

Observation Session 12

Wednesday, 29 January 2020 1:12 PM

Researcher alright, so, we'll start up again, what languages do you speak?

TC 00:00:05.910 - 00:00:11.150

P12 Czech and English

TC 00:00:10.131 - 00:00:12.212

SD (0.73)

Researcher and what would you rate your proficiencies

TC 00:00:12.945 - 00:00:16.104

P12 I write press releases in both languages

TC 00:00:15.774 - 00:00:21.329

P12 I think - my English- obviously - my secondary education was in - and primary - so my- and you know, when I write something, there's no problems with volume, there's no problems with context, but it's good to get someone to just go through the grammar, because, yeah, it's a small country, Czechs are more anal about the grammar here, so

TC 00:00:21.329 - 00:00:47.893

P12 and I respect that so for many years I actually used the word- the name Pavel, I think probably the last four years, I've actually reverted to using P12, yeah and uh, you know when I

write to someone, um business correspondence, and I'll always add an italic at the bottom of the email, as if the name P12 wasn't sufficient, that I'm not actually a um- a native speaker, which then obviously just flips the reaction of the person on the other side from oh you are such a country bumpkin to, oh your Czech is really really good

TC 00:00:47.893 - 00:01:25.735

Researcher yeah yeah, 'cause they have quite the system of going through all of the grammar in high school here and stuff so, yeah, and so did you have to do the Czech language certificate exam?

TC 00:01:24.901 - 00:01:36.793

P12 nope

TC 00:01:35.255 - 00:01:37.710

Researcher no, 'cause your parents are Czech, so?

TC 00:01:36.950 - 00:01:39.653

P12 um, well I was the- because my parents are Czech - according to Czech immigration law, as it was back then in the early 90's, because my father was of Czech extraction, and whilst he'd

lost his citizenship, once Havel came to power and granted the amnesty, he automatically regained it, and thus I was automatically considered a Czech citizen, so I actually worked at the

Australian embassy and had this actually checked out by the Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade, the act of actually requesting for paperwork to confirm a known fact which was my citizenship, was not actually against Australian law, so I could actually quite easily have both passports, so

TC 00:01:39.101 - 00:02:22.832

SD (0.18)

P12 but I did actually Czech as an HSC subject, back in Melbourne, one of three students, so yeah

TC 00:02:23.016 - 00:02:31.520

Researcher yeah, I didn't realise - well I dunno if you can do that now

TC 00:02:29.883 - 00:02:36.786

P12 back then it was just a question basically of finding a student - a teacher who was accredited and getting a minimum class size, so

TC 00:02:35.483 - 00:02:42.740

Researcher ok, um what is your opinion on mixing between languages in speech?

TC 00:02:41.907 - 00:02:47.030

SD (0.41)

P12 um, I don't really have an opinion per se, I think it's normal, organic, development of any language, it's always influenced by those that work within language and use it as a tool, so
no thoughts either way

TC 00:02:47.446 - 00:03:02.887

Researcher um, so do you notice yourself using both of your languages in conversation with other bilinguals?

TC 00:03:02.353 - 00:03:08.717

SD (0.67)

P12 I don't, some might, but yes so I- depending, yeah, I will, if I'm speaking to someone who is bilingual then I will flip between languages because I'm just too lazy to think of the given
word, context or you know, and also, especially in professional business situations, if I'm dealing with a vertical sector, that I'm not overly familiar with then I will help myself out
using languages on both sides, so

TC 00:03:09.387 - 00:03:35.638

Researcher yep ok, cool fair enough, um so, and I've got a couple of reasons potentially for this so you can just say yes or no, so um, does it ever happen due to momentarily forgetting a word?

TC 00:03:35.052 - 00:03:47.290

P12 yes

TC 00:03:46.524 - 00:03:47.807

SD (0.08)

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

TC 00:03:47.887 - 00:03:53.896

P12 yep

TC 00:03:53.447 - 00:03:54.776

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

TC 00:03:54.558 - 00:03:58.743

SD (0.5)

P12 yes, also, um, I'm actually renowned within my social bubble, I'm actually creating new Czech words

TC 00:03:59.249 - 00:04:09.091

Researcher yeah it's fun, it's fun to do

TC 00:04:08.537 - 00:04:11.200

P12 and it's something that's - it's actually something that's been remarked upon repeatedly by various people over the last 25 years, so yeah

TC 00:04:10.531 - 00:04:17.692

Researcher by bringing English in or just completely with Czech?

TC 00:04:17.290 - 00:04:24.510

P12 um both

TC 00:04:22.897 - 00:04:25.036

Researcher both, ok, so like putting Czech endings on English words?

TC 00:04:24.510 - 00:04:29.510

P12 or just creating new Czech words or giving them endings that formally they may not have but then I try and logically explain why they - why it actually should be fine.

TC 00:04:28.421 - 00:04:37.348

Researcher Do you ever put English endings on Czech words?

TC 00:04:35.676 - 00:04:40.516

P12 English?

TC 00:04:39.586 - 00:04:42.298

Researcher like, English endings on Czech words, or?

TC 00:04:41.328 - 00:04:44.117

P12 yeah I'll do that once in a while

TC 00:04:43.443 - 00:04:45.956

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

TC 00:04:45.018 - 00:04:50.272

P12 yep, it's all part and parcel, yeah

TC 00:04:49.250 - 00:04:53.371

Researcher ok, um, so - you've sort of already said you borrow words from between languages in a bilingual situation, so which words would they be?

TC 00:04:52.410 - 00:05:02.661

P12 I'll just add to that um, I always tell my acquaintances when they pick up on it, I say that it is my civil duty to push the Czech language forward

TC 00:05:01.923 - 00:05:13.275

Researcher [laughs], so, so, um

TC 00:05:13.201 - 00:05:19.913

P12 sorry I didn't mean to throw you then

TC 00:05:18.616 - 00:05:20.913

Researcher no, that's ok, um so, so P4 just said before that she often will borrow nouns, and not really verbs - is that sort of the same for you or?

TC 00:05:19.959 - 00:05:31.110

P12 everything's fair game

TC 00:05:30.240 - 00:05:31.900

Researcher ok, ok cool, um do you ever feel that you borrow grammar between your languages?

TC 00:05:31.634 - 00:05:37.561

P12 yep, as well

TC 00:05:36.456 - 00:05:38.852

Researcher definitely, yeah?

TC 00:05:38.022 - 00:05:38.911

P12 I mean the thing is also, what you'll find is that when you're- my- in the community that I would be with, um, there's a lot of banter about the use of certain terms, which would be English but they've just been turned into Czech words, so meetingovat, and I could just go on with another hundred examples of that, so, but, occasionally it'll go the other way as well, where we'll use, for those that are au fait with Czech and English then we'll actually use some Czech words to express it in English, so

TC 00:05:38.852 - 00:06:16.439

Researcher oh ok so you'll be saying a whole English sentence and then you'll-

TC 00:06:14.986 - 00:06:18.955

P12 and then we'll throw a Czech word in, yeah

TC 00:06:17.190 - 00:06:20.601

Researcher ok, um and what about syntax, do you ever feel that there's a crossover even accidentally or?

TC 00:06:19.953 - 00:06:27.597

P12 um, definitely, especially when it comes to my written Czech, I need to keep an eye on the fact, that's one of the reasons why I actually do get my Czech - my formal Czech - business

Czech checked, is because I actually - slovosled, or syntax, is one of my issues that I have, and you know, it's something I could probably deal with but I'm just too lazy, I don't have to

TC 00:06:26.436 - 00:06:52.857

Researcher do you ever feel that you, um, if you're speaking a lot of Czech you may bring any Czech syntax into your English?

TC 00:06:51.986 - 00:07:01.077

P12 hmm

TC 00:07:00.611 - 00:07:03.452

Researcher or is it always the other way around?

TC 00:07:01.445 - 00:07:04.668

P12 can't say, wouldn't be able to say, I'm aware if it goes that way, but if it goes the other way, as in syntax as opposed to just cherrypicking words, that I do not know, I don't think so

TC 00:07:04.155 - 00:07:16.293

Researcher it's hard to- it's hard to tell, yeah, um, ok and do you ever feel that you say two words or two morphemes in one sentence that express the same concept, but use them both like for emphasis, for example

TC 00:07:15.125 - 00:07:33.852

SD (0.44)

P12 I mean, you know, the Czechs can go overboard with their Czech when it comes to diminutives, so they will use actually, an adverb in front of an already dimin- diminutised, diminished?

TC 00:07:34.300 - 00:07:56.536

Researcher maybe diminutised I'm not even sure myself

TC 00:07:55.285 - 00:07:59.784

P12 now, so, so and but that also - that depends also on the context as well, you know if they're being romantic or just, just plain silly so uh

TC 00:07:58.840 - 00:08:11.229

Researcher ok, and you wouldn't ever um, put say, a Czech diminutive or a Czech, some sort of Czech ending on an English word?

TC 00:08:10.035 - 00:08:22.429

SD (0.14)

P12 um, when it comes to uh, I guess it also depends on the sort of words being used, um, so when it comes to uh, more, expressive words, then um, one might use a- a rude adjective in English to put stress on a Czech word um, so

TC 00:08:22.572 - 00:08:53.162

Researcher ok, yep, 'cause like for another example, koala even, it just came into my head, it's not even originally an English word, but if you say something like, koalka, to mean like little koala or something like that?

TC 00:08:50.727 - 00:09:04.935

P12 oh yeah that'll yes, that's definitely done, yes, so

TC 00:09:03.705 - 00:09:09.160

Researcher um, and yeah sort of already asked about the syntax a little bit so, what places do you tend to be in when you um, oh you sort of already said that you - you said that you a little bit borrow, so when you borrow between your languages or when you mix your languages with other bilinguals?

TC 00:09:08.013 - 00:09:24.729

P12 I mean it'll be -it could be - it'll, it could be a business situation, it can be a social situation, then I can be with other bilinguals and I could also just be with English speakers
or just with Czech speakers, it's more likely going to happen if I'm with other bilinguals as well

TC 00:09:23.022 - 00:09:40.419

Researcher yep and will that generally be so, like at work, at cafes, at home

TC 00:09:39.420 - 00:09:45.522

P12 um, yeah that would generally be socially or at work yeah

TC 00:09:43.806 - 00:09:50.026

Researcher ok, um, what places do you tend to be in when you speak English only versus Czech only?

TC 00:09:49.300 - 00:09:56.502

SD (0.41)

P12 home would be Czech only, which does not mean that we - and when we are elsewhere then we'll have an English conversation, 'cause yeah, partner, she's a C1 probably, C- probably C1, I think um

TC 00:09:56.912 - 00:10:17.218

Researcher in English or Czech?

TC 00:10:16.316 - 00:10:18.698

P12 In, uh, in English, she's Czech um, maybe C2, C1 definitely, um but yeah so uh at home, domestic environment would be Czech, otherwise work and social, half in half really, just - it depends on who my clients are at the time

TC 00:10:17.274 - 00:10:39.567

Researcher um, do you feel more relaxed in speaking when you can use both of your languages interchangeably rather than just Czech or just English?

TC 00:10:38.715 - 00:10:47.386

P12 I'm easy

TC 00:10:46.043 - 00:10:49.214

Researcher Ok [laughs]

TC 00:10:48.159 - 00:10:50.887

P12 I'm not fussed either way

TC 00:10:50.075 - 00:10:53.563

Researcher ok, and how long have you been speaking Czech, so-

TC 00:10:52.399 - 00:10:55.935

P12 my whole life, so 50 odd years, 49 years [unint]

TC 00:10:54.942 - 00:11:01.622

Researcher ok cool, um but obviously when you started school-

TC 00:11:00.696 - 00:11:05.422

P12 um there was probably actually a period of three years between the ages of 15 and 18 or maybe - where there was definitely a lot less Czech, and then in '88 and '87, no '88 and '89, '89, '90, there was, I would say, no Czech, period, because I wasn't living at home, I was living with some school friends, but yeah that was - the base was already there so

TC 00:11:04.410 - 00:11:31.731

Researcher so you didn't sort of have any dip in your Czech speaking when you started school, like when you were like 5 or 6

TC 00:11:31.121 - 00:11:38.850

P12 I personally don't remember, um, I'm told that I didn't speak much English um, before school but having said that I was also reading reader's digest when I was 4

TC 00:11:38.578 - 00:11:55.542

Researcher there you go, um do you feel any form of societal or community pressure to mix or to not mix the two languages in a sentence, would people be offended or think it's not right or?

TC 00:11:54.307 - 00:12:08.161

P12 um, no, no, I mean, I'm - if I make a decision it would be purely based upon ensuring that the audience I'm dealing with - be it a single person or multiple persons, understands what I'm saying, so it would be for practical reasons only, definitely not for societal reasons

TC 00:12:06.936 - 00:12:35.111

Researcher ok, do you feel language pride- for your own language, I mean I guess, Czech and English really are both your languages

TC 00:12:34.218 - 00:12:46.019

P12 I swing both ways

TC 00:12:44.515 - 00:12:47.371

Researcher yep [laughs] so do you feel pride for either of those languages?

TC 00:12:46.630 - 00:12:51.850

P12 I mean, to be fair I could care less, yep, it's just not something that - what is a concept that would be something that I would waste my own sort of time on, yep, English is English, Czech is Czech, they've both got something going to 'em, English is a global language, period, that's just the way it is, Czech is a provincial language of no use, doesn't mean that I love it any less, I'm just very pragmatic about the use of both, so

TC 00:12:50.503 - 00:13:29.074

Researcher um, and what do you listen to - what language do you receive most of your media in?

TC 00:13:28.556 - 00:13:37.837

P12 both, yeah, I mean and [unint], I've worked in - I'm still in I guess, working in communications, um, worked in PR, still have some PR clients, uh so every morning I'll be reading both English and Czech media

TC 00:13:37.288 - 00:13:55.996

Researcher yep, and what about on Facebook or- is that in Czech -?

TC 00:13:55.922 - 00:13:59.490

P12 whatever the situation requires um, I mean I- I will occasionally um, what I might do is switch my operating systems to English, if I remember to, my Facebook and my Google to English but then I'll move to a different notebook and not even notice it for a year or two, and then say yeah I should probably put it into English so, I'm fine both ways

TC 00:13:56.984 - 00:14:25.571

Researcher why do you feel that you should probably put it into English?

TC 00:14:23.975 - 00:14:27.756

P12 I just feel - I feel a smidgeon more comfortable, um, just a smidge more comfortable when I put the operating systems in English

TC 00:14:26.956 - 00:14:37.402

Researcher ok, um, and then I sort of- the other question is what language do you most often speak with your friends at home, your partner, but you've kind of already answered that, um so and also

I heard you talking about how often you visit home, so that answers that one too, um so, as I said to P4 as well, if you think of any instances of borrowing or whatever that you think might be really interesting, and you just think, I could tell Chloe about that then feel free to message it to me but other than that um yeah we're done, so thank you

TC 00:14:36.244 - 00:15:05.356

P12 mm

TC 00:14:44.540 - 00:14:45.728
SD (17.86)
P12 ok, great
TC 00:15:03.589 - 00:15:05.662
Researcher so much for your help
TC 00:15:05.406 - 00:15:07.760
P12 absolute pleasure I hope it's of some use to you
TC 00:15:06.325 - 00:15:09.585
Researcher yes, I'm sure it will be
TC 00:15:08.536 - 00:15:11.285
P12 good
TC 00:15:10.355 - 00:15:12.086
SD (0.03)
P12 and how many people do you actually need to be talking to to have sort of a representative sample
TC 00:15:12.116 - 00:15:16.167
SD (0.04)
Researcher well, I probably am not going to have a representative sample, but that's ok because it's more of an exploratory study rather than a generalisable study, um yeah just 'cause of the short amount of time that I'm here, like I'm only here 'til next Thursday, and it's been really hard to find people, but I'm hopefully going to have 8 to 10 of you
TC 00:15:16.216 - 00:15:39.390
P12 yeah, I mean I did actually just throw the word around and I actually realised that it's not like I really, I mean I don't really hang with an Australian and there's no - you know, the Australian community here is kinda like a - and I don't mean this in a negative sense kinda like a- it's kinda like a fake Australian community, it's not like you know, a suburban- you know let's all, you know put on our bonds t-shirts and our shorts and work boots and go down to the local pub sort of thing, it's just completely different allsorts here, and it's not like Australians really have this need that other nations and cultures would have to like bond, and they're very much like Czechs that way, Czechs don't really hang too much with each other in Australia either, that's been my experience personally at least, I mean there's a sokol yes alright but it's the old people that go there, that's what I recall
TC 00:15:38.824 - 00:16:42.007
Researcher yeah no I- I kinda did get that vibe a little bit when I was trying to reach out to people so
TC 00:16:41.049 - 00:16:48.272
P12 so, so I think you know, I think definitely when you look it- unless it's the waves when you look at the 19th century, Texas specifically or Chicago, or Polish, yeah but Czechs tend to atomise into the local community, and Australians do exactly the same thing, so there's a few of us here, and you know, we, you know, I know some of them, don't know the others, but so yeah my friends are from the US, UK ,Germany, whatever and most of the friends that I have that aren't Czech are people who are expats, who are formally from that country but have just taken a life decision to live here or for work posting, has led to other work postings in the region but being able to live in Prague
TC 00:16:47.531 - 00:17:38.372
SD (0.17)
P12 but yeah not that many people who are expats of Czech descent so
TC 00:17:38.542 - 00:17:46.222
Researcher yeah yeah yeah and -

TC 00:17:44.700 - 00:17:48.791

P12 that were born there, there's quite a few that were born here, but grew up there, um

TC 00:17:47.877 - 00:17:55.432

Researcher yeah, yeah it has - it's proven relatively difficult, but I'm happy with what I've got so

TC 00:17:53.800 - 00:18:02.187

P12 good good

TC 00:18:00.870 - 00:18:04.181

TC 00:18:02.271 - 00:18:03.844