, espera etc.) However I think I've also acquired the skill to tell nouns and verbs apart to some degree, I have no conscious conjectures about this, some words just sound verb-like and others more noun-like.

Day 2 45.98 hours Week 1 Tuesday

Reading is surprisingly enjoyable even though I'm not understanding most of it. Yesterday there was an interesting effect that may have occurred because of my experience with Japanese. You see, when I was learning Japanese, sometimes when I encountered a word that I didn't know, but I could guess it's reading I still got that 'Hooray new word understood' feeling, despite not actually understanding it. I think this might have tricked my brain, because I was getting this feeling all the time because of the phonetic spellings. It wore off this morning. It was still enjoyable though. Listening however is extremely demoralizing it's mostly gibberish, I can't detect the words that I'm half-familiar with from reading, but there is no way they aren't there. Reading gives me hope that I could actually learn reasonably fast, but listening seems impossible.

Day 3 55.03 hours Week 1 Wednesday

I got tired a lot quicker than I thought I would, listening takes almost no effort, but reading is surprisingly taxing, I can't read for longer than 4 hours a day. I'm not sure if this is simply because reading is harder than listening even for one's NL or if it's because my brain is working harder trying to decipher the language. Also, I may not be getting enough sleep, I'll try and see if getting up

at 7:30 instead of 6:30 and taking fewer brakes to compensate for it, makes the situation better or worse. I also take back what I said about the imperative, it appears to be much more complex. Verbs seem to have tenses similar to English and they definitely conjugate depending on the subject and object like they do in Hungarian.

Day 4 64.38 hours Week 1 Thursday

I was very optimistic for the first 3 days, I was learning much faster than expected, I thought there would be more of a snowball effect, where I would not understand anything for a long time, but that then it would speed up, however progress feels surprisingly linear, which actually makes me quite worried. If the rate at which I'm learning doesn't speed up then I'm not sure that it will be fast enough to reach an OK level.

Day 5 71.34 hours Week 1 Friday

There are a number of words that I recognise now, but have no idea what they mean. The two that irritate me the most right now are abaco(not sure if I wrote that correctly) and cosa, I think I figured out earlier today that the latter may mean thing but I'm not sure. I feel like this is the situation where a dictionary would prove most useful. I have also found a comicbook that's easier than One Piece, called Yotsuba to. It's incredible how easy it is. I think I'll put off reading One Piece.

Day 6 80.55 hours Week 1 Saturday

It appears that what I thought of as abaco was actually two different verbs abac??? and acab???. My current guess is that the former means finish and the later means die. Which is weird because I can't tell if there is a difference between that and morir. Anyways, I have made and revised many guesses for a lot of words, so it's still possible that these guesses still aren't correct.

Day 7 85.54 hours Week 1 Sunday

I just heard someone use the word 'nada' in an English video about finding pack.png in Minecraft. Luckily I had already known what it meant, so it didn't teach me anything, but it did lower my motivation a little bit, what if everything I've learned so far is so basic that every American knows it because they live next to Mexico and it's just common knowledge, like the way it is here in Hungary with a few words of German, and apparently as 'nada' is. Sure I'm learning, but I have no idea if it's fast enough. Though this is not a problem unique to this method, I've always taken what I already know for granted, but it still feels bad. On the bright side, today I clicked on a random manga that the site I use to read Yotsuba recommended to me because I thought it would be ridiculous based on the title: ¿Qué se debe hacer durante la pandemia de coronavirus? It was like twelve pages long, but it felt so good to just open something random and understand most of what it was saying.

Day 9 99.56 hours Week 2 Tuesday

Today I was watching One piece as usual with its subtitles that don't always match exactly but are ok 9 times out of 10. Or so they were until now. On episode 67-ish the subtitles suddenly changed and it's now unusable for me, so I guess I won't be using subtitles for the foreseeable future. The good news is that while searching for a better site for reading manga, I opened one of them

from the most popular list to see how the site worked, and to my surprise I could actually follow it for the most part. It's called Ijiranaide Nagatoro-san and it's some pathetic fetish thing that's remarkably easy to follow, perhaps even more so than Yotsuba, and I'm actually enjoying it for some reason, I think I'll read it.

Day 10 109.1 hours Week 2 Wednesday

My listening is still not as good as my reading but I think that the gap is at a more normal level, so I won't worry about it too much, but still, with the loss of One Piece I started putting more care into what I listen to and I found this show aimed at very young children that's called Ben and Holly. It's not exactly entertaining, but I can actually follow along somewhat so it's still better than watching something where I don't understand the story.

Day 12 128.52 hours Week 2 Friday

My motivation changes from day to day like I'm on a roller coaster. One day I feel like I'm doing great, understanding a lot of things, but on others it feels like the content I'm consuming gets more complicated at a certain point, except that when I look back at the parts I read the day before they also feel the same. It also doesn't help that I have no idea if I'm doing well or not.

Day 13 134.62 hours Week 2 Saturday

It feels so good when I finally notice what sets two similar words apart. For the most part I don't remember the words exactly, only as jumble of letters or sounds, and I usually don't know what sets apart words that sound similar or refer to similar things for example I just figured out that *viaje* means something like journey and *vieja* refers to an old woman. Another set that has been bothering me for a while are the c-nouns for head related things. I think I got it more or less down: *cara* is face *cabezo* is head, *cabello* means hair. I'm not sure about the last one because there is a very similar c??b??ll?? word that probably means horse. This is even worse with verbs that are a lot more fuzzy because of the conjugation. But I suppose not knowing the words exactly but being able to recognise them in context is a lot better than being able to write them down in a vocab quiz but not being able to recognize them.

It's also worth noting that I guess the meanings of new words a lot less often than before. Also I think I've reached the limit of what I can figure out about the grammar and phonetics consciously, so I've stopped making guesses about those all together. Here is what I figured out so far: The writing is pretty much completely phonetic, the few sounds that I have problems with are ll and y which may or may not be the same sound, and I think I tend to hear two sounds for y one voiced and the other not, this might just be allophonic. One of the few things that I knew about Spanish before this experiment is that it distinguishes between rolled and unrolled r-s which would explain the difference between r and rr, but I speak languages with rolled and unrolled r-s so I think I would be able to hear the difference between the two but I can't which leads me to doubt my memory. I'm also not sure if the h is silent or not most of the time or if it's just a very soft version of j. The vowels are a lot simpler, I'm pretty sure that there are only 5: a i u e and o, but I've seen an ü written down but it only seem to appear in *vergüenza* and I think it's pronounced as an u there. Furthermore

I'm sure that there are no long vowels and double consonants, even when two instances of the same sound appear at the boundaries of the words they seem to be realized as just one of that sound. I also know that the ' thingy marks the accent, but unaccented words have this very particular Spanish-y sound that I have no idea what it is, but I'm certain I could replicate it.

About the grammar, I know that nouns have at least two classes *el* and *la*, if there are others they must be very rare. It seems to be mostly random which word belongs to which class, but words that end with an *o* tend to be *el* and words that end with an *a* or *ion* tend to be *la*. The plurals end in an *s*. Adjectives can come either before or after the noun they modify and conjugate to match it's gender and plurality. The verbs work very similar to English with the added conjugations for the subject and the object. The latter can also be expressed by putting the *me/te...* before the verb. There are continuous and perfect tenses and passive voice, probably expressed by ending the verb in *do* and putting a conjugated form of *estás*, *he* and *soy* respectively. I absolutely could not make a table for the actual inflections but I think I can more or less recognize them. It even has helper verbs like *tengo* and *debes* which work kind of like *have* and *must/should*. Relative clauses are right-branching and seem to start with *que*.

Day 15 148.29 hours Week 3 Monday

It seems that with words like *chico*(boys) and *chica*(girls) the one ending in *o* is used for groups of mixed gender. I usually dislike it when languages have male and female variants of words like *actor/actress* but Spanish does something with them that I find interesting: *novio* means boyfriend and *novia* means girlfriend but because *novio* is used for mixed groups, *novios* can be used to mean something like lovers, not just boyfriends. Today I noticed that *padre* and *madre* (father and mother) can be used in a similar way, so that *padres* can mean parents. I'm not sure if there is an actual word for parents or not.

Day 20 166.2 hours Week 3 Saturday

When I was learning Japanese I remember thinking how weird it was that they substituted *v* in foreign words with a *b* sound, because to me they sounded nothing alike, now however I'm actually mishearing one for the other quite often, especially in words like *debes*. I'm also beginning to think that there are no different pronouns for second person plural and third person plural, they are both just *ustedes*, though I'm not sure about this.

Day 22 176.84 hours Week 4 Monday

I take back what I said about *ustedes*, there appears to be a proper 2pl pronoun which is *vosotros*. But I think that the conjugation of verbs might still be the same for 2pl and 3pl, for *son* and *están* at least. My current best guess for *ustedes* is that it's just a plural of *usted*, which is the polite version of the 2sg pronoun like *Ön* is in Hungarian. (There is a similar distinction in German but I don't remember the word.) Except that if this is the case then it must be used in much less formal situations than it would be in Hungarian. Anyways, I listened to some Spanish Spanish for practically the first time and it definitely impacts my comprehension. I can't really pin-point any difference other than the fact that it's just harder to understand and that it has a *th* sound in place of an *s* sound when it's written with a *c*

Day 23 185.94 hours Week 4 Tuesday

I came to a point where I almost never notice myself learning new words like I did in the beginning. This actually comforts me somewhat because this is what my experience with immersion in other languages has been like, in fact, I was very surprised in the beginning by how conscious I was of the process, but now I can just sit back and let my subconscious do the work. I will still make conscious guesses about the grammar purely because it's fun, I don't actually expect it to take me anywhere. I don't even find myself guessing the meanings of words that I recognise all the time but don't know yet, the two that annoy me the most currently are 'ya' and 'se'. Furthermore I think I might be starting to develop an intuitive sense of the difference between 'estás' and 'ser' which are the two main ways of expressing 'to be' for example 'estoy bien' sounds much better than 'soy bien' and when giving your name 'soy' sounds better, but this is not at the point where either of them would sound wrong to me, yet.

Day 27 220.08 hours Week 4 Saturday

It appears that a lot of scenes were censored in Dragon Ball. The problem is that they just straight up leave those parts in Japanese on every site I tried. Dragon ball Z seems to have a lot less censored scenes and they are also subtitled in Spanish, so what I do is I rip my headphones off my head when one these scenes start, read the subtitles and put my headphones back on after the subs stop coming. I still count this as Audiovisual though because switching categories is a pain, and it happens rarely enough that it should be negligible. On a completely unrelated I figured out a few days ago that the word for 'tomorrow' and 'morning' is the same. I thought that this would be terribly confusing, but to my surprise it's really not, at least I didn't have any problems with it these past few days.

Day 28 222.96 hours Week 4 Sunday

Rating content on my scale every week actually helps a lot with my motivation. Without it I don't think I'd notice any improvement, they force me to think more concretely about how well I'm actually doing instead of just thinking 'yeah I understand some but not all', it makes me appreciate progress that I otherwise wouldn't even notice. More great news: throughout the week I've been trying watching a bit of several different shows from my childhood and I'm pretty sure that I'll be able to choose 'easy content' without much trouble, which has been a major source of stress so far. Yeah sure Nagatoro and H2O were great but I would dread the time they would be over because I had no guarantee that I'd find more things that are as 'easy'. This is not a problem anymore and I'm very happy, because honestly, this was the worst part of the experiment.

Day 30 237.75 hours Week 5 Tuesday

It's no wonder English speakers can learn Spanish so fast, beyond the obvious cognates there are a lot of expressions that translate word for word like '... rests on your shoulders'

Day 31 246.14 hours Week 5 Wednesday

I wonder if there exists a natural order for vocabulary similar to the natural order for certain grammatical features. It would not be as strict, because I think

you can acquire almost any word if it's presented to you frequently enough in comprehensible contexts, even if the word is very rare on the average. However, I think that the ability to retain them for an extended period of time may be limited by such an ordering principle that is more complicated than simple frequency. For example, I just learned the word 'manga' which I believe means 'sleeve', but this word is probably not as frequent as most of the others I know, and I'm pretty sure that I will forget it soon. But if frequency was all that there is to it, then I think that a lot more infrequent words should be present in beginners vocabularies, because, while they are much less likely to be acquired, there is also a lot more of them.

Day 35 263.02 hours Week 5 Sunday

I just ordered the Harry Potter series from Amazon Spain and I learnt the word for Hungary in the process, about which I had doubts if it'd ever appear in my immersion but I saw it when making my order so it's fine.

Day 36 272.13 hours Week 6 Monday

So I guess it's time for an update on verb conjugation. I didn't find out much consciously, I realised that there is a separate form for 2PL that's distinct from 3PL contrary to what I thought, same with the perfect and continuous forms, the former tends to end with -do and the latter with -ndo, and I noticed the existence of what I call the hypothetical form, because I don't know a general linguistic term for it, some examples include 'podria' and 'gustaria'. I have no idea about the actual rules for conjugations, but I think I can conjugate certain verbs in the present tense. For example 'soy eres es somos sois son', 'se sabes sabe sabemos sabeis(??) saben', 'hablo hablas habla hablamos hablais(??) hablan' I think I can also recognise the past and future tense for the most part, but they are still fuzzy.

Day 39 298.33 hours Week 6 Thursday

It looks like the Amazon package tracker thing cickstarted my acquisition of the names of the days of the week, I still can't recall most of them, but I can recognise them in context most of the time: the one that's similar to luna is Monday, the one that starts with a v is Friday, sabado(?) is Saturday and domingo is Sunday, two of the others start with an m and one with a j I think, but I have no idea which of those is which.

I'm also starting to get the hang of the numbers, 0-10: cero uno dos tres cuatro cinco seis siete ocho nueve diez, 11-05 are irregular: once doce trece(?) catorce quince and for other two digit number you make with 'name for the tens' + y + 'name for the ones'. 20 is veinte and 30 is treinta and I don't know the rest. For higher numbers I think you just say the digit plus 100 1000 1 000 000 etc. which are ciento (sometimes just cien ?) mil and million respectively.

Day 40 307.19 hours Week 6 Friday

I am reading surprisingly slowly, it took me like 6 hours to read the first 100 pages of Harry Potter. On the bright side, I noticed that there are two distinct past tenses as in 'estaba' vs 'estuvo' I'm not exactly sure what the difference is, but the latter feels 'closer' if that makes sense, so I'm gonna call it the recent past tense, for example if someone says a good joke and you want to say 'that was good', 'estuvo bien' sounds better than 'estaba bien'. And with that I think

I got all of the inflected forms of verbs: present, past, recent past, future (e.g. *iré*), imperative (e.g. *escuchen*), hypothetical (e.g. *podría*), infinitive (e.g. *caer*), perfective (e.g. *hecho*) and continuous (e.g. *haciendo*), plus different forms of these conjugated for the subject where applicable.

I used to think that there were also different inflections for different objects, but it's so much of an inflection as it is just appending *me/te/lo/la/le/se/nos/os* and their plurals to the end or beginning of the verb. They are in a pretty straight forward correspondence with pronouns, except for 'le' which is used in place of *lo/la* for indirect objects and 'se' which means something like 'one's self' in phrases like 'hide yourself'.

With that being said, I mentioned that this 'se' bothered me before along with 'ya' which is used similarly to 'already'. I didn't learn these today, it's just that it's hard to pinpoint when exactly I learn something, so that by the time I'm sure I know it, it feels like I've known them forever.

Day 46 351.37 hours Week 7 Thursday

I started watching more Minecraft videos today and to my surprise, gameplays are not necessarily easier to understand than scripted videos about more complex things. This is great because the Youtube algorithm is very good at making you waste your time, which actually works in my favor now, making immersion a lot easier. This also means that I'm exposed to nontranslated Spanish for practically the first time, and it's not really a problem to be honest, it doesn't feel any harder, aside from the fact that I'm exposed to more accents, for example 'Miguel Gamer' has an interesting one where the main change is that he pronounces his y-s and ll-s as an sh sound. I still find it a lot easier than European Spanish though. People also swear in English a lot, like 'what the fuck.' Although this might just be because they are nerds.

Day 49 369.29 hours Week 7 Sunday

I should mention that when giving my comprehension ratings, I'm not really thinking about it the whole week, I don't even remember my scale, instead, on Sundays or Saturdays, I ponder for about 30 minutes on each rating while immersing in that content. If the piece content I'm rating is shorter than 30 minutes (today should be first day that happens), that means I'll think about the rating for the whole duration of said content.

Day 55 383.09 hours Week 8 Saturday

Today I gave a score to Dragon Ball that's lower than the week before. I expected this to happen sooner or later because it is self-assessment after all, but it still feels bad. Speaking of my scoring system, so far I'm pretty satisfied with it, I like how I made no mention of how well one should be able to follow the piece of content on a whole at the lower levels, because this varied to great extent, depending on how much the visuals helped.

But I'm not happy about a few lines I included like: 'understanding them [sentences] is 'the norm''. Although I do understand and expect to understand most of the sentences if I rate something above this score, it all still feels like a miracle that I can understand them. This may just be because of how intense my learning has been, I knew basically no Spanish two months ago.

Also 'I understand the majority of sentences I see, but it feels like I still don't

understand the important ones'. I didn't get this feeling at all, when learning Japanese this might have been the case, because I feel like cognates in Spanish seem to be more frequent in exposition dumps, the absence of which in Japanese lead me to not understand 'the important bits'. That, or I might just remember wrong and this didn't happen with Japanese either.

And finally I don't like my mentions of nuance, it doesn't seem to correlate in the way I thought with the other parts of my descriptions.

Going on a tangent about 'I knew basically no Spanish two months ago', I have to mention that this all feels very weird, I know it sounds dumb but it feels like the language is just made up, like it only exists in the bubble that is my room I use to immerse. This may be because Spanish was not a part of my life before I started learning it, sure I heard a few songs and they spoke it in *Breaking Bad*, but for English I had video games, for Japanese anime and for German I live next to the Austrian border, and the presence that Spanish had is basically nothing compared to that. The fact that I don't care that much about actually learning Spanish might also play a part.

Day 57 393.13 hours Week 9 Monday

Phonology update: I think I can hear the difference between *r* and *rr*, other than that I'm pretty sure about a few things like: *y* and *ll* are the same sound, and they only refer to one sound, the two different sounds I noted earlier seem to be allophones of this one phoneme, and that *ü* and *u* are the same sound. Of course I can't really say these for certain, because there is always the possibility that I just can't hear the difference, but I have some conscious evidence for the former: the dude I mentioned who replaces his *y*-s with a *sh* sound does the exact same thing with *ll*, and I hear certain words like '*yo*' pronounced with both sounds that I think are allophones.

The one thing that I'm very unsure about is the sound they write with an *h*: I have no idea if it exists or not. If it does exist it is definitely different from a *j* and it must be a much softer version of it. I do hear it sometimes but I also thought for a long time that I can hear the difference between English '*night*' and '*knight*' which I obviously can't. It's crazy how much spelling can effect what you think you hear, and all the conscious evidence I have points towards the fact that the *h*-sound doesn't exist and that it's just a silent letter. The evidence is the following: the word for 'and' is '*y*' and is pronounced as '*i*' but when it comes before an *i* it's an '*e*' e.g. '*e importante*'. But it also changes before a *hi* like in '*e hiciste*'. Second, I seem to hear the phenomenon I described earlier where phonemes aren't repeated at the borders of words also happens if there is a *h* between two vowels as in '*voy a hacerlo*' which would be pronounced as '*voyacerlo*' I think.

Day 61 429.37 hours Week 9 Friday

Today I switched from using headphones to using speakers for listening, and for the Youtube videos I watch it makes little difference, but *Dragon Ball* is way harder to understand and I'm not sure why. Maybe it's because of the poor sound quality. Also, doing long listening sessions this way is a lot easier for me. This, combined with my light week before has completely cured my burnout for now, I feel great.

Day 62 438.4 hours Week 9 Saturday

I came across a meme that comes pretty close to explaining some grammar, so I thought I should mention it: <https://www.planetaneperiano.com/neperianada/64174/latest/all/LO-HERMOSO-DE-LA-DIVERSIDAD-VERBAL> I was mostly aware of all of these and have a rough idea of what they mean except for the ones in the bottom right and some in the bottom left that I recognise by the ie part in them. I thought these was only one with that ie part but it turns out there are actually 3 (times 6 for the different subject of course)

Also, today I was reading a manga called Gantz and at around chapter 200 the already bad translation got so bad that they literally just leave half of it in Japanese and just write the translation in the white space between the panels, but sometimes they don't even bother to do that. Luckily my Japanese reading is not as effortless as my latin alphabet reading so I can avoid reading them.

Day 67 470.78 hours Week 10 Thursday

This week I dropped Dragon ball and started experimenting a bit and it looks pretty bad. Dubbed things were ok, not exactly good, I couldn't follow a movie I picked at random but I can follow a show, Anne with an e, that I picked at random from Netflix. I hope that my perception is skewed by Japanese because Anime appears to be a lot easier to understand than live-action shows, I tried the first episodes of two anime and I understood them at an OK level so I hope that means I'm good.

I'm surprised by how well I understand science videos on Youtube, fiction is way way harder (probably because of the cognates) I thought it would be the other way around.

The really bad news is that my comprehension of Spanish TV shows is atrocious. The difficulty mainly comes from not being able to make out what they are saying, because when I turn on the subtitles, it's a lot better, it's still not as good as I expected based on my reading: I think I can read pretty much any manga, but it's still ok I think. I don't know why this is, it's not because it's translated vs non-translated, that would mean that Youtube would also be hard, there is just something about the audio or the mumbling or I don't know. I experience a similar difference in Japanese and English but not nearly to this extent.

Last week I was almost certain that I would get acceptable results because of how well I understand science videos and manga, but now I'm less sure than I was on week 2. I feel really demotivated and I didn't really feel like writing in my journal and I think I'm gonna cut back on my immersion hours this week.

Day 68 476.03 hours Week 10 Friday

I discovered that my problems with my listening are a bit better when using headphones, so I will switch back to using them. I also noticed the some of the names of the fingers today. I can't recall them but the word for the index finger is a cognate and the one for the middle finger contains 'corazón'

Day 71 485.82 hours Week 11 Monday

I'm gonna do something different with my comprehension ratings this week. So far they have been pretty representative of what content I consumed that week, but now I'm gonna rate some things that I presume are more difficult

and plan to red/watch/listen to in the future. (I may or may not actually get to them) I will only spend 30 minutes on each of them and I will rate them on any day of the week, not just on Saturdays and Sundays like before. Starting next week the scores will return to be representative of what I consume, but I will continue to rate any day of the week, so as to increase the range of content I score.

Also today was the first time that I forgot to stop the counter at the end of a session, it reached 02:53:24 of audiovisual time by the time I noticed. Luckily I just started a new episode on Netflix that session so I know that it was 16 minutes, so I corrected it.

Day 76 497.14 hours Week 11 Saturday

I have to say that my expectations about what would be hard and what wouldn't were completely off. Firstly, I tried other dubbed shows and the difference between things like Anne with an E, which is pretty every day stuff, and things like Bohemian rhapsody, The theory of everything, Dr. House and House of cards, is a lot smaller than what I expected the latter two being a bit below what I'd be willing to watch at this point, but I'm entirely comfortable watching the two before that. But House of cards was my 'last boss' of dubbed content in Japanese, it was the hardest one I found but with Spanish it's not that big of a deal.

I guess when you think about it, there is really no reason for conceptually hard things to be linguistically harder in L2, which I, and many others, assumed, but it's very far from the truth. This is illustrated even more by how well I understand science videos on youtube.

With this I have gained lot more confidence about watching dubbed things. I think that one random movie I mentioned last week that I couldn't follow might have been a too early call, I dropped it after the first few sentences, also it might have been because of the headphones/speakers difference. Making two big jumps, one with the diversity of the content and the other with sound quality might not have been the best idea.

Because of this I feel a lot better motivation-wise, I'm pretty sure I can reach an acceptable level with youtube videos, dubbed content and novels, but I'm have no earthly idea if I can 'patch up' my unacceptable shortcomings with native TV shows, with the gap in understanding when using headphones vs when using speakers, and, of course, with speaking when I get to it. (I assume that I will have problems with it)

The really bad news is that, with native Tv shows, not even the subtitles help me as much as I think they should based on how much I understand of novels, which suggests that recognising the sounds is the only problem, but also the actual vocabulary is different. What I don't understand about this, is that how can they be so different from something like this: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=htg_e_Q8D6s which also isn't translated from another language. Anyways, with headphones native shows are not as hard as my initial impression of them was but they are still a huge problem.

On the bright side, I tried podcasts for the first time: one about anime, which I understood surprisingly well and a much more every day one which I

understood terribly. The good thing about this, is that with Japanese, when I first started watching podcasts there was this phenomenon where I felt like I understood most of what they were saying in the moment, the thing that they were talking about went right over my head. I do not get this with Spanish, I understood one podcast but not the other, and that's it. I have no idea why this is the case.

Day 80 508.71 hours Week 12 Wednesday

Before starting the experiment, I was completely sure that English not being my native language would not be a hinderance. If I didn't know English, then Spanish would probably be a 2000 hour language for me, not a 1000 hour one, because Hungarian is a 2000 hour language for native English speakers, so I assume English is a 2000 hour language for native Hungarian speakers, so that Spanish is probably the same. I thought that my English was good enough that there wouldn't be a noticeable difference between me and a native English speaker in this regard, and I still think this but I'm now less sure. I started encountering cognates in English that I didn't know before but could have been of huge help for Spanish, like, most recently, 'unequivocally' and 'nascent' for 'equivocar' and 'nacer'.

Day 83 517.84 hours Week 12 Saturday

I have started watching dubbed movies on a lower volume, instead of jumping straight to using speakers, for this reason I have returned to childrens shows and to movies that I watched over and over as a kid, I'm hoping to gradually adjust to watching dubbed things with speakers. I hope it won't take long. In the meanwhile I will continue to watch original Spanish shows with subtitles to help build my vocabulary, and after that I'll go through the same procedure with them: headphones -> headphones on a low volume -> speakers. Non-subtitle reading is gonna take a backseat for the rest of the experiment.

Day 85 523.4 hours Week 13 Monday

After watching the Matrix I decided it's time to switch to speakers, and based on the children's show Witch the difference is not nearly as drastic as it was a few weeks ago. Also, kind of off topic but 7 year old me would kill me if he knew that I openly admitted to watching these girly shows like Witch and H2O that I had liked in secret.

Day 88 533.48 hours Week 13 Thursday

The word for 'Hungarian' came up today in quien mató a Sara but I can't recall it, I think it might have been húngara? I'm surprised that it came up in my immersion, but I guess 500 hours is a long time.

Day 90 542.93 hours Week 13 Saturday

I'm seeing some progress with Mexican shows when i watch them with subtitles, my main difficulty with them is now just my hearing. Based on the peek I took at the show Élite, this does not extend to Spanish shows, I think the slang might be somewhat different. For example I don't seem to be hearing 'güey' in Élite and I don't recall people calling others who aren't their uncles 'tío' in Mexican shows. I think I'm gonna stick to Mexican shows until I make the transition to speakers without subs, and then try to branch out to shows with different accents.

Day 91 543.59 hours Week 13 Sunday

I just noticed that last week I forgot to write in the 'What I did' column of my Comprehension scores spreadsheet, and since I started giving comprehension scores more frequently I don't even think it has a point anymore, so I'm gonna stop writing in it.

Day 92 549.71 hours Week 14 Monday

Yesterday I started watching Modern Family in English yesterday and I have to say these past 3 years that I spent on Japanese and Spanish did not have a good effect on my English listening, my reading is completely fine, same with Youtube videos and animation like Rick and Morty, but with live action it's horrible, especially with speakers. This makes me think that my speakers problem with Spanish will last a lot longer than expected, so the new plan is to watch dubbed stuff and youtube on speakers and original Spanish shows with headphones, getting familiar with more accents before making the transition to speakers, instead of after.

Also, there are some Spanish lines in Modern Family, but I think it should be negligible so I'm not gonna count it nor avoid the show for this reason. I don't know if I've said this before but same goes for when a Spanish song comes on the radio or something, though it has only happened once so far if I recall correctly.

Day 97 563.84 hours Week 14 Saturday

I quit using subtitles for Mexican shows, a rewatched a part of Oscuro deseo and I'm gonna rewatch the first season of Quien mató a Sara and then the second season which I have not seen yet. I will also start to watch European Spanish shows with subs more often.

Day 100 577.57 hours Week 15 Tuesday

So engaging with more European Spanish made me realize that my Harry Potter books are written in European Spanish, which I mean duh I ordered them from Spain, but it's just that I didn't expect there to be any significant difference in writing so I never really thought about it. But now it resolved something that has been bugging me for a long time which is the difference between 'ustedes' vs 'vosotros': I used to think that 'vosotros' turned into 'ustedes' at a lower level of politeness than 'él/ella' turned into 'ustedes' and that I just had to get a feel for where this barrier was, but it looks like it's the same as in the singular case in European Spanish and 'ustedes' seems to have more or less absorbed 'vosotros' in Mexican Spanish.

I have also started noticing one of the last verb forms from that meme I saw. If we call 'estaría' 'estuviera' and 'estuviese' hypothetical 1, hypothetical 2a and hypothetical 2b respectively, then I think I can conjugate hypothetical 1 and 2a and have a rough idea of what they mean, and I started noticing hypothetical 2b which seems to be some form of past tense of hypothetical 2a maybe? I have no idea about the last missing form, which I'm gonna call hypothetical 2c. I don't recall ever noticing it.

Day 102 589.05 hours Week 15 Thursday

My reading speed has improved a lot since the first Harry Potter book, I think it took me around 3:40 minutes to read a page and now it takes around

2:15. The average reading speed in English seems to be around 200 words per minute, the Harry Potter series has 1,084,170 words meaning it should take around 72 hours to read. Assuming that that's roughly the same for the Spanish translation, my copy of which is 3800 pages long according to Amazon, it should take around 1:25 minutes to read a page, so it's still not ideal. Anyways this means that it should take me almost a 100 hours to finish the series, which I'd like to do before the deadline, as well as read at least some of The Count of Monte Cristo and some textbooks, so I can't really focus as much on listening as I planned a while ago. I'm actually somewhat happy about this, because I'm starting to enjoy the books, I have only seen the movies and read the first 2 books in Japanese, so it's somewhat new to me.

Day 105 599.89 hours Week 15 Sunday

OK so this week I finished Witch and watched the rest of The theory of everything which I watched the first half of with headphones a while ago, and while it's still way harder with speakers, I think I'm gonna consider the transition from headphones to speakers complete for dubbed content and youtube videos.

Day 111 629.09 hours Week 16 Saturday

I decided to try to make the transition to speakers for Mexican shows, I think I will start with re-watching the second halves of Oscuro Deseo and Quién mató a Sara that I haven't re-watched yet. I hope it will be enough to adjust.

Day 114 643.12 hours Week 17 Tuesday

The switch to speakers was a bit too early, I'm gonna leave it for now.

Day 117 658.79 hours Week 17 Friday

I just realised I made a mistake yesterday. I was watching videos on Youtube and because it's Youtube I automatically started the Audivisual timer without thinking about it, but some of the videos that day were just a guy talking into a microphone as if it were a podcast, which I should have counted as Audio only time, so I changed a 42 minute Audiovisual session to Audio only to compensate. This is just a very rough estimate though. From now on I'll keep this in mind and edit the data accurately based on the videos length, should such a video pop up during a mainly Audiovisual session.

Day 119 670.2 hours Week 17 Sunday

I started watching Colombian shows and the biggest thing about the accent is that it sometimes seems to not pronounce the 's' sound at the end of syllables. Also there are some differences in the usage of 2S pronouns: 'usted' is used in much less formal situations, but I can't say that it completely merged with 'tú' because I did hear that used too, as well as 'vos', which I don't think anyone would use in real life in Mexican/European Spanish, but is used in Colombia maybe?

Day 123 700.42 hours Week 18 Thursday

It turns out that that accent that pronounces 'y' and 'll' as a 'sh' is Argentinian. It also seems to use 'vos' instead of 'tú' with some weird conjugations like 'sos' and the 's' sounds are sometimes silent though not as often as in Colombian Spanish. I remember saying that this accent was easier to understand than European Spanish, but that has changed, European Spanish seems way easier now, which is not surprising considering that I had more exposure to it.

Day 125 716.68 hours Week 18 Saturday

Today morning I finished the 5th Harry Potter book and I don't think I'll read more of the series during the experiment, so I spent the rest of the day trying different books, dubbed stuff, Youtube videos, memes and some textbooks, not to give comprehension scores, just to decide my next course of action.

After taking a quick look at 100 años de soledad and The Count of Monte Cristo again, I can say that I'm already satisfied with my reading, so I don't do more of it regularly, except for subtitles and for some math/physics textbooks to get more familiar with some technical language. The latter I will count as Text with visuals because there are diagrams every now and then and because equations can kind of be considered visuals that aren't language I guess.

So the main thing that I need to work on is my listening: Spanish shows with speakers are still very hard and I'm not sure if I've mentioned this but the same goes for some Youtube videos like this playlist: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Itwh5d8IhKU&list=PL9PItSggQmU2oUWPDU1-Diajb957bc1dV> Which is really weird because I understand the host just fine, but not the other players (even though when I check out their channels, there I understand them a lot better.) Same goes some clips of people being interviewed in science videos.

Anyways, what I'll try doing is first watch a lot of Spanish shows subbed but with speakers, and then later remove the subs.

Day 130 749.74 hours Week 19 Thursday

I originally planned to read a bit about quantum physics, which I thought I could do, because I had started reading a book called 'Quantum Theory for Mathematicians' in English (I didn't get very far) so I tried to find something similar in Spanish but I couldn't find anything. The books that I did find begin with the black body problem which seems to actually require knowing some physics, which I don't. (I had studied physics in high school but all I remember is mechanics)

Because of this, I tried various physics textbooks throughout the week, including the part about special relativity of the Feynman Lectures, which lead me to checking out Einstein's original paper, and I had the idea to try to explain his derivation of the Lorentz transformation at the end of the experiment as a test of my speaking skills.

I'll do it with some minimal preparation: I will read that part a lot of times, I will go through the equations myself trying to not think in Spanish while doing it, and I will make a not for myself with some keywords and key equations, but I won't plan or write down what I'll say exactly.

I think this is a great topic because it's technical but still kind of accessible. You only need to know a bit of calculus, which is only used at one and step, and $v = s/t$ to understand it.

Another thing that I plan to do to test my speaking at the end is to join a Minecraft survival server with an active Discord voice chat which is proving to be difficult to find so I may have to think of something else.

Day 132 766.81 hours Week 19 Saturday

Good news: I have managed to simplify Einstein's derivation so that it now requires no calculus, and I think I found my Minecraft server, though it's voice

chat doesn't seem to be too active. For that case I have joined a few very large Discord servers for gaming and anime but I'd rather go with the small one.

Day 136 783.35 hours Week 20 Wednesday

So I got sick, and I don't feel like I'm getting a lot out of my immersion, so I think I'm gonna cut back on it. I'm not sure if I'm just imagining it but having a fever seems to lower my comprehension.

Also it's probably covid. If the weekly updates on github stop coming that means I'm dead.

Day 144 807.31 hours Week 21 Thursday

I have started re-watching Oscuro deseo and plan to rewatch Quién mató a Sara. I will have seen them 2 times fully and half of them 3 times. I will also make this my last attempt at fixing my headphones to speakers problem, and in general I think that this 'picking the low hanging fruit' by forcing myself to immerse in new topics is over, I think I'll just do whatever I want for the rest of the experiment, which right now means reading Harry Potter.

Day 152 874.5 hours Week 22 Friday

I decided to start practicing speaking today. Since the experiments main focus is on comprehension, I want to rule out the possibility that the correction that and explanations that I could receive while speaking with others could effect the development of my comprehension.

For this reason I decided to only speak to myself before the end of the experiment. The problem is that I'm not very good at talking to myself, so what I will do is, as some people online recommend, I will summarize things that I watch/read during my immersion.

My choice for the first recording is retelling the tale of the three brothers from the final Harry Potter book that I read recently. I will reread that part and then proceed to make the recording.

Ok I made it. I didn't listen to the full thing, but I couldn't avoid listening to some of it to ensure that there were no technical problems. It was not exactly good but it wasn't terrible either. From the bit of it that I did hear I can tell that I made lots of grammar mistakes that I would have said differently if I weren't speaking in real time.

I don't think that it's at a level where with just a little bit of speaking I could improve it massively, so I won't speak more during the experiment.

Here is the link: <https://youtu.be/oxGRYZtZhHc>

Day 156 901.42 hours Week 23 Tuesday

I know that I haven't reached the planned 1000 hours yet, but I decided that it's time to bring the experiment to an end. Starting tomorrow I will start a 'testing phase' in which I will give comprehension scores on a variety of different content. It will differ from the comprehension scores I gave thus far in that the content will be randomly selected instead of being representative of what I do in my immersion, which will probably result in a fairer picture of what I can and can't do.

Given that I will write down everything I do during this period, I will stop writing the journal and I will not count the time sorted into the usual categories. I estimate that it should take around 10-20 hours to complete the description,

meaning that my total time spent on Spanish will be around 910-920 hours including my first attempt and my test phase.