

Observation Session 10

Friday, 17 January 2020 11:50 AM

Researcher I'll start recording again, ok, so, first question is, what languages do you speak?

TC 00:00:00.160 - 00:00:10.146

SD (1.11)

P10 really only English and Czech I mean, I-I can speak a bit of Russian, I studied a bit of French and Spanish but, I don't really speak them

TC 00:00:11.260 - 00:00:19.789

Researcher ok, fair enough, um and what would you rate your language proficiencies in each language as for like, speaking reading writing, etc

TC 00:00:18.312 - 00:00:27.802

SD (0.76)

P10 on- on what scale? just like- intermediate, advanced?

TC 00:00:28.563 - 00:00:34.346

Researcher huh, not really- don't have to give- you don't really have to give a scale you can just talk about what you can do I guess and just-

TC 00:00:30.899 - 00:00:38.656

P10 I guess in Czech you know, quite- quite advanced and reading, obviously and uh, and uh listening, speaking's sometimes I- I still make mistakes and writing is my weakest, uh, so I- I try to avoid writing something complicated, 'cause I find it

TC 00:00:37.056 - 00:00:59.973

P7 this ladybird just- was just- must- must be good luck

TC 00:00:58.537 - 00:01:02.598

Researcher aw, lovely, oh fantastic

TC 00:01:00.746 - 00:01:04.567

P7 still alive, slightly

TC 00:01:02.749 - 00:01:07.286

Researcher [laughs] wonderful, how is it still living in this winter cold, who knows?

TC 00:01:05.016 - 00:01:11.391

P10 why don't you let it go

TC 00:01:05.366 - 00:01:08.518

SD (1.98)

P10 oh, oh maybe

TC 00:01:10.504 - 00:01:12.160

P7 they come out -

TC 00:01:11.235 - 00:01:14.008

P10 Dude, I'm being interviewed

TC 00:01:13.172 - 00:01:15.193

P7 ok

TC 00:01:14.008 - 00:01:15.025

SD (1.23)

P7 in January, flies do too

TC 00:01:16.257 - 00:01:19.714

Researcher oh cool [laughs]

TC 00:01:18.373 - 00:01:22.246

SD (0.1)

Researcher um, so, and obviously like, native English in all your reading, writing, etc, yep

TC 00:01:22.347 - 00:01:28.574

P10 yeah, yeah yeah

TC 00:01:26.256 - 00:01:28.977

Researcher um, ok and did you have to do the Czech Language Certificate Exam

TC 00:01:28.574 - 00:01:33.104

P10 No, no I don't have Czech citizenship, I haven't bothered

TC 00:01:32.525 - 00:01:38.491

Researcher ah what sorry

TC 00:01:36.942 - 00:01:39.010

P10 I haven't bothered

TC 00:01:38.491 - 00:01:39.845

Researcher oh you haven't bothered, ok so um, uh, do you have permanent residency, is that it?

TC 00:01:39.089 - 00:01:45.752

P10 yes, yeah yeah, more or less, yeah

TC 00:01:44.681 - 00:01:49.535

SD (0.29)

Researcher um, ok and what's your opinion on mixing between languages in speech, so say you're with another bilingual, do you ever mix the languages within a sentence or anything like that or
what's your opinion on people who do, do that

TC 00:01:49.831 - 00:02:04.978

P10 well I-I find like, like people who like, English speakers who use French words to kind of sound clever annoying, though I probably do it sometimes too, but I guess with Czech, you know
like with my kids, sometimes it happens, some word fits better or has a history, you know, or just certain uh, just you know maybe, you know, having, you know playing with language so I

think I- I don't - I think because we live here, and we live in this Czech environment, Czech, you know Czech wife and bilingual kids so it's quite inevitable especially when they were

younger often I'd speak in English, my kids would speak Czech back to me, or sometimes when I teach I use some Czech words to attempt to be funny

TC 00:02:04.564 - 00:02:56.754

Researcher so do you- so when you speak with your children you speak English and sometimes put a little Czech word in or whatever word in?

TC 00:02:55.607 - 00:03:02.997

P10 exactly

TC 00:03:01.499 - 00:03:03.237

Researcher cool, um and

TC 00:03:03.180 - 00:03:07.953

P10 so I don't think it's that big a deal and I know some people who are really strict, like saying with, with kids that you have to be really consistent but I don't think it's that big a deal

TC 00:03:06.694 - 00:03:16.152

Researcher yep ok ok and um, I've just a couple of like, things like reasons why you might do that and if you could just say yes or no when I give the reasons

TC 00:03:15.093 - 00:03:23.370

Researcher so first reason is due to momentarily forgetting a word, has that ever happened?

TC 00:03:23.370 - 00:03:28.560

P10 true

TC 00:03:27.715 - 00:03:29.636

SD (0.58)

Researcher yep, um, as you've sort of said, another word is more useful or more appropriate for the situation?

TC 00:03:30.221 - 00:03:35.529

P10 yes

TC 00:03:34.990 - 00:03:35.957

Researcher another word expresses the meaning more fully

TC 00:03:35.827 - 00:03:39.386

P10 yes

TC 00:03:38.899 - 00:03:40.249

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

TC 00:03:40.124 - 00:03:44.427

SD (0.06)

P10 yes

TC 00:03:44.490 - 00:03:46.639

SD (0.23)

Researcher ok, um, do you feel that you borrow words from between languages and what types of words like nouns, verbs, adjectives or any type of word

TC 00:03:46.869 - 00:03:59.641

P10 I think all, you know, often, like you know, per specific culture like, talking about like, food words, words that sound funny in different languages, so as a joke, so you might say, you

look very škaredý, you know, like, you know škaredý, 'cause it sounds better, like- well ugly sounds bad too I guess but škaredý it sounds really you know

TC 00:03:58.371 - 00:04:29.253

Researcher it really sounds like what it means

TC 00:04:28.558 - 00:04:31.156

P10 onomatopoeic, yeah, or some, yeah just some words, yeah some, or some Czech verbs are funny because like uh- googlovat, you know then they put the -vat at the end

TC 00:04:29.623 - 00:04:44.070

Researcher yeah, it's great [laughs]

TC 00:04:43.705 - 00:04:45.862

P10 googlo- googloo - there it's always because of [unint] so I think yeah, just having fun with that

TC 00:04:45.280 - 00:04:53.526

Researcher yeah yeah it's fun to have fun with language

TC 00:04:52.070 - 00:04:56.097

P10 yeah yeah

TC 00:04:53.876 - 00:04:55.388

SD (0.71)

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

TC 00:04:56.104 - 00:05:07.314

SD (0.66)

P10 well I suppose sometimes if like, you're not sure if if, 'cause you know, as you know Czech has a lot of English words which, that, that they decline uh so sometimes if I'm not sure if I

can use that word in Czech, 'cause I can't think of the Czech word, so I might decline it, so or or even conjugate an English verb in a Czech way even, and not be sure if it's in common usage or not, but

TC 00:05:07.980 - 00:05:39.871

Researcher when you're speaking Czech, that is?

TC 00:05:38.152 - 00:05:40.769

P10 yep, yep

TC 00:05:39.871 - 00:05:41.126

Researcher and what about when you're speaking English?

TC 00:05:40.776 - 00:05:43.599

P10 no, I don't think so

TC 00:05:43.517 - 00:05:45.344

Researcher ok, and um, what about syntactically, so do you ever feel like your English syntax changes at all based on your like, speaking Czech all the time and stuff

TC 00:05:44.364 - 00:05:57.535

Researcher or is it too difficult to notice really

TC 00:05:57.535 - 00:06:01.307

SD (2.6)

P10 I don't think so but it certainly might [unint]- my pronunciation might be a bit different I guess it gets kind of bland living abroad, being a teacher you speak slower, but I don't think the syntax, maybe someone else would notice

TC 00:06:03.907 - 00:06:20.131

Researcher yeah, it's hard to say about yourself for sure

TC 00:06:17.980 - 00:06:23.394

P10 yeah, yeah, yeah

TC 00:06:20.534 - 00:06:21.965

SD (1.89)

Researcher ok and do you ever borrow any say, Czech diminutives, Czech word endings and put them on English words when you're speaking English, not when you're speaking Czech

TC 00:06:23.864 - 00:06:38.057

SD (0.09)

P10 yeah, but- I'm sure, as a joke, you know, because Czech is so diminutive-obsessed so if you, like uh, with people's names so like [Participant's name]ek, [Participant's name]eček, [Participant's name]eček is here, it sounds really

pervy or something, [Participant's name]eček is in the house, so I- I like to make up silly songs, so I think I do that a lot, something creepy

TC 00:06:38.156 - 00:07:04.494

Researcher that's so funny

TC 00:06:58.324 - 00:06:59.947

SD (4.8)

Researcher [laughs], that's actually my Dad's name so that's so funny, yeah, I can't imagine him being called that [laughs]

TC 00:07:04.754 - 00:07:14.794

P10 oh – [unint]- [Participant's name]eček

TC 00:07:07.514 - 00:07:11.716

SD (1.36)

P10 well- yeah well we have [participant nickname in English] and [participant nickname in English]

TC 00:07:13.084 - 00:07:18.813

Researcher yeah, he's [participant nickname] in Australia, so

TC 00:07:16.429 - 00:07:19.991

P10 that's, that's it

TC 00:07:18.846 - 00:07:21.084

Researcher yeah, similar, type of thing

TC 00:07:20.060 - 00:07:23.417

P10 [Participant nickname] and that sounds kind of creepy

TC 00:07:21.869 - 00:07:24.943

Researcher yeah, yeah it's - just- just [Participant nickname] is good, um, ok and this question is a little confusing but um, do you ever say two words or two morphemes in one sentence that express the same concept

but use them both like, for emphasis, so like, for example if you said like little holčička, so you've kind of like marking the littleness twice because you're using the diminutive and

using the word small across languages which is probably a bit [unint]

TC 00:07:24.201 - 00:07:59.598

P10 well I think sometimes, especially - and I probably still do it as a mistake sometimes, you don't realise which words are being used as the diminutive, well like you know, probably you

can say pivo, pivko, pivečko, it doesn't imply that it's actually small, it just implies - affection, so if you could say malý pivečko

TC 00:07:57.116 - 00:08:27.624

Researcher yeah, and then it's like

TC 00:08:24.966 - 00:08:28.285

P10 but I- yeah so I like, yeah

TC 00:08:27.624 - 00:08:30.740

Researcher so you could- you would do it in Czech but not- probably not across- yeah ok, that makes sense

TC 00:08:29.484 - 00:08:35.280

P10 probably not in English

TC 00:08:32.163 - 00:08:34.429

SD (1.05)

Researcher um

TC 00:08:35.482 - 00:08:37.826

P10 unless I was just p- as a joke

TC 00:08:36.088 - 00:08:39.969

Researcher yeah, yeah just having fun with the language, ok and um, what places do you tend to be in when you either borrow between your languages, speak English and speak Czech?

TC 00:08:38.538 - 00:08:51.084

SD (0.22)

P10 well, uh so I speak English with some of my other American or British or other foreign colleagues and friends, my children, my wife and I kind of take turns, with Czech and English, sometimes mixing them up, when I teach, I teach only in English but sometimes I- well I guess I use some Czech words

TC 00:08:51.313 - 00:09:21.412

Researcher ok and like in public and stuff, cafes and that or with friends and?

TC 00:09:20.013 - 00:09:28.136

P10 yeah I gue- some, some of my Czech friends, I speak Czech with them, and some English, it depends on our history or their- their level

TC 00:09:26.004 - 00:09:38.711

Researcher yep, ok, mmhm, um and do you feel more relaxed in speaking when you can use both language interchangeably or just English or just Czech?

TC 00:09:37.416 - 00:09:49.461

SD (7.27)

P10 hmm, I guess it depends on the situation, like, like, I- I feel ok speaking Czech informally, if I have to give a talk in Czech that - I find that stressful

TC 00:09:56.733 - 00:10:10.493

Researcher yep, yep, mmhmm

TC 00:10:09.187 - 00:10:13.914

P10 I mean, like an official talk or a paper or something, so I avoid doing that but uh, I find it safe to say a little speech, that's ok, uh, but informal setting, it's fine

TC 00:10:13.461 - 00:10:28.328

Researcher so do you think it's more comfortable to be able to switch or more comfortable to be able to stay in one or the other?

TC 00:10:26.752 - 00:10:34.588

SD (0.91)

P10 well I guess it depends on the context and uh, the person I'm with, so obviously if someone, I realise they're struggling to express themselves in English, so, it doesn't, it's no big deal, we just switch

TC 00:10:35.499 - 00:10:57.983

Researcher ok, um, and how long have you been living in this country

TC 00:10:55.362 - 00:11:01.956

P10 so I came in 1990, so I've been here, except for one year, so that's what, uh 28 years

TC 00:11:01.089 - 00:11:09.672

Researcher mmhmm, um and how long have you been speaking Czech?

TC 00:11:08.364 - 00:11:13.010

P10 well I- I can- speaking, well I started studying it immediately, well pretty much immediately, so, I guess after a couple - like, like two years I could- do basic, get by

TC 00:11:12.959 - 00:11:33.005

Researcher did you start off here or in Prague or?

TC 00:11:32.073 - 00:11:35.663

P10 No, I lived in a smaller town called Rožnov pod Radhoš, which is near the Slovak border, which was an advantage because it was small, and hardly anyone could speak English in those days

so it was kinda sink or swim, so I think it's a lot harder in Prague 'cause there's so many other foreigners

TC 00:11:34.422 - 00:11:52.955

Researcher yeah, yeah definitely, um,

TC 00:11:51.221 - 00:11:55.981

P10 and I was single, so, it was a pretty good motivation to

TC 00:11:54.469 - 00:12:00.747

Researcher talk to people, um yeah, it would- I'd imagine it would be hard if you moved and you were with someone and you just spoke English with them all the time, yeah

TC 00:11:57.995 - 00:12:09.098

P10 exactly, yeah

TC 00:12:07.048 - 00:12:08.821

SD (0.44)

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

TC 00:12:09.263 - 00:12:18.690

P10 no

TC 00:12:17.970 - 00:12:21.296

Researcher no? ok, um, do you feel any-

TC 00:12:19.172 - 00:12:24.305

P10 well I guess if I was teaching and I was trying to show off my Czech I think my students would be like what- you know, why are you speaking your bad Czech? You're here to teach us in

English, so, but I wouldn't do that, it would be stupid, except for like, sometimes I tell jokes or something

TC 00:12:23.050 - 00:12:46.200

Researcher yeah, yeah yeah, and do you feel any social pressure when you're like, out and about, to conform to the majority language?

TC 00:12:43.196 - 00:12:53.723

SD (3.73)

P10 I would- occasionally it's happened that someone has said that but, 'proč mluvíte tady anglický?' but that's very rare, I suppose you know, but on the whole, you know I don't, I don't

think that's an issue, but

TC 00:12:57.456 - 00:13:16.565

Researcher mmhmm mhmm, ok and do you feel language pride for your own language?

TC 00:13:13.955 - 00:13:20.129

SD (0.29)

P10 pride? I dunno what you mean

TC 00:13:20.426 - 00:13:25.807

Researcher a lot of people I've been interviewing have been questioning, pride, like - but for example because I did a parallel research study on the opposite research study in Australia, and

there's a Czech community living there and they're very proud of their language and heritage and, you know, it's a bit different because it's not like, a world language and, they're so

far from home and they're very um, connected to it

TC 00:13:25.266 - 00:13:48.927

P10 oh

TC 00:13:40.982 - 00:13:42.039

SD (0.07)

P10 yeah

TC 00:13:42.112 - 00:13:43.260

P10 yeah

TC 00:13:43.272 - 00:13:44.111

SD (2.83)

P10 well I guess to say that I was proud of it- especially because English is so dominant, sometimes I have mixed feelings about, you know, that- English is taking over everything, plus it-

being an American and feeling- having mixed feelings about American presence in the world makes me wary to say I'm proud, at least in my case, but of course the English language has

great things about it and that's my job, I teach English literature so I'm proud of the, proud - I don't - of - of the many things about it, I think, but I don't think any language is superior to another

TC 00:13:46.942 - 00:14:24.452

Researcher yeah of course

TC 00:14:22.972 - 00:14:24.950

P10 I like music, a lot of English music so that's something to be proud of I suppose

TC 00:14:24.452 - 00:14:31.417

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

TC 00:14:30.076 - 00:14:37.209

P10 English

TC 00:14:36.460 - 00:14:37.475

Researcher ok, yep yep, um, sort of already asked this a little bit but what language do you most often speak with your friends, at home, with your partner, your kids?

TC 00:14:37.294 - 00:14:50.181

P10 all together?

TC 00:14:49.059 - 00:14:51.428

Researcher probably separately

TC 00:14:50.574 - 00:14:52.954

P10 with my wife probably Czech and with uh, my kids English, some friends English, some Czech

TC 00:14:52.147 - 00:15:07.719

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

TC 00:15:06.477 - 00:15:12.732

SD (1.06)

P10 um, lately not very often, my parents used to live in England so we used to go there more often but now they're back in the States, so, it's a bit more difficult financially and, time-wise

TC 00:15:13.800 - 00:15:30.780

Researcher um, alright well that's pretty much the whole interview actually so thank you very much for participating, I really do appreciate it, if you think of anything interesting later on feel

free to email me but other than that, yeah

TC 00:15:30.277 - 00:15:42.740

P10 yep

TC 00:15:33.201 - 00:15:35.206

SD (0.08)
P10 you're welcome
TC 00:15:35.290 - 00:15:37.665
SD (5.11)
P10 where'd P7 go?
TC 00:15:42.777 - 00:15:44.872
Researcher I don't know, I have no idea
TC 00:15:44.198 - 00:15:47.642
SD (3.76)
P10 hey, your turn
TC 00:15:51.410 - 00:15:53.806