

Interview Transcription 3

Tuesday, 2 April 2019 3:50 PM

Researcher ok, so first of all what languages do you speak

TC 00:00:00.480 - 00:00:05.135

P4 what I speak, what languages, I think I speak English, Czech, Slovak, which I have no problem to communicate, not sure how they understand my English but I think it's ok, and if, uh, German, I understand and it's not 100% maybe 50%, I understand Polish, and I think that's it

TC 00:00:04.650 - 00:00:34.265

Researcher very impressive, um and so what would you rate your language proficiency in each of your languages?

TC 00:00:31.548 - 00:00:41.259

P4 in - in - uh

TC 00:00:39.595 - 00:00:43.913

Researcher in English, Czech

TC 00:00:42.833 - 00:00:45.049

P4 obviously Czech one hundred, Slovak I would say 95%, maybe even more, English hard to say, I understand obviously, I speak, but I'm not sure if it's - let's say 90%

TC 00:00:43.913 - 00:01:02.663

Researcher ok, ok yeah and when you came to Australia did you have to do an IELTS test or a Cambridge test?

TC 00:01:00.099 - 00:01:10.317

P4 No, no no I came - I came to Australia in 1984, and we came as refugees and we had no test at all, nothing, and they put us to Pennington, and we start some English classes and that was all, I - we didn't speak, I - those days I spoke German but, not English

TC 00:01:05.650 - 00:01:35.297

Researcher ok ok so you had to learn from the beginning basically

TC 00:01:33.614 - 00:01:38.418

P4 yes, yeah from the beginning yeah, yeah, yes

TC 00:01:35.850 - 00:01:39.594

Researcher and around how old were you then?

TC 00:01:38.624 - 00:01:42.041

P4 when I was, when I came to Australia [counts in Czech], come on, 36, or 35

TC 00:01:40.488 - 00:01:57.326

Researcher yeah, so it's probably quite difficult to learn a new language at 35

TC 00:01:55.438 - 00:02:03.021

P4 oh yes, always, yeah, but when I- I didn't take many courses those days but I worked at Waite Institute, which is a part of the University of Adelaide and graduate in Economics, econo-mics, or economy, economics - I always mixes economic - and so I worked there, and that was very good, very good lesson for me because you see I have everybody spoke English, yeah so they try to teach me and so that was quite sophisticated English so that was very very good

TC 00:01:58.645 - 00:02:48.664

Researcher mmhmm that would've been quite helpful

TC 00:02:46.597 - 00:02:49.236

P4 yeah yeah

TC 00:02:48.664 - 00:02:49.670

Researcher ok, um, what is your opinion on mixing between Czech and English in speech

TC 00:02:49.631 - 00:02:56.438

P4 uh mixing - I don't - I don't think so it's very good, I think if you speak Czech you should speak Czech, if you speak English you should speak English even I have to say that even I don't like it, sometimes, in my mind, you know I use English not actually - not when I talk but it's - I'm thinking

TC 00:02:55.824 - 00:03:22.012

Researcher yeah, when you're thinking, ok ok

TC 00:03:18.788 - 00:03:23.621
P4 and I try not to mix English because you know I - I think language should be clear, and I, yeah
TC 00:03:22.012 - 00:03:32.398
Researcher ok, um, so do you - when you're talking to other bilingual people do you ever notice yourself using both Czech and English?
TC 00:03:31.212 - 00:03:43.932
P4 no, me not, when I speak to Czech I speak Czech, and if somebody I'm laughing [unclear] um somebody is using this and that and - I said - especially I don't like, we are in the Czechoslovak Club, so we should speak Czech, especially with people who speak Czech, we have a Czech school here, so even with kids we should speak Czech to them, because
TC 00:03:41.716 - 00:04:11.043
Researcher so they can learn yeah
TC 00:04:08.773 - 00:04:11.101
P4 that is the only way how they can learn, so, and if you let them respond in English, they will never learn, never
TC 00:04:11.043 - 00:04:22.890
Researcher that's true, that's true, and so um, ok, have you ever noticed uh say maybe in Czech, you might phrase a sentence using English syntax, if you've been speaking English all the time you might use the same word order, like English word order, yeah yeah
TC 00:04:21.223 - 00:04:47.360
P4 oh yes, that's true, yeah yeah yeah yeah, that's not in Czech only, but mainly in English you know that is Czech-English, you see, but yeah, unfortunately it happens to people like me who start to learn when they were older, yeah
TC 00:04:44.472 - 00:05:07.831
Researcher yeah yeah, so you use - speak English with a Czech word order. Do you think it ever happens the other way around?
TC 00:05:05.336 - 00:05:13.909
P4 yes yeah
TC 00:05:08.428 - 00:05:09.997
SD (2.59)
P4 oh yeah even- even Czech you know, you use that - yeah, yeah but, the trou- yeah yeah
TC 00:05:12.588 - 00:05:25.485
Researcher it happens yeah
TC 00:05:22.068 - 00:05:23.587
SD (0.52)
Researcher it's just a natural thing for the brain, yeah
TC 00:05:24.113 - 00:05:27.653
P4 yes it is, yeah, especially if uh sometimes when I write something and I read that sentence I said goodness me it's supposed to be like that yeah yeah
TC 00:05:25.621 - 00:05:37.823
Researcher yeah yeah so that happens in Czech as well, ok
TC 00:05:36.783 - 00:05:39.738
P4 yes yes
TC 00:05:37.823 - 00:05:39.561
SD (0.29)
Researcher um, now what places are you in when you speak Czech generally?
TC 00:05:39.853 - 00:05:47.654
P4 where I speak Czech generally I speak with my friends, Czech friends, Czech club, my house, with my grandkids, only with my son, and that's it
TC 00:05:46.012 - 00:06:01.576
Researcher does your daughter-in-law speak Czech?
TC 00:06:01.108 - 00:06:05.560
P4 she does not, and she doesn't want us to speak Czech in front of her, which is not good, but what can you do, no, I respect that and, I'm happy I speak Czech to kids when we are on our own and

TC 00:06:02.614 - 00:06:19.288
 Researcher yeah yeah, do they understand? yeah?
 TC 00:06:16.789 - 00:06:21.677
 P4 oh, I would say 90%, we went to Czech Republic twice already, last year I was with them in Czech for six weeks, which is good for them, so when we came back, you know, especially Tashi she is 12, she made sentences, so yeah
 TC 00:06:20.030 - 00:06:44.618
 Researcher oh, that's pretty good so they were speaking Czech as well, that's really good
 TC 00:06:41.972 - 00:06:47.463
 P4 yes yes yes, but you know they need more practice, that's it
 TC 00:06:44.756 - 00:06:51.980
 Researcher yeah of course, yeah yeah it's, yeah it happens, ok and do you feel more relaxed in speaking when you can use both languages rather than just Czech or just English or - what's easiest for you?
 TC 00:06:49.694 - 00:07:07.405
 P4 No no no just one language, one language, no I don't like mixing languages, no
 TC 00:07:06.176 - 00:07:12.843
 SD (0.54)
 Researcher um, so then the next question is kind of like that, so do you feel any societal or community pressure to not mix the two languages or to mix them?
 TC 00:07:13.388 - 00:07:26.189
 P4 pressure no no, no pressure no no, nobody is pushing me, just no. Obviously if you speak to someone who doesn't speak Czech, so you have to try your English and but if somebody speak English I - you know, maybe I am very stubborn, and if somebody speak English I simply - Czech - sorry, I simply don't - wouldn't say English ever, no, Czech is Czech, because I - I simply don't like it and I just - I don't feel very comfortable and I don't like if people, like Czech people are sitting together and they speak English between - no why, you can speak whatever you speak at home, but when you are in Czech club, use Czech language
 TC 00:07:24.462 - 00:08:15.711
 Researcher Czech, like yeah if you can speak it obviously
 TC 00:08:14.016 - 00:08:17.623
 P4 yeah if you speak, yeah, of course if you don't, that different, so, it's hard especially for me, with my family, with my daughter-in-law, when we are together, we speak English, and you know funny thing is, my son, he get used to speak Czech to me, and we go for dinner and he sits here and he turn to me and he start speak Czech and she said Eng-liish, so, but, you know, but you can't, you see you can't do anything about it
 TC 00:08:16.025 - 00:08:53.020
 Researcher mmm, I just - yeah personally I find it really irritating that she does that because I - as a linguist I obviously love languages and if my partner spoke a different language I would try to learn that language, but-
 TC 00:08:50.391 - 00:09:05.547
 P4 that's what I said, that's what I said, and you know she told me, what for, I don't need it, you know, when they go, they went for holiday three years ago, and that was so awkward if she- she didn't understand and, and translate every single, if I had a partner who speak different language I would learn that language, because he learned my language, that is sort of courtesy you see, so, and how many languages you know, it's for your brain
 TC 00:09:02.014 - 00:09:40.152
 Researcher yeah it's good, it's good for your brain, I mean unfortunately a lot of Australians don't necessarily have a positive attitude towards other languages
 TC 00:09:38.746 - 00:09:48.286
 P4 But, I must say, comparing to - I came to Australia originally in 1984, and Australian they wouldn't have clue where is Czech Republic, Czechoslovakia, because they - they thought that was Yugoslavia, close to the sea, yeah, then honestly they had no any idea at all about no just Czechoslovakia, different countries, in Europe, huh, where is it, but who is neighbours,

but I have to say now, yeah, it's must different, people go, people are travelling, yeah yeah, it is, it really change a lot

TC 00:09:47.200 - 00:10:30.868

Researcher yeah well I mean that's good, it's a positive thing

TC 00:10:29.997 - 00:10:33.720

P4 it's yeah, no I can say that because you know, if I compare time, 35 years, it is much different, very, big difference, which is good, yeah

TC 00:10:32.199 - 00:10:46.683

Researcher that's good to know, yeah, and uh, do you ever feel any social pressure to conform to the majority language, so to speaking English say in public or something, do you ever feel - not really?

TC 00:10:44.004 - 00:10:58.092

P4 I - don't have to, I don't have to, you know, speak English so, and if I have to, I would not be very comfortable because of my accent, that is one pressure, one thing, and what I - what

I notice, some people especially young people, they - and Australian, I really don't know if that is Australian thing, they don't listen to you properly, they simply don't, and they

just, yeah yeah, and that's it, and if you don't speak, and if I say, for example, I was - I tried to organise something for that friend of mine, and home number is 17, I never said 70,

and I don't say seven-ten, because that's not - no, its 17 for me, 15, 16, 17 and when they actually confirmed that address, she said 70, I said no, 17, 1 7, and so they just don't hear

properly and for me it's absolutely difficult to understand or to recognise different between Australian a and i, they don't use A, they say something like I, but I can't hear it, and

that's - when somebody say a, I ask, I said sorry, can you please, is it a or i, because you know, I can't hear it, I can't hear it

TC 00:10:55.121 - 00:12:49.301

Researcher yeah that is- yeah yeah, its - in Australian English it's very similar isn't it

TC 00:12:46.694 - 00:12:54.371

P4 yeah yeah, and I just - no, no no

TC 00:12:51.097 - 00:12:56.610

Researcher I never th- I literally never thought about that before but it's very similar yeah yeah, ok um and do you feel- last question, do you feel language pride for Czech and how does this play out in your speech?

TC 00:12:55.707 - 00:13:10.257

SD (0.54)

P4 if I feel language - yeah yes, obviously, of course, and if that's why I try to speak Czech and when I - I was many time behind the bar, and I was as I said very stubborn, when kids

came, 'can I have water', I said sorry I don't understand, nerozumim, co chces, 'vodu prosim', yeah they could, you know? Yeah they can, obviously if I know somebody doesn't speak well,

but even those Australian boy who married Australian girls - Czech girls, they try just few words to say, which is very nice

TC 00:13:10.801 - 00:13:59.550

Researcher proud of, yeah

TC 00:13:13.620 - 00:13:14.647

SD (25.93)

Researcher they can do it, yeah

TC 00:13:40.577 - 00:13:43.164

SD (11.11)

Researcher yeah yeah, it is, it's important to try I think, ok well I think that's pretty much it for the interview, thank you, thank you so much, yes yes

TC 00:13:54.276 - 00:14:11.560

P4 what you need, good one, so now I can go upstairs and you can go home

TC 00:14:05.614 - 00:14:11.152