

## **Applied Linguist, FBI**

Name: **Rachel M. Lunde**

Profession: **Applied Linguist**

Number of years in this line of work: **5**

Native Language: **English**

Other Language(s): **French, Spanish**

### **1)What is your profession?**

Applied Linguists are specialists in how languages are learned. Many of them are law work in Language Testing, what I do at the Federal Bureau of Investigation. Right now national security of the United States.

The FBI gathers foreign intelligence through e-mails, wire taps, and documents in order must hire translators that know both English and a foreign language well enough to be important to know whether the bomb did go off or will go off before we send Special a team that measures translators' language skills to be sure that they've got the right

### **2)Describe a "typical" day as an Applied Linguist.**

No two days are alike. Some days I am analyzing test data to help create new, innovative native speakers of all kinds of languages to create tests or train them how to give special officials from other Intelligence Agencies to discuss issues with languages. It's a real researching, traveling, and acting as a liaison with over 150 different testers from all

### **3)What do you enjoy about it? What do you not enjoy about it?**

My job is very intellectually stimulating, and I am continually challenged to help the so much about different languages, cultures, and political situations around the world collaboration with interesting people from all walks of life. The job can be stressful is critical, and problems arise that must be solved right away. I guess that just keeps

### **4)Do you speak any other language(s) besides the one(s) you work with?**

I almost always speak English at my job, but I work with loads of different language work.

### **5)What language do you think in?**

Since I use mostly English, I think mostly in English. When I do get the chance to speak to think in them.

### **6)What do you think helped you the most in mastering the foreign/second**

I think two things helped me. The biggest overall help was living abroad in France a language than when it is all around you and living depends on it. Also, it was such a learned so much about myself and the world around me. I'd do it again in a heartbeat not being afraid to try. I remember feeling silly when I first tried speak French because matter is that to get good foreign pronunciation, you are going to have to sound weird about how I thought I sounded and dove right in.

### **7)What opportunities have knowing another language provided in your career otherwise?**

Knowing a language is a requirement for this job. There are loads of jobs at the FBI in foreign languages well: translators, Special Agents, Intelligence Analysts, and more. government agency. Sometimes knowing a language gets you a salary bonus, even if

### **8)Do you think it is essential to learn not just a language, but also the culture spoken?**

I definitely think knowing the culture is very important. You can't separate culture from learning the language easier, and make more sense. Even more, it is important for people know the culture because it gives more information than the language alone.

### **9)If you had the time to learn another language now, what language would**

That's a hard one. I want to learn so many. I would like to learn Mandarin Chinese. I it, knowing it would open a lot of doors. I'm interested in Arabic as well. Arabic is so

### **10)How do you think your life would have turned out if you had never learned**

I achieved a lot of my confidence and independence from living abroad, so I do not think in my life. I would not have had such a broad understanding of the world, and I would Researchers say learning a language can expand your mental capacity, so maybe I would

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**11)In your opinion, are there more career opportunities for people who**  
Definitely! Having additional skills opens up doors. The way that the world is getting  
communicate with people all over the world.

**12)What do you think you would be doing if you weren't an Applied Ling**  
I think that I would probably have studied math or physics. I like the science of langu  
and languages appeal to my analytical side.

**13)Any additional information:**

People are always so intrigued and impressed when you say you are a Linguist. I cou  
My position allows me to really contribute to language theory while I am helping to  
pays well, too?