

D07 Linda / Germany / Romance Studies

Interaction partner(s): two Spanish students

Moment of enquiry: SS 09

Experience of difference: Social conventions for establishing contact

Linda is studying Spanish at a German university. During her studies, she meets Eva and Juan, two exchange students from Spain. When Linda calls Eva one day to arrange to meet over coffee, the Spanish girl says good-bye with “un beso” (a kiss/little kiss). Linda finds that strange, since they’ve only known each other for a few days. After this she calls Juan to invite him to the meeting too, and he also ends the call with “un beso”. Linda does not know what to make of this; she is glad her boyfriend did not hear it, as he might have drawn the wrong conclusions.

1. How does Linda interpret the phrase “un beso”?
2. What meaning does this parting phrase have for the Spanish students?