

General information about my interviewee

The name of a person I interviewed is Dionysios Katranitsas. He's 20 years old and he's from Plátanos, Imathia, Greece. However, he's living in Thessaloniki now in order to study. He does not consider himself multilingual but bilingual. His L1 is Greek, which is his mother tongue and his L2 is English. He speaks English at a C2 level. When he was at school, he used to study French – his L3. He studied it for three years but the results were rather poor. He has never improved his skills in French enough to be able to communicate in this language. Additionally, at the age of 13, in school, he started learning ancient Greek and in the last two classes of high school Latin, but he can only understand some typical phrases of them. He's not even interested in improving his command of ancient Greek and Latin because they are dead languages. However, he'd like to learn at least two more languages – probably Spanish, German, or Italian. He started learning English when he was 7. There in Greece, they have quite a strange system, in which they take classes outside of school in order to learn a new language. Sometimes it takes a form of homeschooling, sometimes pupils attend small classes called "φροντιστήριο", which is pronounced "frontistirio". They have English in school from the age of 9 until the final year of the school.

Bilingual types my colleague identifies himself with

Dionysios had to do a lot of tasks that his teachers required him to do. Therefore, it can be said that he learnt English through instructed language acquisition. It's also important to mention that he's an additive bilingual because he learnt English in addition to Greek. However, his L2 did not affect his command of L1 in any way. His type of bilingualism is also called successive bilingualism because he learnt English after his mother tongue has already been acquired.

My colleague's learning strategies

I got to know that when Dionysios started learning English he focused mostly on the vocabulary and not on grammar. He enjoyed making flash cards and creating vocabulary lists. Later on, he changed his perspective and tried to search for the grammar patterns in English in order to understand the "mindset" of it. He also read articles and watched movies (without subtitles) in his target language.

Some typical features of multilinguals

It's a frequent case that multilinguals are left-handed. They also have good musical skills. Additionally, they are often mathematically skilled. It sometimes happens that they have superior skills in one domain and deficits in another. Many of them have a good memory and passion for learning. They also try to translate everything they can. They practise a lot, often at night - they can be very ambitious but also gifted. Even though, Dionysios is bilingual, not multilingual, I decided to ask him if he identifies himself with any of these features. I also asked him if there are any features, which are characteristic only for him. First of all, it's interesting to notice that Dionysios is a man. In the video on Moodle, it was mentioned that it's much easier to meet a multilingual man rather than a multilingual woman. Dionysios is just a bilingual, not a multilingual, but maybe this occurrence refers to bilingualism as well. He's left-handed and he thinks he has a good memory too. However, his mathematical skills are not very good. Similarly to people in the video, he tries to translate everything when he learns a new language but he says he is not as determined as the people speaking in the video. It may also be important to mention that he has dyslexia, which might sometimes create additional problems during the learning process. He often makes typos and mix letters.