

Fishman's intellectual contributions to the study of language and society are well-known, profoundly illuminating for scholars who share his scientific areas, and for those in related fields. I was well aware of all this when I met Joshua Fishman for the first time in June 2004 in Barcelona, when I saw another aspect of his nature, unknown to me till then: the human side of the distinguished scientist. Up to then we had communicated a few times by email, about the publications of an issue of IJSL with contributions by Albanian socio-linguists. But in Barcelona I saw a Fishman in love with nature, with the Mediterranean and the noisy, character-filled city. The first sign was an email in which Fishman informed some colleagues and coworkers about the Linguapax prize he would receive in the Linguapax congress in Barcelona. His email message was entitled "I love Barcelona in the springtime." I saw that love later when I met him in the conference center in Barcelona. He told me he could not wait to visit the joyful, colorful Mercat de la Boqueria. As he spoke so enthusiastically about the famous market, I pointed to where I thought the market was. Fishman corrected me: no, there is just sea where you are pointing. He took the time to explain how Barcelona was shaped along the sea, how it developed historically, and where the old versus new parts and the market were in relation to the place where we were standing. During my short stay in Barcelona I had planned to concentrate on the Gothic quarter, Gaudi, and the Picasso and Dali museums. I changed my plans, and in all honesty what I enjoyed the most about my visit to Barcelona was the atmosphere, the display of fish, vegetables, sweets, eggs and flowers of the Mercat de la Boqueria. That was the very heart of Catalonia, alive and eloquent, which I would have ignored completely if not for a man who knows where the heart of a great city beats.

Eda Derhemi