

### Observation Session 7

Thursday, 23 January 2020 2:14 PM

Researcher alright, so first question, what languages do you speak?

TC 00:00:01.840 - 00:00:06.564

P7 I speak mostly just Czech, I studied French in high school but I'm rusty, so I don't speak anymore, although I understand it, so just Czech and English

TC 00:00:06.000 - 00:00:17.867

Researcher ok, and what would you rate your language proficiencies in each of your languages including reading, writing, listening, etc

TC 00:00:16.955 - 00:00:25.470

P7 so English, I'd be at the top, I'm not only a native speaker but also an editor, translator, well editor and writer, so that would be at the top, Czech, spoken, not quite - I mean I

dunno what exactly in terms of A, B, C, or C1, C2 whatever but um I never studied Czech formally um so, I have an excellent passive knowledge of Czech in terms of reading, because I'm a

translator, in terms of speaking, I'm a bit rusty on writing, I'm not so proficient in writing Czech, formal Czech is a bit difficult and that's something that I should study, and I

haven't had the opportunity to do that

TC 00:00:24.571 - 00:01:02.270

Researcher mmhmm ok

TC 00:01:01.816 - 00:01:04.597

P7 so I would say, yeah it kinda varies, reading excellent advanced, speaking intermediate advanced, but writing not, so yeah

TC 00:01:03.278 - 00:01:16.857

Researcher mmhmm, and have you done the Czech Language Certificate Exam?

TC 00:01:16.477 - 00:01:21.970

P7 uh no, but I had - I took my uh, one of my doctoral degrees was conducted in Czech so that counted as passing the Czech Language Exam

TC 00:01:20.974 - 00:01:33.675

Researcher that's pretty cool

TC 00:01:32.350 - 00:01:34.953

P7 so they accepted that - for the- I have Czech citizenship and they accepted that for the Czech component of that

TC 00:01:34.032 - 00:01:40.331

Researcher so they should, really

TC 00:01:39.476 - 00:01:41.981

P7 they should, yeah they should, it was hard

TC 00:01:40.570 - 00:01:43.341

Researcher yeah, would've been, ok and what's your opinion on mixing between languages in speech, so in the same sentence or, between sentences?

TC 00:01:42.602 - 00:01:52.023

P7 depends - it depends on the situation, I don't mind it at all in social situations, especially between people that speak the same, 2 or 3 languages that's normal, but once I had the

misfortune of hearing Jacques Derrida lecture for 2 hours and he was changing languages in a sentence - there would be words from 7 different languages in a single sentence so it would

be impossible to follow, absolutely - it was insane, so he was making jokes in different languages but only a certain amount of people knew Greek or whatever, so it was - that was a disaster

TC 00:01:49.759 - 00:02:25.109

P7 so, you know, university lecture, I wouldn't recommend it

TC 00:02:25.109 - 00:02:30.185

Researcher yeah wow, wow, to be honest I think that would be really interesting to hear but not for the purposes of actually understanding what's going on

TC 00:02:28.739 - 00:02:38.447

P7 yeah, I wish I'd recorded it but listening to it was not that pleasant, yeah

TC 00:02:36.632 - 00:02:44.127

Researcher um, ok cool, and do you ever notice yourself doing this?

TC 00:02:42.701 - 00:02:49.723

P7 yep, um definitely, sometimes in terms of frustration if I'm trying to get a point across, I'll switch, just so I know the other person will understand me better in the other language,  
English, Czech, so if that happens, yeah

TC 00:02:48.767 - 00:03:05.404

Researcher and so I've got some extra reasons so if you could just say yes or no to each of those, um so do you ever do it due to momentarily forgetting a word?

TC 00:03:04.077 - 00:03:14.567

P7 yes, of course, yeah

TC 00:03:13.362 - 00:03:15.995

Researcher um, you find another word more useful or more appropriate for the situation

TC 00:03:15.462 - 00:03:20.835

P7 mmhmm yes

TC 00:03:20.058 - 00:03:21.723

Researcher another word expresses the meaning more fully

TC 00:03:21.110 - 00:03:26.115

P7 uhh, well, English yeah, English has more shades of variegation, yeah

TC 00:03:24.993 - 00:03:34.207

Researcher so from when you're speaking Czech then, and English word?

TC 00:03:33.012 - 00:03:37.023

P7 well if I'm trying to- again if I'm trying to explain something, sometimes English has more, there's more possibilities in English, differentiating, more shades

TC 00:03:35.710 - 00:03:43.858

P7 but sometimes Czech words are more appropriate if it's something culturally specific, so, yeah

TC 00:03:43.858 - 00:03:53.368

Researcher yeah that makes sense

TC 00:03:50.540 - 00:03:52.525

SD (0.4)

Researcher um, and another word feels easier to express in that language

TC 00:03:52.925 - 00:03:59.461

P7 yeah I suppose although if I'm speaking about something I should be familiar with it so, I dunno, I dunno

TC 00:03:59.008 - 00:04:12.520

Researcher yeah that's alright, it's ok to not know

TC 00:04:08.783 - 00:04:12.404

SD (0.07)

Researcher some of my questions people haven't really thought about before, so it's always interesting, and so do you feel that you borrow words between languages in a bilingual situation and what  
kind of words like nouns, verbs, adjectives, etc

TC 00:04:12.482 - 00:04:29.897

P7 yeah I suppose I borrow words that would- that are particularly expressive in the language they come from um,

TC 00:04:29.844 - 00:04:47.199

SD (0.2)

P7 yeah I think - it depends, yeah for example, speaking about politics or something you would use the catchphrase, that would come um from, the original and um, you know it's like, Trump's fake news, these days or Babiše's, what was it um-

TC 00:04:47.405 - 00:05:08.402

SD (0.27)

P7 um, I'm tired right now, no no, I think it's this reporter and it's like no, a co?

TC 00:05:08.675 - 00:05:16.410

P10 kampaň

TC 00:05:09.887 - 00:05:12.910

SD (3.43)

P10 a co, jako?

TC 00:05:16.349 - 00:05:18.559

P7 a co jako, yeah, that's the one from Babiš actually, so catch phrases

TC 00:05:17.540 - 00:05:22.840

Researcher yeah, that makes sense, um and do you ever feel that you borrow grammar between your languages in a bilingual situation?

TC 00:05:22.719 - 00:05:31.983

P7 uh yeah sometimes I will use, I'll invert things when speaking English like, I'm borrowing from Czech or in Czech sometimes I will have used prepositional - like prepositions, like phrasal verbs in a way, you know borrowing from English so yeah

TC 00:05:31.873 - 00:05:50.014

Researcher yep, super interesting, and this question is a little difficult but - do you ever say 2 words or 2 morphemes in the one sentence that express the same concept, that use them both, for example for emphasis so example for this one, like, little holčička, you've got the diminutive čič in and then you've got little, like do you ever do that across languages or do you prefer to kinda..

TC 00:05:49.354 - 00:06:17.829

P7 I think it more like - expletives, maybe, fucking blbec or something like that might come up yeah, yeah

TC 00:06:16.020 - 00:06:26.527

Researcher and do you ever find yourself putting any like Czech endings or Czech diminutives on English words when you're speaking in English?

TC 00:06:25.844 - 00:06:38.591

P7 I don't think so, no 'cause I'm not a big diminutives fan, probably not, I mean, would I?

TC 00:06:37.609 - 00:06:48.339

Researcher even prepositions or, any sort of um suffix or affix

TC 00:06:47.056 - 00:06:53.212

P7 sometimes jokingly in terms of people's names yeah, that's just for humour, for humorous effect, like I have a friend, an English friend, he's, his name is Ashley, and so Czechs here pronounce his name first as "Eshlee" to make it diminutive they call him "Eshlík" which he absolutely hates so I use that quite often

TC 00:06:49.456 - 00:07:14.129

P10 good, I'll have to use that

TC 00:07:12.453 - 00:07:14.128

P7 yeah use it, Esh- Esh-lík, he really hates it, yeah

TC 00:07:14.129 - 00:07:20.391

Researcher [laughs] um ok yeah the name stuff does seem very fun, ok we've already sort of talked about your syntax a little bit, so, what places do you tend to be in when you borrow between

languages and mix languages, versus what places are you in when you speak English, and places when you speak Czech?

TC 00:07:18.018 - 00:07:39.106

P7 well, my wife studied English, and German, but her English is good, and so in some situations we normally speak Czech at home, but some situations where I don't have the vocabulary for

example talking, recently talking about psychiatry, I switched to English 'cause I know that she's studied enough to understand certain concepts um, which I wouldn't know in Czech probably um

TC 00:07:38.008 - 00:08:06.395

Researcher so maybe at the home then, you do mix a little bit?

TC 00:08:04.820 - 00:08:09.481

P7 um, [unint], sometimes I think academics, because we teach English here, so in terms of things like literary criticism where I don't know the Czech vocabulary, or at least I don't read it, um I'm more comfortable speaking English but sometimes we'll switch yeah

TC 00:08:07.283 - 00:08:32.542

Researcher and what about just like in public and stuff, mostly Czech, like with friends and like, colleagues?

TC 00:08:31.444 - 00:08:39.254

P7 I guess it depends on the company, uh, today we had lunch, myself and my wife with also a couple, one guy's Irish and his wife is Czech so all four of us were mixing languages, you should've been there to record that, yeah

TC 00:08:37.656 - 00:08:55.540

Researcher oh that's really cool

TC 00:08:51.690 - 00:08:53.148

SD (0.52)

Researcher I know I was just about to say that! [laughs]

TC 00:08:53.676 - 00:08:57.403

P7 But I didn't know they were coming, it was a surprise, so

TC 00:08:55.874 - 00:08:59.978

P10 Simon's wife is here?

TC 00:08:58.540 - 00:09:00.845

P7 no it was uh, Joe- not Joe, John [REDACTED], [unint]

TC 00:09:00.374 - 00:09:07.018

P10 oh right, yeah

TC 00:09:04.169 - 00:09:06.873

SD (0.55)

Researcher ok, um,

TC 00:09:07.423 - 00:09:10.859

P7 yeah so you would've loved that

TC 00:09:08.855 - 00:09:12.208

Researcher yeah probably, oh, it's alright

TC 00:09:11.130 - 00:09:13.969

P10 you're still sober

TC 00:09:12.735 - 00:09:15.622

Researcher I was at lunch with Dr [REDACTED] and a student that helped me with my previous study, um, so

TC 00:09:14.641 - 00:09:21.828

P7 Ok so you got it- yeah, you got enough there

TC 00:09:19.481 - 00:09:24.398

Researcher um, ok do you feel more relaxed in speaking when you can use both languages interchangeably if you want, rather than just Czech or just English, or not

TC 00:09:24.287 - 00:09:35.135

P7 No I wouldn't say so, no

TC 00:09:33.450 - 00:09:37.428

Researcher so you're pretty relaxed with any - but are you more relaxed just speaking one or the other, or just the same

TC 00:09:36.461 - 00:09:44.793

P7 yeah sometimes, I mean there are situations, I know a family where, who live here that the father is American, wife is Czech and he only speaks English, she only speaks Czech and I find it- it just- it does my head in to listen to them, because I have to- I dunno which language to respond in - they're used to it, she only speaks Czech, he only speaks English

TC 00:09:43.419 - 00:10:08.991

P10 Simon?

TC 00:10:06.631 - 00:10:08.976

P7 No it's uh, the Loda's. It gives me a headache so I feel very uncomfortable there.

TC 00:10:08.991 - 00:10:16.826

Researcher It'd be really hard to know how to respond, yeah

TC 00:10:16.020 - 00:10:21.603

Researcher ok how long have you been in this country?

TC 00:10:21.603 - 00:10:24.448

P7 24 years, almost 25

TC 00:10:23.338 - 00:10:27.054

Researcher that's my age [laughs]

TC 00:10:26.492 - 00:10:30.463

P7 I know, I know

TC 00:10:27.662 - 00:10:30.712

Researcher how long have you been speaking Czech?

TC 00:10:30.572 - 00:10:33.313

P7 um, one of the things about Olomouc is that when I first came here, very few people spoke English so, in the shops, there were very few uh, what they call self-service shops here, so you had to ask for everything behind the counter so it forced you to learn Czech from the very beginning, so that was good so, I sorta wasn't fluent in Czech but I was trying from the very first day, I took dictionaries with me everywhere I went, pocket dictionaries, Czech English, English Czech everywhere I went, so I looked up every word, so I did- yeah started as soon as I hit the ground here I started learning, but only on my own

TC 00:10:32.625 - 00:11:06.961

Researcher did you first live here or?

TC 00:11:04.925 - 00:11:11.048

P7 only in Olomouc

TC 00:11:09.477 - 00:11:11.802

Researcher only in Olomouc the whole time, you were here? Ok

TC 00:11:11.178 - 00:11:13.701

P7 mmhmm, it was an advantage in that aspect

TC 00:11:12.538 - 00:11:17.227

Researcher yeah definitely, um, ok do you feel any form of societal or community pressure to mix or to not mix the two languages in a sentence, like in public or wherever?

TC 00:11:16.056 - 00:11:26.226

P7 yeah, we live in a village and there certainly is a xenophobic element to Czech society, and, especially in villages, everyone knows who I am, they know that I'm the American, but to - I

think that they don't, they resent it if you're not speaking Czech there, so it helps when I speak Czech there, yeah

TC 00:11:25.655 - 00:11:48.803

Researcher Yeah, and do you think eh, it would also be looked upon negatively if you were speaking Czech and English like, mixing in?

TC 00:11:47.432 - 00:11:59.424

P7 I - only in a certain situation, we have people, linguists here in the department that don't like the fact that I'm not bringing up my kids to be perfectly bilingual, I dunno what that

means, perfectly bilingual, but, so they get irritated when I speak Czech to my kids when I could be speaking English to my kids but I'm speaking Czech because in that situation it's

easier, so I don't think about it, really, but I can see that sometimes they get upset about it but I don't get upset about it, we don't get upset by it, the kids don't get upset by it

TC 00:11:58.027 - 00:12:30.513

Researcher yeah, I mean, do as you will really, yeah

TC 00:12:29.062 - 00:12:33.952

P7 yeah, that's how I feel

TC 00:12:32.039 - 00:12:34.242

Researcher that's how languages kind of work, they're based around practicalities and people's lives, in my opinion anyway, and it's how it works, really, and as much as

TC 00:12:33.999 - 00:12:43.177

P7 yep, tools, yeah, I agree

TC 00:12:37.480 - 00:12:41.680

SD (1.49)

Researcher we try to stop it's - it's just practicalities, um anyway, ok so you've already sort of answered that other question which is do you feel social pressure to conform to the majority, so

you sort of do in the village, yep yep

TC 00:12:43.177 - 00:12:56.932

P7 yeah I do, yeah

TC 00:12:54.463 - 00:12:57.578

Researcher especially, um do you feel any language pride for your own language?

TC 00:12:56.984 - 00:13:03.764

P7 yeah, I mean I think - well I don't feel this so much but a lot of Czechs think that English lends itself to song in many ways, so English language music is fantastic, I feel good about

that um, I teach literature so obviously, you know I have great appreciation for people who know how to use the language like, Hemingway or Shakespeare or, of course, yeah sure

TC 00:13:03.226 - 00:13:30.790

Researcher ok, um and what language do you consume most of your media in?

TC 00:13:29.970 - 00:13:35.853

P7 um, that really depends, I would say mostly English on account of films, but lately I've been only watching Czech films lately, so it's hard to say, and

TC 00:13:35.679 - 00:13:48.605

P7 television of course is Czech, I don't follow American TV at all, so, it's hard to say and radio, yeah, I'd say it's a mix, about 50 50, and that's changed though because of the

internet, you know 24 years ago there was no internet here, so it was only Czech, the occasionally Hollywood film or something like that would be showing in the cinema, but it was only

Czech, and I kinda miss that, it definitely helped in terms of language acquisition, yeah

TC 00:13:48.605 - 00:14:17.147

Researcher yeah yeah I think it would -that would be another really interesting study, actually, and what about books?

TC 00:14:15.355 - 00:14:23.959

P7 Yeah, books, I generally read- I do read Czech books but it takes me a longer time obviously because it's not my native language so I tend to read more English language books

TC 00:14:22.954 - 00:14:33.924

Researcher like if you wanna just enjoy it and stuff I guess

TC 00:14:32.693 - 00:14:36.445

P7 But the other thing is, as a translator I'm translating from Czech all the time, for hours and hours a day, so reading in English is kinda a relief to my eyes 'cause I'm usually reading  
literally in Czech for hours

TC 00:14:35.491 - 00:14:48.622

SD (0.05)

Researcher um ok what language do you most often speak with your friends, at home, with your partner etc

TC 00:14:48.677 - 00:14:55.429

P7 um at home - uh, from what - and kids, yeah mostly Czech

TC 00:14:54.437 - 00:14:58.641

Researcher oh and your kids sorry

TC 00:14:55.935 - 00:14:58.149

SD (0.49)

P7 for sure um, I have some, like P10 here, some English language, some English speakers, in town we speak English, but I'd say, I dunno, I'd say mostly Czech these days 'cause I'm mostly  
at home

TC 00:14:58.641 - 00:15:17.904

Researcher ok, cool, um and how often do you visit home or an English speaking country?

TC 00:15:16.440 - 00:15:21.939

P7 for me not very often because I'm an American here on a Czech salary so the flights are expensive and if I'm taking the whole family it's really expensive, so, it's, but

TC 00:15:21.733 - 00:15:33.951

Researcher how many kids do you have?

TC 00:15:31.849 - 00:15:34.251

P7 2, but it's - generally it's been about every 4 years

TC 00:15:34.037 - 00:15:38.575

Researcher yep, cool, um well that's pretty much the whole interview, so thank you so much, I really appreciate it, um if you think of any little interesting facts or anything later on feel free to  
email me

TC 00:15:37.790 - 00:15:48.623

P7 you're welcome

TC 00:15:41.047 - 00:15:43.164

SD (0.19)

P7 you're welcome

TC 00:15:43.360 - 00:15:44.731

SD (3.16)

P7 it works the other way too - if you wanna ask something more specific or more detailed feel free to write, it's no problem, I could probably give you a better answer than just off the  
cuff here, so, yeah

TC 00:15:47.898 - 00:15:58.492

Researcher yeah, sure ok awesome, thank you so much, that is fantastic

TC 00:15:56.580 - 00:16:03.880

P7 you're welcome

TC 00:15:58.810 - 00:16:00.158

