

Interview Transcription 1

Tuesday, 2 April 2019 2:08 PM

Researcher ok well yes as I said, thanks again for coming down again to do another interview, I really appreciate it and I think it'll be really good for um, the paper so, yeah

TC 00:00:06.904 - 00:00:18.532

P6 that's fine

TC 00:00:10.784 - 00:00:12.145

SD (5.64)

P6 good

TC 00:00:17.794 - 00:00:19.560

SD (0.02)

Researcher um, so to start off, what languages do you speak?

TC 00:00:19.584 - 00:00:23.889

P6 English and Czech

TC 00:00:23.184 - 00:00:25.094

Researcher mmhmm, ok and what would you rate your language proficiencies in each of your languages?

TC 00:00:24.919 - 00:00:31.258

P6 well English obviously um, very good

TC 00:00:30.444 - 00:00:33.902

Researcher yes

TC 00:00:32.672 - 00:00:33.830

SD (0.07)

P6 um, and Czech, it's reasonable

TC 00:00:33.902 - 00:00:37.704

Researcher ok, yep, and obviously um, because you were born here, weren't you?

TC 00:00:36.335 - 00:00:41.862

P6 I was born in Paris but I came to Australia when I was 1 and a half, so, and I didn't really speak Czech at home very much, my parents often spoke to me in Czech but I always answered in English, they weren't strict on us speaking Czech, so

TC 00:00:40.655 - 00:00:57.189

Researcher yeah ok, so do you think that you started answering in English maybe like at school age, like you probably would've spoken Czech to them-

TC 00:00:54.853 - 00:01:04.408

P6 No, I think I started speaking more in Czech - I mean I always spoke a little bit because there was often someone here visiting that didn't speak English, um but I started speaking more in Czech when I was about 25, 23 um because my mother-in-law, um didn't speak much

English, so you know, I needed to speak to her and also my husband likes speaking in Czech

TC 00:01:02.193 - 00:01:26.120

Researcher yes, yes so he's - obviously Czech as well. Did he-

TC 00:01:23.697 - 00:01:29.397

P6 yes yes, yeah but he came as an adult, he was 24, he came with his parents and his brother when he was 24

TC 00:01:26.495 - 00:01:34.749

Researcher ok, so you speak Czech with him?

TC 00:01:33.750 - 00:01:37.889

P6 a lot, yeah

TC 00:01:36.786 - 00:01:39.231

Researcher ok and like, prefer to or?

TC 00:01:38.262 - 00:01:41.707

P6 well um, it's interesting, when I was still working, because I was at work and I would speak English at work all the time, um, so, I have a relative who has been to stay with us here,

and in Prague, and he always said that when I was working, that [REDACTED] used to speak Czech to me and I used to reply in English, whereas now I tend to reply more in Czech as well

TC 00:01:40.829 - 00:02:04.155

Researcher ok, that makes sense, yeah because I noticed him speaking Czech to you when he came in in the observation session so I thought he must be Czech as well

TC 00:02:03.165 - 00:02:11.781

P6 yeah, he is, yeah

TC 00:02:10.021 - 00:02:13.334

Researcher but so you reckon that you, you sort of started speaking English as soon as you started speaking maybe?

TC 00:02:12.007 - 00:02:21.828

P6 well probably a little bit later because I remember my mother always saying to me that she was just anxious for me to start speaking because you know, we'd been living in France, um that was French and Czech, and then Australia and that was English and Czech, and she was just anxious for me to start speaking so, probably, yeah anything, but I think I probably started speaking English, yeah

TC 00:02:20.207 - 00:02:42.460

Researcher any language, yeah, ok, yeah yep, so you don't remember having any issues going to school? it all just-

TC 00:02:35.685 - 00:02:47.322

P6 no, no I had no problem, yeah I - in fact it was in one way, I can remember when I was about um, 17 where I was in matriculation, um I didn't realise that my history teacher was Czech, because I didn't know her and her name was Blackmore, so I mean you know, and um, and uh it was really interesting because you know, she was encouraging us, she would say no, no, you know, encouraging us, which in Czech, and for me it was quite normal, there was no problem, but the Australian children in the class, they thought she was saying no no no, so it caused them a problem. So it's funny because even though it was unconscious, yeah

TC 00:02:44.568 - 00:03:22.455

Researcher yeah, you had picked up on that. Yeah that's actually something that I found really weird and now -because my boyfriend now is a English speaker - like he just speaks some French that he learned at uni, which is actually how we met but not- he doesn't know any Czech, and so when I told him that um, yes in Czech is no, he was like what? yes is no?

TC 00:03:19.974 - 00:03:42.110

P6 no it's not, ano

TC 00:03:40.306 - 00:03:43.461

Researcher with ano, or no, but a lot of people tend to say no, yeah or jo, that's true, yeah I suppose, I suppose, yeah no, it's not exactly, but I- I took it as yes sometimes when people were saying it like yeah, yeah, like that kind of- that kind of thing, so yeah, and it was - yeah it's like - can seem confusing

TC 00:03:42.120 - 00:04:10.895

P6 no

TC 00:03:43.461 - 00:03:44.705

SD (0.64)

P6 ano or jo, not no, not no, no is really well, go on, it's not really yes, yeah, yeah, it's not really exactly the same

TC 00:03:45.354 - 00:03:56.526

SD (11.21)

P6 it can yeah, well there's some countries that have those funny things where they say no and shake their head the wrong way and, mm

TC 00:04:07.736 - 00:04:18.184

Researcher yeah and you're like, is this a yes or a no, yeah, ok, and what's your opinion on mixing between your languages in speech?

TC 00:04:15.776 - 00:04:28.484

P6 in what way, what do you mean?

TC 00:04:26.586 - 00:04:29.500

Researcher like um, some people who are sort of - more puristic - purism-minded would prefer if people just speak the language that they're speaking at that time and don't mix in any words from other languages

TC 00:04:28.484 - 00:04:42.819

P6 yeah, I - I don't like the words mixed in, I must say, and the other thing I don't like is um, it doesn't happen so much in Adelaide but in Melbourne, a lot of Czech people, um when they're speaking they use English words but with Czech ending - you know they'll say, rubbishovat nebo, beach, jdeme na beachovat nebo, you know, and I don't like that, but I can't really complain too much because my Czech is not that perfect so, but no it's true I don't like that, I think they should either speak one or the other and not sort of intermingle, especially those in Melbourne, how they put those endings on the English words I don't like that at all

TC 00:04:40.122 - 00:05:22.884

Researcher yeah, yeah, it's - it can be a bit jarring, I suppose. Um, ok, um, so in conversation with other bilinguals, do you ever notice yourself using both of your languages?

TC 00:05:20.978 - 00:05:36.624

P6 well if I don't - can't think of a word, um, yes I will because most of the people that I speak to are here - speak English so it's not a problem, yeah, and often they help me too if I can't remember - if I can't think of a word then they tell me, yeah, then I'll learn, yeah

TC 00:05:35.667 - 00:05:53.066

Researcher they'll tell you and then you can put that in your memory bank

TC 00:05:49.705 - 00:05:53.532

Researcher ok so, and my next question was why do you do this, so I guess - so you said if you've momentarily forgotten a word, um, do you ever experience if another word is useful - um more useful, better or more appropriate for the situation that you're describing?

TC 00:05:53.532 - 00:06:09.145

P6 not really because I think - my knowledge of Czech words - even though I don't speak - you know I don't - my grammar and - is not 100% correct obviously, I make a lot of mistakes um, again, my knowledge of vocabulary is pretty good, so um no, no I don't usually have a problem

TC 00:06:07.358 - 00:06:27.943

Researcher don't really experience that, ok, um, and so then you probably don't experience erm, if a word expresses the meaning more fully, not really, not really and

TC 00:06:24.957 - 00:06:37.936

P6 not really, no

TC 00:06:35.976 - 00:06:38.352

SD (0.43)

Researcher and that another word or particle feels easier to express in that language, so you don't really have that either because you've got-

TC 00:06:38.790 - 00:06:45.746

P6 no, no

TC 00:06:43.628 - 00:06:47.320

Researcher um, ok so, er, so you've said that you do borrow if you've just momentarily forgotten a word, um, so what kind of words does this tend to be, is it more like nouns or verbs or adjectives, or like - it's ok if you don't know because it's hard to-

TC 00:06:46.426 - 00:07:05.604

P6 um, words that we don't use very frequently, it could be any - any sort of a word, but words maybe that I don't use so frequently, um and that I - because I also read in Czech so, um, perhaps that I don't read

TC 00:07:02.512 - 00:07:19.066

Researcher ok ok, um yeah well that's a really helpful thing to know as well actually because I think reading would really keep you - with the vocabulary yeah definitely, um

TC 00:07:17.418 - 00:07:27.433

P6 mm, oh it's good, yeah

TC 00:07:21.963 - 00:07:26.559

SD (0.1)

P6 I don't read books I read um, just on the internet or newspapers or magazines, whole novels are a bit - takes a - I don't enjoy it, I just don't enjoy it because you lose the joy when you're trying to work out what a word is

TC 00:07:26.663 - 00:07:41.381

Researcher yeah, exactly, you want to enjoy your reading experience, so but you do read uh, books in English or-

TC 00:07:38.464 - 00:07:44.956

P6 oh yes, I read a lot, yeah

TC 00:07:43.382 - 00:07:47.298

Researcher so there's definitely like a bit of a difference there in like - yep

TC 00:07:46.069 - 00:07:51.097

P6 yeah I've got a cousin - well my husband's cousin, she's continually trying to - she lives in the Czech Republic, and she's continually trying to encourage me to read books in Czech, um, but it's just - for me it's not enjoyable, no

TC 00:07:49.855 - 00:08:04.715

Researcher yeah and you want to, have an enjoyable reading experience so, makes sense, um

TC 00:08:02.850 - 00:08:07.800

P6 exactly

TC 00:08:05.053 - 00:08:07.127

SD (0.67)

Researcher ok and do you ever feel that you might borrow grammar between your languages in a bilingual situation?

TC 00:08:07.800 - 00:08:13.949

P6 um, I'm sure I do- uh because I can remember - I mean, I don't speak Latin but I did Latin at school for three years, and I can still remember now, um, the effect that it had on my English, you know, particularly the formation of the sentences, um, so I imagine that I probably do something like that with Czech and English as well, but um, I'm not aware of it

TC 00:08:13.119 - 00:08:34.861

Researcher so like, maybe like the- the syntax so like you might put it in the same word order as your other language

TC 00:08:33.028 - 00:08:41.020

P6 yeah, as the other language, yeah

TC 00:08:38.003 - 00:08:40.983

SD (0.06)

Researcher um, and this question is - the one that seems to be the hardest one for most people because it's got linguistic terminology in it but um - do you happen to know what a morpheme is?

morpheme, ok so it's like a packet of meaning so like, for example in the word dogs, one morph- it's got two morphemes in it, one of the morphemes is the word dog, so it's the noun, it's what it is, and the other morpheme is the 's' part which is what makes it plural, so it's two pieces of meaning in the one word, or for example like with the word holčička, holka is one morpheme and the čič part makes it into another - yeah yeah, so,

TC 00:08:41.047 - 00:09:19.591

P6 into another- yeah

TC 00:09:15.788 - 00:09:18.790

SD (0.8)

Researcher so um, to - there are kind of two parts to this question, so one of them is, do you ever seem to say two words or two morphemes in one sentence that express the same concept, but use them both for emphasis, like for example if you said little holčička so it's like, two -

TC 00:09:19.591 - 00:09:36.322

P6 oh, I might do that occasionally, when you say that, yeah, yeah I - yes I may, for emphasis, I may say that

TC 00:09:34.773 - 00:09:43.337

Researcher ok, yeah yeah, yeah, ok, and like do you think you would say the full thing in Czech like mala holčička, or you would say English little, no, ok, all in Czech

TC 00:09:36.753 - 00:09:49.992

P6 yes
TC 00:09:46.222 - 00:09:47.342
SD (0.48)
P6 no no, all in Czech
TC 00:09:47.822 - 00:09:50.772
P6 that's a good example because that's one that I think we do tend to use
TC 00:09:50.789 - 00:09:56.807
Researcher yeah ok, um, and do you ever put any Czech endings onto English words
TC 00:09:53.989 - 00:10:03.222
P6 no because I really don't like that, yeah
TC 00:10:01.657 - 00:10:08.150
Researcher yeah, ok, um, now the next question is - we've kind of already answered, so the next few questions um, are just more a bit um sociolinguistic, so um, what places do you tend to be in when you borrow between languages or even when you speak Czech?
TC 00:10:03.920 - 00:10:23.327
P6 when I speak Czech? um home, here at the club, or with Czech friends, um, or when I'm in the Czech Republic
TC 00:10:22.094 - 00:10:33.097
Researcher yep, sounds fair enough, and so would you probably use Czech in public, like say if you were with your husband at the shop or something
TC 00:10:31.850 - 00:10:40.662
P6 yep
TC 00:10:33.097 - 00:10:34.265
SD (4.2)
P6 yeah we quite often do, yes
TC 00:10:38.471 - 00:10:42.725
Researcher ok cool, um and do you feel more relaxed in speaking when you can use both languages rather than just Czech or just English, or?
TC 00:10:41.478 - 00:10:54.579
P6 um, at the moment no, but I- I've said to my husband I feel, I feel that um, what will happen as we're getting older, well I'm worried about what may happen as we get older is that I may forget some of my Czech and he may forget some of his English, so I'm not quite sure how we'll go with communicating, but that's not happening now but it's something I think about, yeah in the future, because it does happen with older people
TC 00:10:53.182 - 00:11:21.350
Researcher yeah, yeah it's true it definitely um, can happen, but a good thing to know about um being bilingual, you might already know, um that there's been research done that erm, if you are bilingual you actually - brain function is a lot better going into old age and you are a lot less likely to um suffer from like Alzheimers or Dementia, or if you do, then it's going to take longer to deteriorate
TC 00:11:18.753 - 00:11:46.310
P6 yeah well, in my family I - I know it's not like that because my father was very clever, very intelligent, he spoke a lot of languages, and he learnt English in early age, and um even so he suffered from dementia, and um sometimes as he got older and so he was in hospital, they called in an interpreter because they felt that he could communicate probably better, whether it was true or not or whether that was just their assumption, I don't know
TC 00:11:44.451 - 00:12:16.155
Researcher really wow
TC 00:12:00.226 - 00:12:02.326
SD (3.44)
Researcher yeah
TC 00:12:05.775 - 00:12:07.262
SD (0.76)
Researcher wow
TC 00:12:08.023 - 00:12:09.571

SD (4.59)

Researcher yeah, I mean, it definitely could've been the case with your Dad, it's just like on a statistical basis, like, but yeah, could be

TC 00:12:14.165 - 00:12:24.626

P6 yeah, yes, in - in a general - but I - yeah, I always look at my parents and see what happened with them

TC 00:12:18.701 - 00:12:26.782

Researcher of course, yeah, of course of course. That would be a concern, I suppose. Um, ok, and do you feel any form of societal or community pressure to either mix the two languages or to not mix between them, in public or at home, and would it be weird if you did so and when would it be weird?

TC 00:12:24.776 - 00:12:50.175

P6 um, my daughter, who actually speaks - her Czech grammar is much better than mine, she has no Australian accent, she - because she was taught by her grandmothers when she was little. Her vocabulary is not as good as mine, but um other than that, and she really spoke really perfectly and she lived in Prague for one and a half or two years, um but she's now married to an English man and when we're with them, and her husband's there, she only likes us to - well he, both of them, but it's his thing, we only speak English, even if we're not speaking to him in particular, in his hearing, we only speak English, and we're under a lot of pressure to do that.

TC 00:12:49.105 - 00:13:35.541

Researcher yeah, wow, so - so you find that's more of a pressure thing from him, coming from him, yeah yeah, ok ok, so he just wasn't interested in learning, really

TC 00:13:34.485 - 00:13:47.409

P6 no, not really and um, we have the grandsons and we really wanted to bring them here to the Czech school and um, they find it difficult to have time because they've got sports on Fridays but even so, he doesn't want them to come, and the boys are aware of it and they've even said to us, can't you just take us to the school, and we won't tell Dad, well of course we can't do that, that's not something we would do, yeah so, even the boys are aware of it

TC 00:13:46.449 - 00:14:15.512

Researcher oh that's so unfortunate, and how old are they?

TC 00:14:11.433 - 00:14:13.916

SD (1.59)

P6 yeah, 11, our eldest one is 11 and the younger one is 8, um our 11 year old, he doesn't speak or understand much Czech although he's interested, and even our daughter will sometimes teach him something and he learns - he's got a very good accent, he repeats after us and he'll ask what we're saying if [REDACTED] and I speak to each other in Czech, but our younger grandson was born when they were living with us, and because we used to look after him a lot he actually could understand and speak a lot of Czech until he was about 4, yeah, til he was about 4, it started going, but once he started school, that was the end of it, yeah he really, I think he understands a little bit but not a lot

TC 00:14:15.513 - 00:15:02.119

Researcher yeah, that's so unfortunate, I hadn't heard of a - the other like, partner or husband or whatever being so against it um

TC 00:15:00.566 - 00:15:14.083

P6 it is

TC 00:15:02.119 - 00:15:02.972

SD (9.61)

P6 I think it's fairly common, mmm, from what I've heard, from people I know, it's strange when you come here and you see all these people with non-Czech partners bringing their children and the partners are happy about it and, but no it happens a lot

TC 00:15:12.584 - 00:15:29.621

Researcher yeah wow, yeah because I've heard from the other ladies whose partners don't seem to have any issue with it and, yeah wow, oh, I'm sorry to hear about that, that's so unfortunate

TC 00:15:28.317 - 00:15:38.836

P6 yeah, it is very sad, yeah

TC 00:15:36.666 - 00:15:40.783

Researcher hopefully once they're, you know, older and, it'll be harder for their brains, but if they are really interested they should be able to go over there and-

TC 00:15:38.836 - 00:15:47.795

P6 yeah well my niece and nephew, my brother-in-law and sister-in-law, his first wife, she was Chinese and the children had the brilliant opportunity to learn Czech and Chinese because they had the two grandmothers who looked after them, and they made a decision that their children would only speak English, um which was really sad, so I mean they know a few odd words here and there, but my niece when she was about 15 or 16, she got her father - her parents were divorced by then - so got her father to um, you know get her a Czech tutor, um - to learn a little bit, and even now she's got children of her own and so, she lives on the Gold Coast but she teaches her children a few things, you know, to count to 10 in Czech, various little, little things, not much but a little bit

TC 00:15:46.633 - 00:16:36.072

Researcher yeah, I mean I find that people often - if they haven't had the opportunity as a child or sometimes their parents have wanted them to as a child but they haven't been so keen about it then they regret it as an adult because they're like I could've had this other skill that would've been so useful, and part of the identity as well and that kind of thing so, yeah, um, ok well I've only got one more sort of question so, sort of two, do you feel any social pressure to conform to the majority language for example when in public, or anything like that

TC 00:16:34.738 - 00:17:11.745

P6 to English? In public? oh, depends where we are, erm yeah, obviously if we're with a group of Australian-English speaking people, you know, I don't speak Czech, I think it's rude, um, if they have - you know, if they're - that way - but um, if we're in the streets or in the shops my husband and I are quite happy to speak to each other in Czech, and and yeah, I don't have a problem with it at all

TC 00:17:08.128 - 00:17:34.356

Researcher and why not?

TC 00:17:30.065 - 00:17:31.861

SD (1.56)

Researcher ok, and um, do you feel language pride for your own language and how does this play out in your speech?

TC 00:17:33.426 - 00:17:41.090

P6 I think I do, because I'm - when I'm in Australia - actually, I feel it with both languages, because when I'm in Australia, I'm glad that I can speak Czech and I'm glad that I can understand it and it sort of broadens my knowledge about a lot of things, um it's hard work because it's not just the words, when I first started going out with my husband and we mixed with a lot of Czech people, I didn't have the cultural background, you know, when they made comments I didn't know what they were talking about it, but I've slowly acquired it over time, but it's interesting too that when we're in the Czech Republic, um you know, you walk down the street and you'll hear people, Australian people speaking English, and I always look up and go oh hello to them, um because it's nice, it's nice

TC 00:17:39.987 - 00:18:23.481

Researcher yeah, it is, yeah, no I had that when I was in the Czech Republic as well and if I heard some Australian people that were around I'd be like oh you know, it's a bit of home for me, so

TC 00:18:20.666 - 00:18:33.801

P6 yeah, yeah, so it works both ways

TC 00:18:29.771 - 00:18:34.708

Researcher yeah, that's really cool

TC 00:18:33.801 - 00:18:35.447

SD (0.65)

Researcher um, ok well that's pretty much it for the interview so if you can think of any more instances of grammatical borrowing or if it's something that you think of that you would like to share more, you've got my email but if not that's all good too, and yeah thank you again so much for helping me out

TC	00:18:36.097 - 00:18:54.209
P6	ok that's great
TC	00:18:39.616 - 00:18:40.995
SD	(6.19)
P6	yes, fine
TC	00:18:47.186 - 00:18:50.534
SD	(0.68)
TC	00:18:51.217 - 00:18:53.672