

Observation Session 13

Tuesday, 28 January 2020 12:25 PM

Researcher ok so the first question is what languages do you speak?

TC 00:00:01.920 - 00:00:07.046

SD (0.1)

P13 I speak English, Czech and I've learnt - in - beginner and intermediate level of Spanish

TC 00:00:07.150 - 00:00:16.032

Researcher ok, cool, um and so what would you rate each of your proficiencies in your writing, reading, speaking

TC 00:00:14.530 - 00:00:25.470

P13 so English, oh probably 9, 10, I've done University at an English level, English, English language, um so probably 10, uh Czech, 7, yep, Spanish, do you need that, that would be about, 2, 3

TC 00:00:23.415 - 00:00:45.945

Researcher um, have you - did you have to do the Czech language certificate exam?

TC 00:00:44.923 - 00:00:49.663

P13 No

TC 00:00:48.874 - 00:00:49.789

Researcher Ok, is- are you a citizen, cause of your-

TC 00:00:49.664 - 00:00:53.289

P13 I'm a citizen, yep

TC 00:00:51.230 - 00:00:53.685

Researcher both your parents are Czech?

TC 00:00:53.289 - 00:00:55.596

P13 yes, yeah

TC 00:00:54.794 - 00:00:56.893

SD (0.02)

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

TC 00:00:56.919 - 00:01:01.625

P13 um, I do it, and I've done it my whole life so, um speaking to my parents I've always been half - it's been a problem as a young child, it was all Czech and then English was like 20% and then Czech and now as adults we speak English, 90 10, so it's- I've always mixed it and I know when I speak to [REDACTED] I mix the Czech and English and I try and throw in Czech words even when I speak to her but I don't feel comfortable and I wish I could speak to her just in Czech so that it would be easier for her to absorb the language, so my preference would be to speak one language

TC 00:01:01.310 - 00:01:37.313

Researcher yep, rather than mix them just to help her pick it up and stuff

TC 00:01:35.817 - 00:01:41.191

P13 rather than mix, yes yep yep

TC 00:01:37.313 - 00:01:41.404

Researcher um, what about with other like bilingual friends or other people in the Czech Republic?

TC 00:01:41.191 - 00:01:47.488

P13 when they mix languages?

TC 00:01:45.416 - 00:01:47.754

Researcher yeah, or - do you mix languages when you're with them?

TC 00:01:47.502 - 00:01:51.665

P13 um, only Czech bilingual people yep yep, I have a best friend who's Czech and we speak Czechlish, I can throw in Czech if we're speaking about someone we'll speak in Czech and then we'll speak in English normally so yeah, I feel comfortable

TC 00:01:51.558 - 00:02:07.512

Researcher um, yep so do you - first of all I'll ask you, why do you think you do this, you mix them

TC 00:02:07.415 - 00:02:17.129

P13 um, because I have lost a lot of the vocabulary that I probably had as a child, predominantly having my whole life in Australia, speaking English, going to school and work, it's all been in English, and the only place I speak in Czech would be in the home, which has slowly eroded over time, and so it's purely my capabilities, is why I would probably mix it, and my preference to speak English because it's my mastered language

TC 00:02:16.018 - 00:02:44.865

SD (0.4)

Researcher um, I've also got some um, potential reasons and then if you could just say yes or no, um so one of them is due to momentarily forgetting a word, yep

TC 00:02:45.266 - 00:02:55.226

P13 yes

TC 00:02:53.547 - 00:02:54.833

SD (0.39)

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

TC 00:02:55.226 - 00:03:00.481

P13 probably, yeah, yep

TC 00:03:00.490 - 00:03:04.766

Researcher for example like a culturally specific thing or something like that, yeah

TC 00:03:03.005 - 00:03:06.428

P13 yes definitely if it's something, yep

TC 00:03:04.877 - 00:03:07.958

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

TC 00:03:06.716 - 00:03:11.982

SD (0.09)

P13 ah yes, definitely, yeah yep

TC 00:03:12.077 - 00:03:16.539

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

TC 00:03:15.070 - 00:03:19.679

P13 yes

TC 00:03:18.999 - 00:03:20.188

Researcher yep, ok um, so do you feel that you borrow words from between your languages and what types of words like nouns, verbs, adjectives

TC 00:03:19.758 - 00:03:31.997

SD (0.17)

P13 it depends on the topic but if it's something that doesn't translate into English- 'cause the Czech language is so- so many describing - I dunno like it's got more depth in it and so if

I'm talking about something that like like, it's Czech a pohádka, like a fairytale for example, I'd probably choose words that I know are related to the fairytale, that I probably don't

know that there is a word for English, um yeah and then vice-versa in English, when I'm speaking in Czech with my Mum and I've forgotten a word um, use the English because I'll probably be able to expand on a description in English better - I'm not sure if that helps with the question

TC 00:03:32.167 - 00:04:16.359

Researcher no it's - sort of yeah yeah yeah- um, do you ever feel that you borrow grammar between your languages?

TC 00:04:15.314 - 00:04:21.701

P13 no, oh, if I'm speaking Czech, my mind would be grammatically in English, and I'd be translating in my head so yes, yep here I am using English grammar, 'cause I've never learnt Czech grammar, I've only - conversation- yeah

TC 00:04:21.701 - 00:04:38.680

Researcher yeah, at school or anything yeah yep, and so - never really happens the other way around?

TC 00:04:34.715 - 00:04:43.491

P13 um, you know what, learning Spanish, because it's a language that conjugates and has male and female, masculine, feminine, then I've borrowed Czech to learn that, whereas English didn't help me with Spanish so much

TC 00:04:41.950 - 00:04:58.305

Researcher ok, that's interesting

TC 00:04:57.135 - 00:04:59.733

P13 'cause when I was learning like, masculine, feminine, all the English natives were like, what does that mean, and I was just like, yeah, it's normal in Czech and I know it in my head, so I've used it in that context, definitely

TC 00:04:58.835 - 00:05:11.810

Researcher yep, erm, ok this is the bit of a - difficult question, I have to like, explain it more to everyone but, do you ever say two words or two um, morphemes or packets of meaning in one sentence that expresses the same concept but use them both, so an example of this would be like, using like a diminutive, like in holčička, like the čič bit is diminutive, it makes it small so it's like little girl, so then saying like little holčička so you're- marking the same meaning twice

TC 00:05:10.672 - 00:05:44.349

P13 I think malá holčička, would I say that, I would've probably definitely said that

TC 00:05:42.390 - 00:05:49.425

Researcher um and have you ever um, used English and Czech in that, like mixed them, or do you ever use um, Czech endings on English words when you're speaking English?

TC 00:05:47.733 - 00:06:01.385

P13 English, um, like little girl, there's no like we don't do it in English, I don't, yeah, girl, I haven't - I just don't think I have - it would be - it's just not, English language doesn't have the capability of doing that, I'm not sure

TC 00:05:59.855 - 00:06:22.379

Researcher so would you ever put any Czech endings on an English word, like to express.. nope, always use Czech for that, yep

TC 00:06:21.424 - 00:06:33.400

P13 don't, nope, nope, yep

TC 00:06:28.829 - 00:06:34.690

Researcher um, ok and we've already talked about your syntax - um, what places do you tend to be in when you borrow between languages or mix languages and then what places are you in when you speak only English or only Czech?

TC 00:06:33.518 - 00:06:47.103

P13 alright, so at home it's always borrowed, it's mixed, it's like complete mishmash of both languages, completely, here if I'm speaking with only a Czech non-English speaker, I'd be only

Czech um, it'd be yeah, hard for my brain, and English, Australia, I'm always speaking obviously English, I would've never put in any Czech words unless I'm speaking to a number of my - a Czech bilingual, then I'd probably throw in Czech, in there as well

TC 00:06:46.523 - 00:07:19.731

Researcher yep, ok, alright just a few more, um do you feel more relaxed in speaking when you can use both languages rather than just Czech or just English, or do you prefer- yep, ok

TC 00:07:19.275 - 00:07:31.483

P13 yes 100%, yeah

TC 00:07:29.220 - 00:07:32.302

Researcher I had that from a lot of um, the Czechs living in Australia as well, um, yeah

TC 00:07:31.577 - 00:07:38.030

P13 oh really?

TC 00:07:35.610 - 00:07:37.896

SD (0.13)

Researcher yeah, whereas interestingly here, mostly the ones that grew up in Australia, and then here, I've actually had people say they feel more relaxed when they can speak one or another so that's been really interesting but um, anyway,

TC 00:07:38.030 - 00:07:51.420

P13 oh wow

TC 00:07:47.773 - 00:07:49.693

SD (1.73)

Researcher um, how long have you been here, or did you visit here like growing up and stuff?

TC 00:07:51.423 - 00:07:58.897

P13 yeah so I came here every second year growing up since age 6, so that was the first time that my parents came back after communism fell, and I've been like a month here with Grandma

every couple - every two years, um, so it's almost like a second home, um and then here we've been here 4 months with the family but we've been here previously with [REDACTED] for a month

and even - P9 has been here before 5 times as well, with me, so we've been here quite a lot

TC 00:07:56.993 - 00:08:25.733

Researcher but so your parents live back in Australia

TC 00:08:24.888 - 00:08:28.666

P13 yes, yep, they migrated in - two years before I was born

TC 00:08:25.733 - 00:08:32.551

Researcher um, and so you've been - like it's how long have you been speaking Czech but pretty much since you were born, yep

TC 00:08:31.518 - 00:08:39.798

P13 birth yeah so they didn't have any English when I was born, so I think when I went to kindergarten I had no English, I was mute child like [REDACTED] is here

TC 00:08:35.970 - 00:08:46.662

Researcher yeah yeah and then you obviously picked it up

TC 00:08:44.552 - 00:08:47.905

P13 and then I picked it up, yep

TC 00:08:47.020 - 00:08:50.063

Researcher yep yep, she might - depending on how long you stay here she might be the opposite to you, like when she's your age and be a lot more - as you said, more con- more proficient in Czech

whereas you are in English, for describing things and stuff

TC 00:08:47.950 - 00:09:06.171

SD (0.42)

Researcher ok do you feel any form of societal or community pressure to mix the two languages or to not mix the two languages, um say in public or things like that

TC 00:09:06.596 - 00:09:16.868

P13 um, not mix, both countries like here, well here not mix, no, you don't, mm

TC 00:09:16.012 - 00:09:23.252

Researcher and do you feel any social pressure to conform to the majority language?

TC 00:09:22.641 - 00:09:28.001

P13 yes, definitely

TC 00:09:27.049 - 00:09:29.279

Researcher in both countries?

TC 00:09:28.533 - 00:09:30.803

P13 ah yeah, oh, I wouldn't rip out the Czech in Australia [laughs], I just don't do that unless I'm in the Czech community

TC 00:09:30.281 - 00:09:38.598

Researcher yep, but here you feel pressured to not-

TC 00:09:37.475 - 00:09:41.498

P13 to speak Czech um, but, look I - people- a lot of times I will be walking around in Czech in a shop for example and someone picks up my accent, and I may speak to [REDACTED] in an English

word, then they will revert to me in English which I've noticed, which has never happened in my time ever, in Czech, it's only happened in this time we've been here - so I feel like,

maybe it's just in Prague 'cause my family's from a different part of Czech, not such a big city, I feel like the Praguarians are trying to speak a little bit more English nowadays

TC 00:09:40.085 - 00:10:13.671

Researcher definitely yeah I've noticed that too, even just with my tiny bit of Czech sometimes, sometimes I am like, at a shop or whatever they'll try and keep going sometimes but sometimes they'll just revert back, and what part of Czech Republic is your family from?

TC 00:10:12.805 - 00:10:27.251

P13 Liberec

TC 00:10:25.802 - 00:10:28.024

Researcher ok, yep that's - north?

TC 00:10:27.453 - 00:10:29.656

P13 North, yep

TC 00:10:28.724 - 00:10:31.014

Researcher ok, um, do you feel language pride for either of your languages?

TC 00:10:29.856 - 00:10:35.880

SD (0.08)

P13 hmm, do I feel pride? I guess, it's good to have English, it's a global language, when you see Germans who don't have any language travelling around the world and they can't get by - or

Czechs, um, yeah I guess it's good to have a second language, I'm - yeah, I guess I do

TC 00:10:35.963 - 00:10:59.754

Researcher and for Czech as well or?

TC 00:10:58.473 - 00:11:01.480

P13 Yeah, yeah

TC 00:11:00.574 - 00:11:01.902

SD (0.38)

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

TC 00:11:02.285 - 00:11:07.907
P13 English, of late, a little bit more of Czech, but my whole life, English
TC 00:11:06.926 - 00:11:14.711
Researcher yep and like books and stuff like that
TC 00:11:12.600 - 00:11:16.858
P13 my books are English - I wouldn't delve into a Czech novel, um, but kids books are Czech, and a lot of Czech cartoons, kids stuff has all been Czech
TC 00:11:15.861 - 00:11:26.448
Researcher yeah to try and help them learn
TC 00:11:24.912 - 00:11:27.828
P13 and music has been mostly Czech, yep
TC 00:11:26.513 - 00:11:29.271
SD (0.02)
Researcher yep, um I wonder if your youngest daughter will have a- um Australian accent in English or have a Czech one
TC 00:11:29.297 - 00:11:38.369
P13 yeah we'll see yeah, I know
TC 00:11:35.525 - 00:11:39.354
Researcher um, what language do you most often speak with your friends, or at home, you've kind of already said English at home or a mix, but-
TC 00:11:38.556 - 00:11:47.492
P13 yep, mostly English, um, here if it's a Czech friend, it's Czech, yep
TC 00:11:46.543 - 00:11:54.537
Researcher yep ok, um, and like, so with your- which languages do you mostly speak with each of your daughters?
TC 00:11:53.005 - 00:12:02.902
P13 um, so [REDACTED] when I'm with her 1-on-1 I try Czech, but as soon as any other family member comes into the door, P9 or [REDACTED], straightaway English, I just don't feel comfortable speaking Czech with the - I dunno, don't understand what it is, I think that's just growing up, I got that from my parents, whenever any English person came to the home, it was, everyone spoke English and I felt that straightaway, so I've got that sort of, I don't want anyone to feel uncomfortable or whatever it is, uh, [REDACTED] we speak - I try to speak to her in Czech and sometimes she asks me um, and I do it but I have this habit of translating it into English so that she understands
TC 00:12:01.522 - 00:12:41.298
Researcher yep fair enough, um and how often - I guess you haven't been here for super long but, how often do you maybe plan to visit home or an English speaking country?
TC 00:12:39.966 - 00:12:49.861
SD (0.33)
P13 oh at least yearly, yeah
TC 00:12:50.197 - 00:12:54.502
Researcher um, ok well that's pretty much the whole interview, so thank you very much for that, thanks for participating, um if you think of any more instances or interesting grammatical things or anything like that, feel free to send me through an email, but other than that it's all finished
TC 00:12:53.730 - 00:13:10.812
P13 cool, ok, I'll get P9
TC 00:13:07.342 - 00:13:14.069

