

### **The types of multilingualism my partner identifies with:**

- **Additive** – English to Greek
- **Subtractive** bilingualism – lost English due to French 12 – 19
- **Additive** – English to French
- **Successive** – both French and English, she started to acquire them after the mother tongue
- **Late bilingualism** – both English and French, she considered herself fluent in English at the age of 19
- **Balanced bilingualism** – English and Greek
- **Dominant language** – English towards French, both Greek and English are dominant towards French, and they are balanced with each other

My partner is in possession of three languages: Greek, English, and French. Greek is her mother tongue. She started to learn her L2 at the age of 6 at which she became fluent at the age of 18-19. Between the age of 6 and 12 the only source of acquiring English she was exposed to were the lessons at school. Then, it started to change gradually as my partner started to surround herself with English language through listening to English songs, watching series and movies, and reading books in that language. Consequently, she became fluent in English at the age of 19.

Her L3 was French which she started to learn at school at the age of 10. She devoted 1-2 hours per week on studying that language and didn't learn it outside school. Between the age of 12-19 she admits to losing some English due to French. At the age of 19, however, my partner started private French tutoring and reached the B2 level, and at the same time she became fluent in English. Nowadays, she is working towards achieving the C2.

### **My multilingual partner recalled the following learning strategies:**

Various forms of exposure to a foreign language depending on the level of a language proficiency: listening to foreign words through songs, hearing dialogues through movies, then through series, and reading books in a foreign language at the highest level of proficiency. Other than that, my partner listed having a private tutor as another learning strategy.

### **Polyglots:**

- Possess the ability to acquire language more effortlessly compared to the average language learners
- Often having a contact with a foreign language while growing up
- Talent might be a factor, but most important factors are: attitude and the amount of time one can spend on learning a foreign language
- Each language in the brain of a multilingual person can be located in a different spot of the brain

- According to some scientists, e.g. a neurolinguist Loraine K. Obler from the University of New York, the polyglots are ‘‘born differently’’ and then properly conditioned to acquiring many languages
- Not a gift but determination and the hours devoted to studying
- Some polyglots referred to themselves as ‘‘addicted’’ to studying new languages
- Determined
- unstoppable