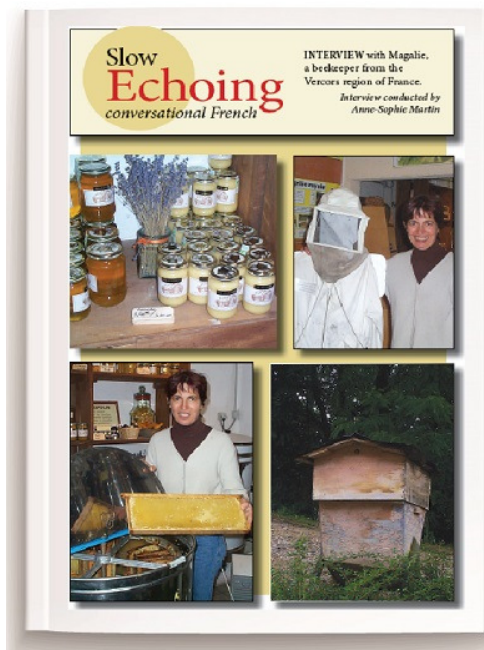


Sample from an interview with a French Beekeeper



Buy the whole recording:

<http://www.fluentfrench.com/beekeeper.html>

Tout dépend¹ des reines, c'est ça ?

Everything depends on the queens, right?

Exactement, oui, oui, exactement. En fait, on donne

Exactly, yes, yes, exactly. In fact, we give

des numéros à nos ruches, hein ? On n'est pas
numbers to our hives, you see? We are not

¹ **dépendre de.** Do not make the mistake of adding **sur** in here in an attempt to translate the English, "to depend 'on'." It is **dépendre de.**

très romantiques, on pourrait¹ donner des noms. Mais en fait
very romantic, we could give names. But in fact

ces numéros sont- ne sont pas attribués à la ruche,
these numbers are – are not attributed to the hive,

c'est-à-dire à la caisse dans laquelle sont nichées les abeilles,
that is to say to the box in which the bees are nested,

mais en fait le numéro est attribué à la reine. En fait,
but in fact the number is given to the queen. In fact,

une reine peut pondre en cette saison entre mille et deux mille
a queen is able to lay in this season between 1,000 and 2,000

œufs chaque jour. Vous comprenez bien que si elle pond deux
eggs each day. You (can) well understand that if she lays two

mille œufs, on va avoir deux mille ouvrières supplémentaires
thousand eggs, you are going to have 2,000 additional workers

qui arrivent sur le marché du travail et de l'em² –
who arrive on the labor and (employment) market –

et pour travailler chaque jour et forcément,³ cette reine qui
and to work each day and inevitably, this queen who

pond deux mille ouvrières par jour, ben, va avoir une
lays 2,000 workers per day, well, is going to have a

récolte qui va être supérieure à sa voisine si
harvest that is going to be superior to (that of) her neighbor if

celle-ci ne pond que mille, mille œufs par jour.
(her neighbor) lays only 1,000, 1,000 eggs per day.

Et il y a une seule reine par ruche ?

And there is a single queen per hive?

¹ **pourrait donner:** literally, would be able to give. **pouvoir** = to be able. Compare **on donne** (one gives) to **on peut donner** (one is able to give) and **on pourrait donner** (one would be able to give.)

² The speaker cut herself off while saying **le marché du travail et de l'emploi.**

³ **forcément:** necessarily. Such a result is unavoidable.

Ah ! Oui ! Toujours, hein ?
Ah! Yes! Always, you know?

Il [n']y en a toujours qu'une.¹ Si par hasard
There is always only one of them. If by chance

il devait² y en avoir deux, eh bien, elles se battent³, hein ?
there should be two of them there, well, they fight, you see?

Elles ne supportent⁴ pas la concurrence. Elles se battent et
They cannot stand competition. They fight and

on a coutume de dire⁵ que c'est la plus...
we're in the habit of saying that it is the most...

la plus forte qui va l'emporter.⁶
the strongest who will win.

¹ **il n'y en a toujours qu'une.** From **Il y a** (there is; there are) + **en** (of them) + **toujours** (always) + **ne...que** (only) + **une** (one).

² **il devait:** from **devoir** (to owe; to be supposed to, to be obligated to.) **Devoir** is used in expressions where one is obligated to do something or where something should be, must be, or probably is. **Ça doit être difficile.** = That must be difficult. **Le train devait arriver à 7 heures.** = The train was supposed to arrive at 7:00.

³ **battre** = to beat; to hit. **se battre** = to fight. **une bataille** = a battle.

⁴ **supporter** = to stand something; to put up with something.

⁵ **avoir coutume de...** = to have the habit of..., to have the custom of... Compare to **comme de coutume** (as usual) and **plus que de coutume** (more than usual, more than customary.)

⁶ **elle va l'emporter** = She is going to win (the fight).
l'emporter sur quelqu'un = to defeat someone.