

1. multilingualism types your colleague identifies him/herself with (based on the typologies and criteria discussed in class)

Christina identifies herself as bilingual. She learned English when she was really young (early bilingual), but not before acquiring knowledge about the Greek (successive bilingualism). She uses both languages on a daily basis (balanced) and the knowledge of one language rather than taking away something from the language competence, allows for further development in both (additive).

2. multilingual learning strategies

There are as many multilingual learning strategies as there are language learners as language acquisition is a unique process unique for everybody. The important thing is sufficient exposure to language which is learned, that is why is it believed children are able to acquire 4 languages simultaneously, but not because there are some restrictions on linguistic systems in the mind of the child, but it is a matter of number of hours children is awake per day and potential volume of exposure to each language. It is important to “surround” oneself with language, i.e. divide time spent on learning a language into time spent on listening, speaking and reading, so that person learning does not lack in any of these areas. Reading books, listening to podcast, watching films and using sites like “Speaky” may, among many, such exposure provide. In order to facilitate the understanding of newly acquired language, deconstructing it into basic grammar and syntax and then adding vocabulary may be appropriate for some people as well.

3. some typical features of multilinguals/polyglots

Many of the polyglots featured in the film considered language learning as a mental activity similar to physical workout, all of them emphasized the aspect of sufficient exposure to the language-learning whenever it is possible. Very rarely some of them attributed their success to talent only but rather to a huge determination and discipline. Polyglots were described as “not born, not made but born to be made”. Although some features were believed to be common for all polyglots, such as left handedness, musical ability, mathematical ability and auto-immune disorders and lastly- being male, besides the last one the features were not typical for all the polyglots presented in the document.