

### Observation Session 5

Wednesday, 5 February 2020 12:06 PM

Researcher      yep there we go, ok so first up what languages do you speak?

TC      00:00:02.070 - 00:00:08.359

P5      uh what languages do I speak, ok so my first language is English and I come from a basically monolingual family, what languages do I speak so, I started studying initially um, Latin, that was my major foreign language, then I took Spanish so I have some competence in Spanish but it's not great, it got pushed out by German, in which I'm not fluent but I can get around, um, so, and then Czech is sort of like a second language let's say, but I started learning it as an adult, and then in addition I have I can say a passive competence in Slovak and also sort of some competence in the language of my partner, which is Sorbian, it's a West Slavic language that is spoken in some parts of Saxony and Brandenburg, it's very similar to Czech yeah

TC      00:00:07.770 - 00:01:02.907

Researcher      yeah, fascinating

TC      00:01:00.073 - 00:01:03.930

P5      yeah Upper Sorbian, yeah

TC      00:01:02.907 - 00:01:05.166

Researcher      you speak a lot of languages

TC      00:01:03.930 - 00:01:07.166

P5      yeah but the- I mostly use English and Czech, my partner and I actually speak Czech together, yeah so

TC      00:01:06.130 - 00:01:14.739

Researcher      ok um, now, what would you - you sort of a little bit said about your language proficiencies in each of your languages but with regards to like reading, writing, listening etc, speaking, what would you rate your proficiencies in your languages

TC      00:01:13.590 - 00:01:30.287

P5      in my languages? other than English, I guess or yeah, yeah, in Czech um, I mean it's all very high, I- when I- I can write academic texts but I really need to have them checked and they get checked a lot, um otherwise, then in German for example I can speak, I can't write at all um, and then my comprehension, so my reading comprehension is low, I can read a newspaper but there will be words I won't know, my listening comprehension once it gets too complicated, like we watch on TV in Germany these like, comedy shows, comedy cabaret, that's beyond me I can't do that and I can't write, I can speak in the pub or whatever, and Spanish - I can, it's more like basic, my passive competence is higher, but also the more complicated you go, then I- I can't, and then in Sorbian actually my passive competence is probably better because it's so close to Czech, so I can read no problem, I can't write at all almost and I can speak basic yeah, with my mother in law or whatever, yeah

TC      00:01:26.478 - 00:02:41.698

Researcher      so they have like - so they have like a standard writing system in Sorbian?

TC      00:02:37.950 - 00:02:45.177

P5      yep, yep

TC      00:02:44.147 - 00:02:46.279

Researcher      that's so interesting, I always find languages that aren't attached to a state so super interesting

TC      00:02:45.217 - 00:02:52.292

P5 oh yeah oh yeah I live that on a regular basis, it's the classic minority language you know, fighting for their existence, you know, everybody is bilingual, and then I have two stepsons

with whom I speak a mix because one of them is learning Czech in school, so sometimes Czech, but often English, sometimes a bit of Sorbian, one more English no Czech, he hasn't learned

Czech, and then if somebody else comes in, then German, ok, so yeah, multilingual household yeah

TC 00:02:49.733 - 00:03:22.446

Researcher wow, wow goodness me, what a mix yeah definitely, um did you have to pass the Czech language certificate exam? I think you actually-

TC 00:03:16.715 - 00:03:28.586

P5 I don't think I ever did, uh no, I-

TC 00:03:27.246 - 00:03:32.657

Researcher but you've done it?

TC 00:03:30.350 - 00:03:33.516

P5 I have a masters degree in Czech language so, and I um, let's see, in 1997 I took a six, a series of two six week courses at Albertov, which is the UJOP, and there was an exam, I guess I

did get some certificate from that, but I don't know what it is or anything, it was just a certificate that I completed their course, and then I got - I have a masters degree in what's

called čeština pro cizince, it's an official study program, I have a double masters, it's where it's - the double major one is Czech for foreigners, it's Czech but it's directed to

nonnative speakers, and the other one is linguistics and phonetics, yeah

TC 00:03:32.671 - 00:04:22.421

Researcher oh ok wow yeah so and when you have that so then you are able to get - is it residency or citizenship or?

TC 00:04:17.967 - 00:04:27.355

P5 um well in terms of the Czech language - the demonstration of Czech language knowledge required for um permanent residency, I was not required to do that because I was a graduate of a

Czech university, and for citizenship I should - which I haven't gotten around to applying for, I should - I would not be required to demonstrate language proficiency or take the test

from the Czech [unint] institutions because I'm a graduate of a Czech university so I've gotten around that that way

TC 00:04:25.986 - 00:04:57.997

Researcher yep yep, um and what is your opinion on mixing between languages in speech, and do you do so?

TC 00:04:56.101 - 00:05:04.965

P5 uh, it's great and I do it, ok

TC 00:05:04.285 - 00:05:11.346

Researcher um ok so in conversation with other bilinguals do you notice yourself using both of your languages and why do you think you do this?

TC 00:05:09.877 - 00:05:18.832

P5 so in conversations with other bilinguals - so in my case that would mean Czech people that speak English mostly, yeah, I mean unless I'm talking to someone like P6 but, usually if

I'm talking to her, there are other people around who are not Czech speakers so, or I dunno if you met Sonya, um, yeah

TC 00:05:17.696 - 00:05:36.894

Researcher yep I did, yeah yeah

TC 00:05:35.497 - 00:05:37.899

P5        yeah I mean she's a Czech speaker but- so you would be in a group and you wouldn't necessarily know who the Czech speakers are actually, yeah so that even very often if you're in a group with a bunch of people who don't speak Czech and even some Czech people, then you end up um, speaking mostly English, so- and with other bilinguals I also - actually the more likely situation would be if I would be speaking with someone who is not a native speaker of English but also speaks English and Czech, like my very good friend who is Icelandic who studied with me, so she and I are always writing little Facebook chats and we throw a Czech word in there if we want, otherwise um

TC        00:05:36.894 - 00:06:13.874

P5        like the people here speak English but like we mostly just use Czech, and - but I had one, I had a couple colleagues, especially one in particular that I was working with, writing an article and he was very English-oriented, so a lot more creative mixing occurred, so let's say like we were writing an article or reading the reviewers report, we would read it in English and then you could mix it in a sentence, you know, because we're citing what the reviewers said, so in Czech, let's do this in order to blablabla whatever the person said, yeah

TC        00:06:13.874 - 00:06:46.450

Researcher        oh yep ok that makes sense, so I've got a little list of like, reasons why you might do this, um and then if you could just say yes or no to each of them

TC        00:06:42.830 - 00:06:51.855

P5        mmhmm yep

TC        00:06:51.156 - 00:06:52.551

Researcher        so, first one, due to momentarily forgetting a word, is that-?

TC        00:06:51.866 - 00:06:57.223

P5        uh sure, sure yeah

TC        00:06:55.804 - 00:06:58.920

Researcher        um and you find another word or particle is more useful or more appropriate for the situation?

TC        00:06:57.766 - 00:07:04.216

P5        yes

TC        00:07:02.973 - 00:07:06.153

Researcher        um, another word or particle expresses the meaning more fully?

TC        00:07:04.577 - 00:07:10.722

P5        yes, definitely

TC        00:07:09.523 - 00:07:12.035

Researcher        um and another word or particle seems easier to express in that language

TC        00:07:11.262 - 00:07:16.712

P5        um, yeah I guess so, but those previous two are much stronger, yeah yeah

TC        00:07:15.859 - 00:07:25.471

Researcher        definitely? yeah and can you think of any examples of that?

TC        00:07:22.990 - 00:07:27.536

P5        easier to express...

TC        00:07:26.337 - 00:07:31.938

Researcher        or for the other ones expressing the meaning more fully and more appropriate for the situation

TC        00:07:30.109 - 00:07:35.270

P5        mmhmm yeah, I do know yeah, like we always do use the word like *totiž* in Czech, because the English equivalent is weird, and Czechs use it a lot, *totiž*, the English equivalent is namely,

we never say that in English um, or

TC 00:07:34.660 - 00:07:49.535

Researcher yeah yeah that's true

TC 00:07:46.308 - 00:07:48.831

SD (0.75)

P5 or I dunno my Icelandic friend was saying, we were talking about fish you know, because Icelandic people have a special relationship to fish and she was like oh we were talking about some salmon [unint], and she was like oh is it from chov, meaning it's like farmed, and we would never say that, or I dunno like, pytlák, I dunno, pytlák means poachers, illegal hunting, or I dunno so, and then there are some words which I claim are English words 'cause it's just silly to translate them like panelák or chlebiček or something like that

TC 00:07:49.586 - 00:08:21.071

Researcher um, ok so when you borrow words from between languages in a bilingual situation, what words namely like, more nouns verbs adjectives

TC 00:08:20.277 - 00:08:32.184

P5 probably more nouns, yeah

TC 00:08:30.116 - 00:08:34.019

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

TC 00:08:33.173 - 00:08:40.841

P5 uh, probably um, but if I had to think of an example

TC 00:08:40.549 - 00:08:47.934

Researcher it can be difficult to think of an example of that kind of thing um, what about your syntax, do you ever feel that your either English is reflecting Czech syntax or the other way around?

TC 00:08:45.850 - 00:08:59.273

P5 um yeah usually when I translate well, um, my- way I write in Czech is definitely influenced by English um, and when I translate sometimes I get- I feel like maybe my translations are too close to the Czech you know, in terms of syntax

TC 00:08:57.545 - 00:09:15.671

Researcher yeah but what about when you're speaking, like do you-

TC 00:09:13.776 - 00:09:17.579

P5 hard to say yeah hard to say

TC 00:09:17.040 - 00:09:22.470

Researcher or is it kinda difficult to notice

TC 00:09:18.624 - 00:09:20.793

SD (1.6)

Researcher ok um,

TC 00:09:22.401 - 00:09:28.381

P5 you'd have to do a test where you like, had me speaking some Czech for a while and then like I dunno, going into an English situation, although I'm pretty good at like, switching though, because I'm like you know, used to it, you know, five minutes talking to somebody else, going into another room and then back in here I can do that, yeah yeah

TC 00:09:25.617 - 00:09:46.859

Researcher saying something

TC 00:09:31.320 - 00:09:34.208

SD (0.65)

Researcher yeah yeah yep

TC 00:09:34.865 - 00:09:40.475  
SD (2.09)  
Researcher yeah and you kind of like get used to it all the time, um ok do you ever say two words or two morphemes in the same sentence that express the same concept but use them both, so basically double marking, um like for emphasis or that kind of thing, between the languages?  
TC 00:09:42.570 - 00:10:01.669  
P5 ok, so like if I say, I dunno, cake dort or something like that  
TC 00:09:59.686 - 00:10:06.239  
Researcher yeah yeah or like, um for example if you said little holčička, so the čič is already like showing it's diminutive but then you say little as well  
TC 00:10:04.281 - 00:10:15.188  
P5 yeah we say - we do this thing where we I found we say, we say um, I remember, I feel like I have uttered the combination rohlíks and housky so if that would yeah, that sort of a combination with that  
TC 00:10:13.611 - 00:10:32.425  
Researcher yeah yeah yeah so you're kind of using the-  
TC 00:10:31.824 - 00:10:35.554  
P5 right, but I don't say rohlik's and houska's 'cause for some reason 'cause it just sounds better I dunno, yeah, rohlíks and housky, yeah  
TC 00:10:34.474 - 00:10:43.277  
Researcher yeah we actually - at dinner the last night with the other two guys, they said um, I think they said rohlíks and something like that as well, so um ok what places do you tend to be in when you borrow between languages, versus just speak English, versus just speak Czech  
TC 00:10:41.020 - 00:11:02.691  
P5 ok, borrowing between languages, well all sorts of borrowing takes place at home, in my private life and then also at work, at home and at work, and then usually in social situations my social situations are usually sort of um sectorred, meaning that usually it's one language group or another, so those usually involve just English or just Czech  
TC 00:11:01.237 - 00:11:28.690  
Researcher ok yep, um and do you feel more relaxed in speaking when you can use both languages freely, or do you feel more relaxed in just Czech or just English?  
TC 00:11:27.936 - 00:11:37.868  
P5 it doesn't matter, it's all the same yeah  
TC 00:11:36.278 - 00:11:40.498  
Researcher ok cool, and how long have you been living in this country?  
TC 00:11:37.983 - 00:11:43.304  
P5 I have been living here now let me count, 22 and a half years, mmhmm  
TC 00:11:42.288 - 00:11:52.950  
Researcher ok, yep and how long have you been speaking Czech?  
TC 00:11:50.819 - 00:11:55.452  
P5 I have been speaking Czech since - well I started living in Czech in uh 1995 so that's 24 years  
TC 00:11:53.782 - 00:12:02.105  
Researcher yep yep cool, and was that when you arrived or was that prior to?  
TC 00:12:00.451 - 00:12:06.357  
P5 It was prior to, I took a class, a Czech class for a year before I arrived here  
TC 00:12:04.240 - 00:12:09.928  
Researcher and did you have like a reason to do Czech like why did you choose Czech?

TC 00:12:08.479 - 00:12:13.610  
P5 um it was um it was being offered and I dunno a friend was signing up, it was just like, you know an elective class to take  
TC 00:12:12.375 - 00:12:20.322  
Researcher yeah, and then you ended up here that's so cool  
TC 00:12:18.248 - 00:12:22.043  
P5 yeah because um, because I wanted to study abroad and I was studying Latin and I had Ancient Greek also so like I could've gone to those places but I think I wanted to go someplace where there was sort of a live language so that, yeah  
TC 00:12:21.052 - 00:12:38.450  
Researcher fair enough  
TC 00:12:37.212 - 00:12:39.253  
P5 and the teacher became a very good friend of mine so, who is still a friend who lives right down the street from me, so yeah  
TC 00:12:38.450 - 00:12:45.032  
Researcher ah, awesome, that's great um ok do you ever feel any form of societal or community pressure to mix the two languages in a sentence or to not mix the two languages?  
TC 00:12:43.478 - 00:12:54.995  
SD (1.18)  
P5 to mix, definitely not, to not mix... I think there are certain contexts where it's presumed that you will not mix, I dunno if I would call it pressure, but rather just a norm yeah yeah  
TC 00:12:56.180 - 00:13:15.227  
Researcher um and do you ever feel any social pressure to conform to the majority language, for example in public and?  
TC 00:13:15.227 - 00:13:22.024  
P5 uh to, to speak Czech like, to speak Czech and not speak English?  
TC 00:13:21.372 - 00:13:29.903  
Researcher yeah or speak Czech and not speak I guess any of your other languages that you've got  
TC 00:13:28.869 - 00:13:35.759  
P5 no, I don't find myself in those sort of situations, I think  
TC 00:13:34.505 - 00:13:41.166  
Researcher maybe 'cause generally you speak Czech really well so you would be speaking Czech, what language do you speak with your partner?  
TC 00:13:40.039 - 00:13:48.738  
P5 Czech  
TC 00:13:47.515 - 00:13:49.792  
Researcher Czech yeah, yeah, mostly  
TC 00:13:48.750 - 00:13:50.318  
P5 I mean my partner has a very strong accent  
TC 00:13:49.792 - 00:13:53.550  
Researcher in Czech?  
TC 00:13:52.298 - 00:13:53.474  
SD (0.07)  
P5 in Czech yes, because um, the Sorbian language is close, very close to Czech but um they're living in the German space so um in terms of pronunciation, they all have very strong German accents, so sort of you know phonetically, phonologically they don't have, in his variety they don't use the Slavic r, they have the German one so when they speak Czech they have very

strong accents, so it happens sometimes that they'll react to him by speaking English or speaking German so, yeah but it's usually actually, the problem I've always had is the opposite, when I started learning that you know people didn't want to speak Czech but they wanted to speak English or whatever and so you had to sort of fight to get them to speak Czech

TC 00:13:53.550 - 00:14:37.075

Researcher yeah yeah ok yeah and that's a bit more like, recent I guess or

TC 00:14:34.446 - 00:14:40.512

P5 uh no that was, that was back in the 90's, yeah

TC 00:14:39.195 - 00:14:42.266

Researcher really? ok

TC 00:14:41.156 - 00:14:42.385

P5 but I think I mean people say the same thing now that it happens um, and what was I gonna say, in terms of, you know somebody telling me not to speak English somewhere, I can't remember that happening

TC 00:14:42.266 - 00:14:57.852

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

TC 00:14:56.886 - 00:15:01.345

P5 uh for English? Um, I would say any relationship I have to a language or to a place is just based on my own experience, the fact that, you know, I don't have some kind of, I dunno, it's

the language I grew up with, so, it has that, I don't have any of my own children but if I were to, I would pass it on to them based on the fact that it's simply the language spoken in my family where I grew up

TC 00:15:00.443 - 00:15:28.769

Researcher ok um and what language do you consume most of your media in, including TV, movies, books, etc

TC 00:15:27.689 - 00:15:36.462

P5 um, well Netflix is now available, they have a few Czech things but they're not very good ones, so Netflix is not- I dunno, if you've had a look, they're slowly getting in there and now

apparently what they're trying to do, and 'cause I've seen this done in other countries, they're trying to create Netflix Czech productions, so I'll be excited when that happens, there's

some very good productions with HBO go in Czech, but uh I don't get that, so, or what Amazon, Amazon Prime no, so Netflix is only in English and then um media, I consume in Czech but

yeah I - I consume like newspapers, news in Czech and then sometimes I read stuff in English like online, and then and you know when I'm in Germany I consume the German language one so yeah

TC 00:15:35.777 - 00:16:28.639

Researcher and books as well or?

TC 00:16:26.867 - 00:16:29.949

P5 books, let's see, if you're talking about academic stuff it's mostly English and some Czech, um pleasure books either Czech or English, if it's Czech then I want it to be original Czech

I don't want it to be- usually don't want it to be a translation of something unless it's a translation from another Slavic language

TC 00:16:28.934 - 00:16:47.590

Researcher yeah yeah fair enough

TC 00:16:45.337 - 00:16:48.722

P5 yeah so yeah, Czech and English yeah

TC 00:16:47.590 - 00:16:50.561

Researcher mmhmm, um and what language - you sort of already said so with friends it just depends on groups, and at home, it's Czech and with your partner's kids it's a mix

TC 00:16:50.035 - 00:17:02.653

P5 yeah with partner's kids it's English, mostly English, with some Czech and some Sorbian and occasionally some German, if other people are there, although, because I just moved into a very small apartment I can't throw these big parties where I invite my different friend groups, but when it was, when that was the case, I would just walk from room to room and switch language, you know based on who I was talking to you know um

TC 00:17:01.003 - 00:17:25.742

Researcher that's so cool

TC 00:17:24.903 - 00:17:32.862

P5 so and but it's always been like that, it's been like that for 20 years, you know

TC 00:17:25.742 - 00:17:31.647

SD (0.04)

P5 I mean sometimes it's a problem like the groups of friends tend to separate off into their groups or whatever, but it's often language based and there's often some lonely individual wandering around, well why don't you talk to this person, and it's always a problem planning parties, you wanna make sure that everyone can talk to everyone else and stuff like that, so with friends it's usually, of late it's more these friend groups, but I have for example, this former teacher of mine, what will happen is she and I will go to the pool, the swimming pool on Sunday and sauna and then we come and have a meeting with a friend who is American, so she and I will speak Czech, and we meet the friend we all start speaking English, and then the friend goes to the bathroom, we start speaking Czech, yeah

TC 00:17:31.688 - 00:18:16.392

Researcher wow that's cool, goodness me, uh it's so interesting

TC 00:18:14.670 - 00:18:20.110

SD (0.05)

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

TC 00:18:20.167 - 00:18:24.608

SD (0.48)

P5 um, wait I just wanna add something to that last section,

TC 00:18:25.092 - 00:18:27.335

Researcher yeah sure

TC 00:18:26.475 - 00:18:28.041

P5 um, in terms of speaking language with other people, it also happens like in my family situation where one person will speak in one language and the other person will reply in another one, yeah that happens, yeah so like, I dunno I remember my, one stepson saying something like, oh are we gonna watch a movie together tonight, he said that in Sorbian, and I said well, ok do you have one picked out, you know, I said that in English, um, ok um, how often do I go to English speaking countries, ok, um, I get home only once every couple of years um, for work, I occasionally go to English speaking countries but I haven't been for a while actually, to the UK, I've been to Australia I was there once for a week, I think I told you I was at Monash, um where else, otherwise I go abroad for work events where English is spoken

TC 00:18:27.535 - 00:19:17.225

P5 you know and that's all over the world so, yeah other than that, yeah

TC 00:19:17.225 - 00:19:23.532



Researcher that's yeah ok, well that's pretty much the whole interview, so thank you again so much for all of your help it's really, I'm very grateful so thank you

TC 00:19:21.761 - 00:19:31.068

TC 00:19:28.943 - 00:19:37.457