Setting: ITA’s office. Quiet.
Participants: IS5 (long black hair), I1 (not visible)

xxx IS5: my agony
xxx I1: ((laughs))
xxx IS5: and uh
xxx I1: exactly
xxx IS5: and no example
xxx I1: I should be a salesman
xxx ((laughs))
xxx I should be a car deal
xxx “agent”
xxx I’ll be a very bad agent
xxx IS5: maybe not
xxx maybe you
xxx maybe people like your honesty
xxx ((laugh together))
xxx IS5: and then you have good reputation
xxx I1: ugh
xxx I have never been
xxx met
xxx a decent
xxx salesman
xxx they’re trying to
xxx “all they want is profit”
xxx <have you been to any:>
xxx interesting places?
xxx IS5: no.
xxx I1: no
xxx on Long Island?=
xxx IS5: =no
xxx I1: outside of Long Island?
xxx IS5: I don’t have car so
xxx I1: you can take a train!
xxx you can take a bus
EVA IS5: ah
EVA “too tired”
xxx I1: did you go to the
xxx have you been to New York City?
xxx IS5: I’ve been to New York City one years ago
xxx I1: when you first arrive here?
EVA IS5: no
EVA   uh yea.
xxx  I1:  ok
EVA   and I mean
EVA   one
EVA   >no no no
EVA   I mean<
EVA   maybe two years ago maybe
EVA   I
EVA   <when I was an undergraduate >
EVA   I came to °America°
xxx  I1:  oh!
xxx  IS5:  so I went to city
xxx  I1:  ok
xxx  IS5:  and after I came to Stony Brook
xxx  I1:  mhm
xxx  IS5:  I never go to °city°
xxx  I1:  my god!
xxx  when
xxx  when you
xxx  came here
xxx  um
xxx  to New York City
xxx  did
xxx  were
xxx  were you alone or?
xxx  did you have someone with you
xxx  IS5:  I’m
xxx  >I’m with my friends<
xxx  I1:  ok
xxx  oh my god that’s so sad
xxx  ((laughs))
xxx  IS5:  why?
xxx  I1:  aw
xxx  so
xxx  how
xxx  how did you spend your winter?
xxx  did you do anything fun?
EVA  IS5:  go to California?
EVA   I went to California? for one week
EVA   and I came back
EVA   and prepared for the exam!
xxx  I1:  oh how did it go!
xxx  IS5:  (oh just I pass)
xxx  one of the
xxx  but I still have three left!
xxx I1: oh come on
xxx that’s something to celebrate!
xxx did you celebrate?
xxx IS5: of course not!
xxx I1: oh my god!
xxx IS5: (because I just pass one)
xxx I1: when is the second one?
xxx IS5: next
xxx the beginning of next semester?
xxx I1: see you have?
xxx you celebrate every little things
xxx that makes you happy
xxx IS5: no
xxx I1: it makes me
xxx IS5: >I don’t feel happy for such things<
xxx I1: no no no you have to enjoy little things!
3:00
xxx otherwise life is so boring
xxx IS5: yea life is boring
xxx I1: because after 4 exams you have two more
xxx you have more things to worry about
xxx and then you will never be happy
xxx IS5: that’s why I’m not easy to be happy
xxx I’m cold
xxx I’m cold blood ((both laughs))
xxx I1: where do you?
xxx IS5: I’m a boring
xxx I1: no you’re not
xxx you’re just
xxx too
xxx practical.
xxx too realistic.
xxx IS5: yea maybe
xxx I1: yea
xxx but there’s nothing wrong with it
xxx IS5: it’s not wrong
xxx it’s not wrong but.
xxx I1: but if you were living you know
xxx one day every day right,
xxx it’s why not
xxx be happy?
xxx rather than just normal and boring
xxx enjoy little things
xxx IS5: I mean
xxx if you don’t know
>I don’t know what I should do< in the future so I’m I’m thinking about that all the time it’s take me takes me a lot of time and make me feel very tired mmm I keep thinking about it um I don’t know I can’t I don’t know what life will take you to so but it’s out of control enjoy being lost= no I [cannot!] [enjoy being worried] ((laughs)) but how so how do you exist if you’re a PhD and you cannot become professor so you like you know I’ve been in PhD program for 6 years the first year was fun because it was learning it was fresh everything was new! you got to you know meet new people and then you feel oh I’m so happy now I’m here I belong to some kind of group, or community, I’m taking classes and learning new things every day and then the second year you start to feel ugh I have to do this. I have to do that.
and it takes so many years to graduate
and what’s going to happen after graduation?
and then third year you started to think
oh I wish I was still first year student
back then there was no worries
everything was fun
and the fourth year
you started to get used to everything
((laughs))
get used to the boring ordinary
uh
oh my god I’m speaking all these (to you)
((laughs))
but then the more closer you get to the finish line
the more (.)
I guess you feel motivated
so many people have been telling me that
the fifth or sixth year is the crucial year
because this is the year whether um
you decide you
are you going to make it?
or you are going to give up?
because there are so many people who give up at their
and stage of their PhD program
IS5: why!
IT’s the end stage!
I1: because they didn’t see any point in finishing it
or there are disappointed in their work
IS5: but it’s just spend one year and you get degree.
I1: (.).yea
IS5: if you give up
you give up the passing years
I1: yea
but then they just thought
every thing’s meaningless
why am I doing this
IS5: to get the degree!
>that’s why<
I1: what’s the degree for? if I can get a job or
IS5: >if you can’t get a job<
if they can’t get a job
I mean
at that time
it’s ok
but I don’t think if you spend 4 years on campus,
and you have no degree,
and then you can’t get a job!
so many people end up

6:00
jobs that doesn’t require a PhD
mean teaching jobs?
mm
((whisper)) I don’t want to be a teacher
oh you wanna be a professor but not a teacher!
professor you are facing
some
um
you are teach
the undergrad students
(who) are not teenagers
the
that’s true
that is true
and teenagers
you can say it!
we don’t have any teenagers here
teenagers they
I know I can totally understand
because there are
in the very sensitive period of [life
[yea
it’s too hard to talk
to communicate with them
yea
and I think for me
if I’m a teacher
I won’t-
get respect
I won’t make the class very interesting
like to give them some jokes
because
I’m here just to teach you
popular teachers in high school
are those that
I think that I’m here to teach you guys knowledge
º not to make you guys happyº
((laughs))
so if you’re a teenager maybe I need to make you happy
to attract your interest
but if you are enthusiastic teacher!
but if you uh
if I mean
if they are undergraduate or graduate students
so I have the excuse
because you are here to study
not to
that is true
so
because I think that doing that it’s just a waste of time!
>everytime when my teacher tell some jokes in the class<
mhm
I feel like
why?
it’s not funny just
what kind of teacher are you talking about?
college level teacher or
high school level?
college
college
high school
both
because I don’t care if your class is boring or not boring
if you
I mean if you explain each problem clearly,
of course your class won’t be boring
but you know what think about college
professor
my attitude is that
sometimes I can feel like I can learn better
from textbook
or from other resources=
=yes
than from this particular professor
°yes yes°
and there are many times I attend certain classes in order
to get attendance and that’s it
textbook can give you details
yea
but if-
and there are many professors who are based
who based their lecture completely from textbook
and many professors actually don’t know this problem
yea
.xxx IS5: and they don’t understand that
.xxx they just follow the textbook and uh
.xxx ignore some details
.xxx I1: right
.xxx IS5: >so if you are a very good professor you have very good
.xxx understanding of these problems
.xxx then you can give me a very clear (out) <
.xxx (answer)
.xxx I1: yea yea
.xxx IS5: >that’s but most of them I think can’t do that<
.xxx I1: because professors are not trained
.xxx they didn’t take any education or pedagogical classes
.xxx IS5: yes
.xxx and I think some professors
.xxx they are not. very intelligent
.xxx I1: ((laughs))
.xxx IS5: yea because I mean.
.xxx like.
.xxx to teach
.xxx and to do research
.xxx I1: [they’re different
.xxx IS5: [they are different kinds of things
.xxx I1: they maybe very good in research
.xxx IS5: >good in research< but in teach somethings
.xxx I1: yea sometimes
.xxx IS5: they are not (in that region)
.xxx I1: some professors are
.9:00
.xxx um
.xxx when they are explaining certain concepts they are
.xxx very unorganized
.xxx IS5: and if you understand I mean
.xxx understanding something and teaching others is also
.xxx [different
.xxx I1: [different
.xxx very different
.xxx in your own classes are
.xxx like when you
.xxx have you ever taken any seminar classes
.xx where you had to present?
.xxx IS5: yes seminars
.xxx I1: a paper?
.xxx ok
.xxx how do you do in those classes?
.xxx IS5: I haven’t
I did it last semester,

but I’m

I didn’t do it very well.

because

are you a good presenter?

nope.

what is your problem?

language?

oh come on stop

you are English is ok

but I think

because m

what I’m

what I’m feel nervous?

what I’m thinking is using Chinese

[oh ok

[and sometimes I need to translate so

it might take [some time.

[take some time.

and of course the biggest problem is that I

I’m not an expert

so,

when people ask me some question=

[mhm

I cannot answer them like

I just prepared for one

one to two weeks

this topic

well that’s a very long time!

long preparation time

one to two weeks

yea

ok

that’s what it is

how long was the

presentation?

°like 15 minutes°

you spent two weeks

for a 15 minutes presentation

I think that’s °(enough)°

really?

yea

but

maybe
it’s because.
(is it)
I’m stupid. ((laughs))
don’t say that
how many times
have you said that today?
I’m stupid
I’m not smart enough
yea
copy
copy
[no IQ
[copy
it’s it’s
it’s good actually!
no it’s not good
ok
you (need) to have more self confidence.
what type of presentations are the usual way in physics?
is it handout?
powerpoint?
or just oral presentation
powerpoint
powerpoint
slides
slides
it’s
I mean
if you are talking about some
then slides
[ok
[but when we are taking courses we
use blackboard
ugh
I remember
((inc))
I hate writing
I hate physical students
professor
use powerpoint to
why:::
xxx IS5: it’s a disaster you know
xxx because like
xxx maybe if if
xxx they are doing a (.)
xxx talk,
xxx I1: yea
xxx IS5: it’s ok
xxx but if it’s a class
xxx I1: mhm
xxx IS5: if he use powerpoint
xxx it’s so hard
xxx oh my god
xxx I1: why is it?
xxx IS5: you will ((inc)) actually because
xxx I1: because you can’t see step by step?
xxx IS5: >I can’t see but<
xxx but first
xxx the professor won’t do it on his own
xxx own right
xxx because he has
xxx did it on the powerpoint
xxx so he won’t do it
xxx maybe he won’t think in the class
12:00
xxx because it is on the powerpoint
xxx I1: right right right
xxx IS5: he won’t speak it one by one.
xxx I1: yea
xxx IS5: so it’s just so
xxx >maybe she cannot
xxx he cannot realize there might be a problem< and we
xxx ‘can’t understand’
xxx I1: o:::h
xxx IS5: it’s so
xxx it’s a disaster
xxx I mean it is for me
xxx if my professor‘ use powerpoint‘
xxx ‘ in physics or in mathematics’
xxx I1: it’s very different
xxx I1: probably it’s because of the subject
xxx IS5: so then you like
xxx I1: I actually like powerpoint because I hate peoples
xxx handwritings
xxx on the blackboard
xxx IS5:  ((inc))
xxx I1:  either handouts
xxx handouts or powerpoint I like that
xxx I don’t like anything else
xxx IS5:  no matter they have
xxx powerpoints or
xxx hand handouts
xxx I hope they will write it on the blackboard
xxx step by step
xxx I1:  yea probably because it’s physics
xxx um
xxx IS5:  and
xxx I1:  interesting
xxx and mathematics
xxx IS5:  yea it’s like
xxx >I remember last semester<
xxx I1:  don’t tell me specific names
xxx IS5:  there’s a student ((alt add: student))
xxx in the ESL class
xxx I1:  yea
xxx IS5:  he said that he likes his physics students professor
xxx I1:  ok
xxx IS5:  is his physical professor to use powerpoints
xxx and I was so angry at that time
xxx I1:  ((laughs))
xxx IS5:  and I tell him it’s because you are not physics major
xxx and you are just engineering student just need to learn
xxx some
xxx some-
xxx I1:  basics
xxx IS5:  yea
xxx we won’t do some very complicated um
xxx I1:  that is true because based on what I saw in your homework
xxx it’s actually better if you write everything on the board
xxx and then go through everything with the students
xxx IS5:  mhm
xxx I1:  instead of just slideshows
xxx IS5:  slideshows is oh my god!
xxx I1:  yea
xxx IS5:  I hate it
xxx my undergraduate professors
xxx they love
xxx they love slides very much
xxx because it save their time and
xxx I1: yea
xxx cause you only have to prepare once
xxx and just use the same material=
xxx IS5: =I hate it so much
xxx what if someone who use powerpoints
xxx and explains everything very clearly
xxx in details
xxx IS5: ((incomprehensible)) ((add: its almost impossible))
xxx I1: ((laughs))
xxx IS5: unless )))
xxx I1: ok
xxx IS5: because
xxx at least me
xxx if I have something
xxx or
xxx I think I want to think
xxx I just tell you >blah blah blah<
xxx I1: but there are two types of powerpoints
xxx one is you have all the sentence written
xxx and the other one is you have one picture or one sentence
or
xxx one concept
xxx IS5: oh
xxx this might
xxx I1: and then [orally you express
xxx IS5: [this might be better
xxx I1: yea
xxx IS5: maybe
xxx but I never ))
xxx I1: ok
xxx IS5: maybe it’s my problem because I didn’t make them
xxx I1: ([laughs])
xxx alright
xxx how is the dynamic in your classes?
xxx do you have a lot of group activities or?=
xxx IS5: =no
xxx I1: so it’s just purely taking notes
xxx IS5: if you have question you can ask )) it directly))
xxx I1: ok
xxx alright
xxx IS5: but mm
xxx maybe we have group work
15:00
xxx when we doing homework
xxx we do homework
xxx I1: oh ok
xxx homeworks
xxx that’s true
xxx very hard
xxx when is your next exam? (.)
xxx is it only one final and there’s not midterm?
xxx IS5: no we only have midterm March three
xxx I1: March three?
xxx IS5: third
xxx I1: yes
xxx oh third yea
xxx IS5: it’s next
xxx I1: yea!
xxx next Tuesday
xxx I1: or Thursday
xxx IS5: ° or Thursday
xxx I1: good luck!
xxx ((laughs))
xxx are you prepared?
xxx IS5: I’m tired of exams
xxx honestly
xxx I1: ah
xxx IS5: my mom laughing at me
xxx because I took almost
xxx more than
xxx ten years to take exam or
xxx I1: don’t think it that way
xxx come on
xxx that’s just depressing
xxx and you have
xxx more years
xxx IS5: >my mom laughs at me all the time because I do so many years
to take exams<
xxx IS5: like (when she calls me)
xxx (what are you doing)
xxx prepare for exams do the
xxx homework
xxx >ok next time what I do
xxx prepare for exams
xxx homework<
xxx never changes
xxx I1: do you have to uh
xxx after which year will you stop [having exams
xxx IS5: [maybe next year
xxx I1: next year?
xxx IS5: I hope so
xxx I1: and then you will focus on a research and paper?
xxx IS5: mhm
xxx no exam