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The ESF (European Science Foundation Second Language) Database is a computerized archive of data collected by research groups of the ESF project in five European countries: France, Germany, Great Britain, The Netherlands and Sweden. The project concentrates on the spontaneous second language acquisition of forty adult immigrant workers living in Western Europe, and their communication with native speakers in the respective host countries. The target languages are Dutch, English, French, German and Swedish. For each target language, two source languages were selected. The corpora are:

- Dutch L2 and Arabic L1
- Dutch L2 and Turkish L1
- English L2 and Panjabi L1
- English L2 and Italian L1
- French L2 and Arabic L1
- French L2 and Spanish L1
- German L2 and Italian L1
- German L2 and Turkish L1
- Swedish L2 and Finnish L1
- Swedish L2 and Spanish L1

The Dutch, English, and French L2 transcripts have accompanying audio. The German and Swedish L2 transcripts do not. Biographical information about the informants is currently in the bios.zip file. A filename like lsfbe24a.1.cha indicates:

- 1 subject from the longitudinal group,
- s source language is Spanish,
- f target language is French,
- be the informant's name is Berta,
- 2 the session took place in the 2nd data collection cycle,
- 4 it was the 4th encounter in that cycle,
- a the activity transcribed is a free conversation (activity code A),
- 1 it is the 1st conversation in the encounter,

Publications that use this corpus should cite:

Perdue, C. (ed.) (1993). Adult Language Acquisition. Vol 1: Field Methods. Cambridge University Press