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1 Předvýzkum 1: dotazník

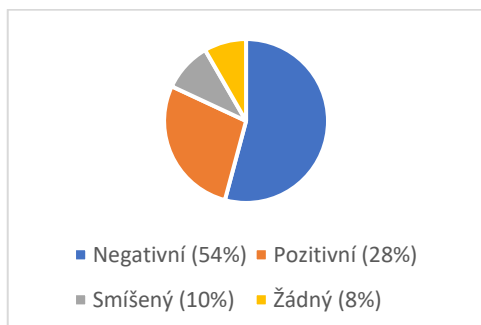
This questionnaire is a part of the research on how students feel about learning Czech. Your answers are important for us to understand how the process works. Please answer honestly.

Děkuju!

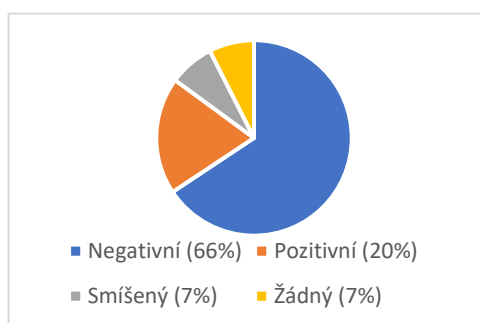
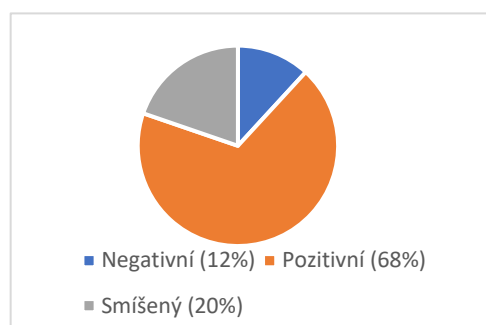
1. How did you feel about learning Czech before your arrival here?
2. What is your attitude now?
3. What influenced your attitude?
4. Would you have signed for Czech if it were not mandatory? Why (not)?
5. If a friend of yours was a student in the Czech Republic, would you recommend him/her to take Czech lessons? Why (not)?
6. Do you think that everyone should learn the local language during their semester abroad?

2 Předvýzkum 1: proměna postojů v předvýzkumu v jednotlivých semestrech

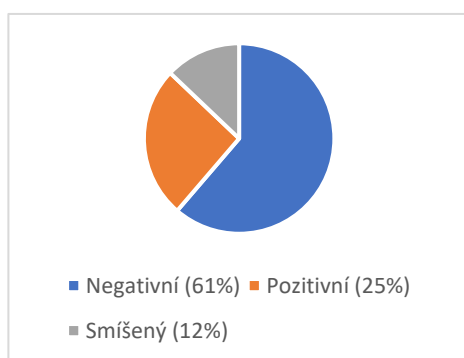
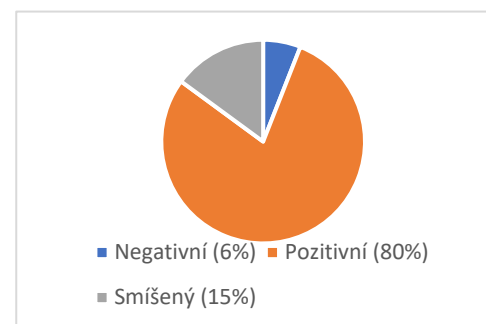
Graf vlevo = postoj na začátku, graf vpravo = postoj na konci.



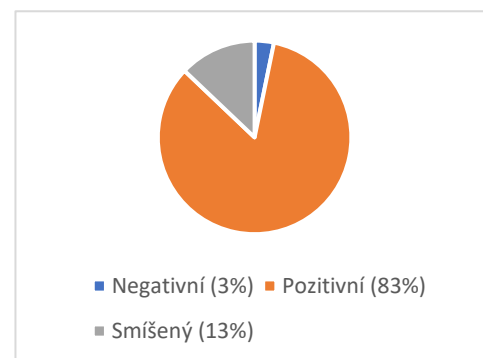
Semestr 1 (76 studentů)



Semestr 2 (67 studentů)



Semestr 3 (31 studentů)



3 Instrukce k psaní deníku

Czech Language Learning Journal

Spring 2019



This journal is a part of data collection on the motivation and attitudes of students learning Czech during their study abroad. I am trying to discover what influences the students, what they think and how their motivation develops and changes. You can write in Czech or English regularly about your learning experience. Please write your comments and feelings in as much detail as possible, honestly and openly as if you were keeping your own personal, confidential diary. You will not be evaluated on the content of your journal and everything you write is confidential.

Here are some questions to ponder while writing your journal:

1. What are you learning, how are you learning, what do you think about it?
2. Describe experiences during the learning process both in class and outside.
3. How do you feel about learning Czech at each point of the semester? What makes you feel like that?
4. What do you enjoy about the learning process, the language and the use of it?
5. How would you describe your motivation? What motivates you to learn more?
6. Are there any factors that demotivate you? If so, what are they?
7. What aspects of the class would you like to comment on?

Initially, you will be given time at the end of each class. Later on, you should record the entries at a time and place convenient for you. If you hand in your complete journal at the end of the semester, you can receive as much as 5% extra in the final evaluation.

Research has shown (Brown, 1984) that journaling helps students reflect on their own language learning. As you write about what you think and feel as a language learner, you will understand yourself and your experience better.

Secondly, by participating in this project, you contribute to the overall knowledge on the psychology of the language learner.

4 Informovaný souhlas

Informed Consent

Hereby I agree to participate in the research on Motivation to Study Czech research carried out by Silvie Přebrátlová at the Faculty of Humanities and the Faculty of Arts, Charles University, Prague. I provide my learning journal, interview and other information to be used as data for the research – the data will be transcribed and anonymized.

Prague, December 18th, 2019

Thank you so much for doing this for the research, I appreciate your input. Without you, my research would not be possible.

Name	Signature
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5 Otázky pro rozhovor 1

1. Identification

What is your name?

How old are you?

What do you study and in what semester are you now?

2. Prior contact and initial motivation

What languages do you speak or have you studied?

Did you have any experience with Czech prior to your arrival here?

Why did you decide to learn Czech?

(UPCES: Would you have signed up for the course if it was not mandatory?)

3. L2 Learning Experience (language course)

What do you think about the course?

Teacher, method, syllabus, atmosphere?

4. Integrative motivation

Where and when do you use Czech outside class?

5. Instrumental motivation

How important are the exams and the final grade for you?

(FHS: Do you get credit for the course? Are they validated by your home university?)

6. Personal perception of own motivation

What do you find as the main motivators in your learning Czech?

What makes you want to learn more/less?

7. Ideal Multilingual Self

What are your language learning goals for the future?

6 Otázky pro rozhovor 2

L2 Learning Experience

1. When you look back at the Czech language learning journey from the beginning to the end, how would you describe it?
2. Can you compare how you felt at the start and how you are feeling now?
3. Were there any memorable moments on the journey?
4. What were the main factors that motivated you to learn more or demotivated you?

Future L2 Self

5. If you were staying would you continue learning Czech?
6. Do you plan to continue learning Czech?
7. Do you have any other language learning goals for the future?
8. How does having learned Czech affect your attitude to learning languages in general?

Attitude to learning local language

9. In general, would you recommend to students in Study Abroad to learn the local language?
10. In what way did your Czech enhance your Study Abroad experience?
11. UPCES: What do you think of about the mandatory concept of Czech in the program?
FHS: What would you think if the course was mandatory for Erasmus students?

7 Přepisy rozhovorů

SP = tazatelka

7.1 Anita

7.1.1 Anita – rozhovor 1

(březen 2019)

SP: First, can you say your name and age, please.

A: [...] Twenty-one years old.

SP: And what do you study?

A: History and math.

SP: And what year are you in?

A: I'm a junior, so my third year.

SP: Okay. What's your language background?

A: So, I'm a native English speaker. I grew up with a little bit of Spanish.

SP: What you mean "grew up" – your parents spoke?

A: My mom is from Spain, so she is fluent, so is my grandma. But I think I had difficulty speaking so my parents decided to cut out one of the languages, so they didn't really push me: "Do your Spanish or become fluent in it".

SP: Okay. Did you study any languages at school?

A: Spanish.

SP: What do you want to do in the future?

A: I'm still considering a few things. I was thinking maybe law school or I'm not sure if I want to be in academia or not. Because I would either do law school or maybe something with market research, more like information research or get a PhD in history. So, I'm not really sure.

SP: Do you think languages will matter in the career you want to do?

A: Probably. I think languages matter for anything.

SP: Did you have any experience or exposure to Czech before you came here?

A: Not at all.

SP: Did you know anyone who spoke or learned the language?

A: No, I don't think I'd ever met anyone from here either.

SP: So, how did you feel about learning Czech at the start?

A: Well, before I got here, I was a little nervous just because it was very different from the two languages I'd studied but also I was just nervous to be starting taking a language class. I hadn't taken a language class in a long time. So I was definitely a little nervous to start but once I got here, it wasn't as bad as I thought it was going to be.

SP: That's always good. You had no choice but if you'd had one would you have signed up for the course if it was not mandatory?

A: Yes, I would have.

SP: Why?

A: I just think it's good to have some exposure no matter how much to not only any but specifically the language of the place that you're going to be living in for two or three months.

SP: Alright, good. What do you think about the course now – your teacher, the method, classmates and how do you reflect on the course?

A: I really like my teacher. She's really good, she's very helpful. I like that it's... I feel like... you don't really... you're not really aware of how much you're learning which is kind of nice but I can feel my brain almost thinking in a new way as if it's been a muscle that

hasn't been exercised in a long time which is kind of cool but it kind of hurts my brain sometimes. All the different activities are helpful, they make it... I wouldn't call it more fun, but they make it more... They make it easier to not feel like you're learning as much. Does that make sense?

SP: Yes. Where and when do you use Czech outside class?

A: Sometimes my roommates and I, we try to say like we have *tři* tomatoes in the fridge or something like that, we use the numbers and the foods and the places that we learned. I use it sometimes when I'm ordering over the counter like *Dám si..., Prosím káva* or something like that. Not so much in restaurants just if it's over the counter stuff.

SP: Do you have a Czech buddy?

A: Yeah. I've been... we still are in contact in terms of trying to meet up. It took us a while to finally make contact. It's like back and forth very slowly.

SP: I was just thinking that maybe you practice your Czech phrases with him or her.

A: Yeah. I really want to do that. I'm planning on meeting up with her soon.

SP: How important are the exams and the final grade for you? What role do they play?

A: For my academic side, I'm technically taking this class pass/fail so for me it's definitely a lot less pressure. I guess for myself. I don't know, I feel like... I want to do well for myself but I'm also one of the people that don't think that the grade necessarily reflects how much you know and I'm not particularly a good test taker so I guess it's important to me but it's not the main thing.

SP: What are your language learning goals for the future if there are any?

A: Actually, being here and taking this language class – because I haven't taken one in a while – made me want to practice my Spanish to get better at it. It's weird too, I feel like I've been thinking more about Spanish now that I'm taking another language. I don't know if it's because – and I kind of wrote about this in my journal too – how like...even though I'm studying another language I've been thinking about another one.

SP: It's normal. Every language you learn affects the other one you take up.

A: Is it? Interesting. This is my first third language. It's the third language I've ever learned in a class setting so I haven't experienced that before because I've only had two to compare before. It would also be cool to learn more Czech. But definitely... I would continue to study some Czech but definitely Spanish too.

SP: What is the language policy of the state you're from or the area? Are languages mandatory at school?

A: In elementary school, the primary, you start, I think, when you're six or seven but it's twice a week and it's very very simple and then it's required from sixth to eighth grade and then once you hit high school, I think you only need to do three years. But the high school is a total of four years, you can drop it your last year if you want.

SP: But you can keep it.

A: Yeah okay.

SP: Alright, thank you. It was really nice talking to you.

7.1.2 Anita – rozhovor 2

(květen 2019)

SP: How does it feel being at the end of the journey? Can you say a little bit about your attitudes towards the whole thing and the learning experience?

A: Not just Czech class? Everything?

SP: Whatever you want to share.

A: It's sad that it's ending. It went by really fast. The weeks here go by so fast and I feel like there's not enough time to see everything that I wanted to see. So it's a little sad but at the

same time I guess because I know it's ending, I just feel it's time for it to end almost. So, there's good and bad parts about it.

SP: And about learning Czech? If you compare how you're feeling now about Czech and how you felt at the start, what you say?

A: I was a little nervous to learn Czech. I hadn't taken a formal language class since high school, so it had been over three or four years. Now I'm more comfortable. I still feel like I have a lot to learn. I don't want it to go to waste, I'm definitely going to keep my textbooks and whenever I have time just look at them and maybe not study but just read them and try to review, remember something. So, I'm excited that I did that.

SP: On your way, what were some of the things that were encouraging, motivating and was there anything that demotivated you?

A: I think things that were definitely encouraging were when we were in class doing something and we might not have directly learned it, like a certain word or anything, but being able to guess what it is based on what you know, that's kind of cool. Because not consciously, like answering a question correctly but subconsciously, answering it based on your base knowledge, that was kind of motivating because it made me realize I might know, I might have more Czech in my head that I thought. So, that's definitely motivating. I guess demotivating would be (...)

SP: If there was anything.

A: Nothing in the classroom. All these things are just in my head. Demotivating would be if I was studying a certain word or a certain rule, grammar rule and I kept forgetting it. As much as you go over, you don't remember, you can't retain it, so that was kind of annoying. That's pretty much it.

SP: What was encouraging outside class?

A: I feel when I used my Czech to order a coffee or something like that and the cashier person, whether or not they replied back to me in Czech, they seemed cool with it. Not necessarily happy that I was using Czech, but they didn't stop for a second and think: "Oh, this is weird, I can tell that you're not a native Czech speaker." That was kind of cool.

SP: If you were staying longer, would you continue learning Czech?

A: I think so.

SP: Why?

A: I feel you could always just practice more, like conversational stuff. I think we did a good balance of conversation and grammar, but I feel like I also need to practice listening, so I would definitely continue just so I get those communication listening skills.

SP: What do you think about this mandatory aspect of the course here in UPCES?

A: I see why people don't like that. When I first came here, I was kind of nervous that it was mandatory. That kind of bothered me but the course is really not that much of time or heavy workload. It's a good balance of work and you learn stuff but it's not super stressful. So, I think in that sense it should be mandatory. If it was harder and maybe a bit more intense, making a mid-term would almost be unfair or people would be more annoyed by that.

SP: Would you recommend to everyone who's doing study abroad to be able to speak local language? Do you think it's important, no matter whether in the Czech Republic or another country?

A: Yeah, I mean, obviously, I'm no master at speaking Czech but just being able to know what the word "train" means or know "bread" or "eggs" or whatever, you know, small things like that. It just helps you navigate grocery store, the street or whatever. So, definitely, I recommend it.

SP: How does having learned Czech affect your overall attitude towards learning foreign languages? If it does, somewhat.

A: I feel like I remember this question from the last time, and I would still say the same thing. It definitely has... I think last time I said something about how when I take Czech or doing Czech stuff, I think in terms of Spanish. Not Spanish thoughts but the rules. I like to think about it in my head and I'm like: "Wait, this is not Spanish, this is Czech." So, it's definitely influenced me to want to continue learning not only Czech but also other languages because I feel like the languages are connected in my head. Because I keep making connections between the two. Yeah, so I guess it definitely made me more... Not only do I think it's more necessary now than I did before, but it also makes me more motivated to do it, like I want to do it not just as a necessity but as a fun activity.

SP: How does it fit the big picture for you? Maybe your ideal or future self? The Czech language learning experience?

A: I think I would like to come back. I would definitely like to come and live in Europe somewhere. Definitely, I loved Prague. I mean I've only been here for four months or a little less, but I would definitely love to come back and live here longer term, maybe for a year or two. And obviously learning more Czech would help with that. And I guess in terms of not just only Czech, I definitely want to live in other countries, and it would be cool to work with people from other countries and speak their language.

SP: I just wanted to know whether you only regard this as a language learning experience or if you also, like you said, realize that it is a cultural thing.

A: Definitely.

SP: I think that I asked everything I wanted to ask, so the last questions is if there is anything else you would like to comment on? If something comes up to your mind.

A: I guess, kind of what I said earlier, the technique of sort of forcing students to figure out what something is based on other stuff. I just think that's a good, fascinating brain trick but also a good way to learn a language, learn anything but specially with learning languages, I think, that's good. I wrote about that in my journal.

SP: You said you enjoyed writing the journal.

A: Yeah, it was cool because I got to reflect on... not only how I was feeling in the class that day but also I tried to talk about the different activities that I thought were... like I just said when you come up with things based on what you already know. I thought that was really cool. Or like when you're forced to move around the classroom moving around and writing it down, not just spitting it out. Or repeating what the teacher says it's definitely really cool.

SP: Okay. Thank you.

7.2 Rita

7.2.1 Rita – rozhovor 1

(březen 2019)

SP: So first can you say your name.

R: [...]

SP: How old are you?

R: I am twenty.

SP: And what do you study?

R: I'm an economics major and entrepreneurial studies minor.

SP: What year are you in?

R: I'm a junior.

SP: What do you want to do after?

R: I want to go to business school to get my master's in business administration in the DMV area like Washington DC but then after that I want to go into marketing for fashion or like a buyer for a fashion company or something like that.

SP: What is your language background?

R: I've spoken English my entire life. I've taken intro and intermediate Spanish up until my junior year of high school. Other than that, I haven't taken any other languages.

SP: Did you enjoy learning Spanish?

R: It wasn't my favorite, but it definitely wasn't as hard as Czech.

SP: Did you have any experience with Czech prior to your arrival?

R: No.

SP: Did you know anyone who had taken the language?

R: A couple of my friends who have studied abroad through this program have had to learn it but other than that I just heard stories from them, other than that nothing.

SP: Did they say anything about the language?

R: Not specifically. They said they loved this class but not... they thought the language was difficult.

SP: You had no choice, you had to sign up for the course. In retrospect, would you have signed up for the class if you didn't have to?

R: If I didn't have to, coming into this no, but now taking it, it's my favorite class so I would have signed up for it if I had known what it was going to be like.

SP: What do you think about the course? Well first, what did you think at the start, how did you feel at the start?

R: At the start I was nervous because I thought it was really hard just because of some of the pronunciations. Like when I see a C, I don't really think of it as how it sounds in Czech. So, after the first week I was like: "Oh my gosh, this is going to be so hard," and because it was the three hours every day. But as we progressively have gotten through the semester, I enjoy going to Czech class. I dread any other class but that one is totally fine to go to.

SP: What do you think about the teacher and the classmates and material? Overall, how would you describe this?

R: I love my professor because I love how she has interactive games and partner work and stuff like that because it allows us to speak the language, write the language, hear the language. It hits all the nails on the head. And I like the class size because it allows you to feel comfortable saying things and even if you say it wrong, our professor doesn't make you feel bad. She just politely corrects you and no one in the class is judging you. It's a comfortable environment.

SP: Where and when do you use Czech outside class?

R: Sometimes on the metro when I'm listening to the things and I know that stop in Czech or at the grocery store because a lot of people like the cashiers don't really speak English so there and it's mainly with numbers and prices, you know the numbers and prices, but other than that... sometimes in a restaurant. My friend, who's actually visiting this week, she was like: "Well, what's *maso*?" and I was like: "Oh, that's meat." Or when we're walking on the street, I can be like: "*Potravin*y means grocery store," stuff like that.

SP: So how do you feel? Do you feel...

R: It makes me feel more comfortable. I know where I am, I'm more settled in the foreign place than I was at the beginning of the semester but I definitely want to be able to listen to two Czech people having a conversation and know what they are saying.

SP: Would you say that you're doing well? Things are alright Czech-wise?

R: Yeah, I think so far, I'm a little nervous about the mid-term but Czech-wise I think it's going well.

SP: Speaking of the mid-term, how important are the exams and the grades for you?

R: Very, because my grades, it's not just pass fail. They translate for my GPA and for a lot of my friends it's just pass/fail so it's either going to be P or F so they could get a seventy and be fine but it's very important for me.

SP: Would you say that maybe the initial anxiety relates to the fear of academic failure or you did not think about it at the beginning at all? Do you understand what I mean?

R: Yeah, like was I nervous for the Czech class because I was afraid I was not going to do well?

SP: Yeah.

R: Yes, because I thought it was going to be a little challenging and since it is so foreign to me. I wasn't nervous for my econ class because that's my major and so since Czech was so foreign... I think because I was worried I'm not going to do well in this class, that yeah...

There was a little bit of hesitation and fear at the beginning.

SP: What are your language learning goals for the future? If any.

R: Probably to be able to pick up more Czech after I leave here just because I want this experience to impact my life once I return home and so we have the Czech buddies and so if I'm able to still remain in contact with them and I have some sort of Czech language background, I think that would be a goal of mine.

SP: Any other language?

R: Probably not.

SP: Do you think you could use languages in your career?

R: Yeah, I do but not as big as some other careers, for example communications major or something like that. I feel like that's more important than for econ.

SP: I forgot to ask what is the national language policy, did you have to take languages?

R: Yeah, we had to take language up into intermediate because I'm from New York, so you had to take it up into intermediate level. But other than that, because of my major I don't have to take a language in college, but some majors do have to. I know that some pre-health majors have to take Spanish or Italian or something like that, but it wasn't required for my major.

SP: Thank you.

7.2.2 Rita – rozhovor 2

(květen 2019)

SP: How would you describe your learning experiences this semester? Can you say what your impressions are now?

R: I definitely was very hesitant. I wrote in the journal about having to take Czech just because I didn't know in what ways it would benefit me.

SP: You mean at the beginning?

R: Yes.

SP: Can you compare the beginning and the end?

R: Yes, in the beginning I didn't really want to take it if I'm being honest. I think I wrote that in my journal. Just because I hadn't taken a language since my sophomore year of high school so I didn't really think that it was going to impact me or benefit me in any way definitely because it was just an elementary level. But now looking back at it, not only did it benefit me in the experience here in the Czech Republic, being able to communicate with a local language but also the learning style and interactive like work that we did as groups, I definitely think will also help me in the future for other classes just because it's more of a team building, working together.

SP: That's great. I didn't expect people to realize this. What would you say influenced your attitude throughout the semester? Were there any changes in your attitude?

R: Honestly, I think what made the class so enjoyable and made me like the class so much was I loved my professor so that was something. It was exciting to go to class opposed to all my other classes, I was like: “Oh my god, I don’t want to go, it’s so boring,” but the excitement and willingness that my professor had to teach us and expose us to a different culture was, I think, the most influential factor for me.

SP: Was there anything outside class that influenced...?

R: I definitely liked going to the Czech school. We went two times and I think that exposed me to a different lifestyle because their lives aren’t like anything like my life in America. A lot of them, I know this is so mundane and silly, but a lot of them didn’t even have TV’s and I feel like a lot of Americans like the media and even your phone, TV, stuff like that. We surround our entire lives based off of media and I feel like they don’t. Some of them still have Instagram, Facebook and Netflix and stuff like that but I just thought it was interesting that none of them really had TV’s.

SP: If you are staying longer, would you continue learning Czech if you could, if it wasn’t mandatory?

R: Yes. Just because I think that the more we learn in class, the more comfortable I am living here because I can understand more. Now when I go to the grocery store, I can understand when the clerk says the amount of money that I owe, I just feel more comfortable. So, I think that I would continue to learn.

SP: What do you think of the mandatory concept of the course?

R: Definitely at the beginning, like I said, I didn’t think that it should have been mandatory because I know another program that’s based in the Czech Republic and they don’t have to learn Czech. But I definitely think that I benefitted from having to take it so I definitely do think that it should be mandatory for students to take. Just because, like I said again, it not only exposes you to the language, but it shows you the culture. Even when we learned about naming family members and stuff, I asked my professor why don’t we learn about aunts and uncles and more extended family and she said that on Christmas we would have a really close family and then we would do something with our extended family with which at home... my extended family I just consider as part of my family so just minuscule things like that, I think, exposes you to the culture.

SP: Would you recommend everyone who comes here to take Czech if they study here?

R: Yes. I have a couple of friends who are sophomores right now who are coming next semester and they’re asking about classes to take and complaining that they have to take Czech and I was like: “No, you’ll love it, it will become your favorite class,” just because it’s so different than anything that were exposed to at home.

SP: Within the study abroad context, do you think that everyone should learn the local language, no matter where they go?

R: I think it depends on where you are. I definitely think that because this is such a different language that you should, but I don’t know necessarily if you were going to Spain if you had to learn Spanish. I don’t know. I have some friends who went to Rome and they had to learn Italian and they definitely needed to learn it because the majority of people only spoke Italian, so I definitely think it depends on where you are.

SP: I think that you answered some of my questions at the start so maybe finally, is there anything else you would like to share, any thoughts?

R: I think that the way that the class was structured this semester should continue to be that way just because I think it was the most beneficial way of learning a language. I think that the interactive group work and talking in class with people is the most beneficial thing and I also think that the small projects that we had towards the end of the semester, I think those are also beneficial because it allowed us to prepare for things that we’d be tested on and really understand and make connections of different words and things that we learned throughout

the entire semester. For me, I was really nervous about the speaking section for the final but after I studied everything and then I studied the speaking at the end it seemed really simple because I was able to just take what I had learned and make the connection to put it all together. So, I think the classroom set up and style was perfect.

S: Thank you.

7.3 Matt

7.3.1 Matt – rozhovor 1

(březen 2019)

SP: Can you say your name and your age, please.

M: [...] and I'm twenty years old.

SP: What do you study?

M: I'm studying economics and math, majoring in econ, minoring in math.

SP: What year are you in?

M: I'm a junior but I'm actually... I redshirted because of a football injury so I'm actually a semester delayed now. So, I'll graduate in the winter of 2020 rather than the summer of 2020, if that makes sense.

SP: What do you want to do after?

M: I'm not exactly sure yet. I definitely thought I wanted to do something in finance and banking because that's sort of a traditional route for, I think, Middlebury football and my dad did investment management and stuff but the more I think about it, I am not so sure that's what I want to do. This is going to sound really strange or random, but I was listening to a podcasts about... that was talking about climate change and my mom works for the nature conservancy and so I think I'd like to do something that would help combat climate change. It was a kind of scary podcast I was listening to. I think seeing someone work like my mom does is inspiring too.

SP: What is your language background?

M: I took... mostly just English. It was pretty much exclusively English in my house and then I took Spanish, I think starting in either second or third grade. And I remember not taking it very seriously I don't think I really... I mean it's hard as a seven-year-old or eight-year-old, but I didn't take it all that seriously. And then I started taking French in the sixth grade and I loved the first year I took it and it made me really excited about sticking with it and then I really didn't like it the next two years.

SP: Why? Why did it change?

M: So, I think for me it was really dependent on the teacher, so I had a really awesome teacher in my first year and I don't want to speak poorly about the other teacher because maybe it was just not to my teaching style. And I also don't make overgeneralizations about French in general, but I think it seems to me that especially in some parts of France there's a very, almost militaristic teaching approach or at least that's even what my French teachers would say. They would say because they a lot of times were from France and they said: "This is how we teach." So, sometimes it's kind of a change for students so I started really not like French.

SP: The first teacher wasn't French?

M: No, she was from a French speaking country but not from France. Every teacher I had subsequently was from France and that continued through high school. And I think it was a very... it was like the approach was like cramming grammar and we had, you know, hundreds of vocab words we were supposed to memorize each week. I'm actually okay with

memorization but I didn't feel like I was really learning how to speak the language. I was sort of always translating, if that makes sense.

SP: Of course. So Spanish, French...

M: I guess the only other thing I'll add is that my mom is really talented with languages and whenever we traveled, she was able to speak. She worked for the World Bank for a little while and she spoke fairly fluently Spanish, Italian and French. So, when we traveled, I could hear her speak a little bit but that was the only other language exposure.

SP: Did you have any experience with Czech before you came here?

M: I had no experience with Czech. I guess the only experience was when I came – this is really random – I played baseball in Prague after my junior year. I played with an American team that would come abroad and would play UA team, national teams in Europe although you know baseball is not a huge thing in Europe. So, we played, I spent, I think, three or four days in Prague playing the Czech UA team. I was sixteen or seventeen and it's actually what made me want to come back in the first place. We were only here for a few days and we were playing baseball for most of it but yeah... So, I was exposed a little bit.

SP: Do you know anyone who did the program before or a similar program, who studied in the Czech Republic?

M: Similar to this program? Yeah, there's definitely a lot of Middlebury kids who do this program.

SP: Did you hear anything about the language from them?

M: Yeah, I think everyone actually came away really positively with the language. And I was definitely nervous given that I, maybe this is incorrect, but I've never seen myself because of the experience with French, like I said, as a languages person per se and that I just had difficulty with it.

SP: It's very normal but it's sad in a way how it forms your attitude.

M: Yeah, so I was definitely nervous about it but everybody who came here said that the language classes were some of their best classes, their favorite classes actually.

SP: Now, looking back, the course is mandatory but if it wasn't, do you think you would have signed up?

M: Yeah, I think I would have, and I think if I was taking this in high school, I wouldn't have. I think I'm a little bit more mature now and I realize even if it's not what you would call a global language. Two things. One, I came into it, I think, understanding the cultural significance a little bit more. I had taken a class called English language in a global context. A lot of that class was discussing how English has begun to dominate and how that sort of matches the patterns of cultural degradation as well. After taking that class I had a better appreciation for languages significance in culture. And then the other reason is you can also look at languages as a form of cross training and at least in my family my mom always tried to make expose... even if I wasn't going to be the best piano player ever, she wanted me to take piano lessons just because. And she wanted me to play sports and do whatever just to work my brain in different ways, if that makes sense. So, I felt like even if again it wasn't the most commonly used language, there are still other benefits to taking language as well. I think I'd have a different answer in high schools though.

SP: You said that you approached it at the start with a little bit of anxiety, or not?

M: I didn't approach it with anxiety in the sense that... I felt like I would be fine in the class. I felt like I'd probably be able to do all the memorization stuff I needed to do, and I would be able to take the quizzes and stuff like that. I think I wasn't really sure how much I was actually going to use it. And getting more to the actual day-to-day usage, I didn't really know what to expect, more on that end.

SP: What do you think about the course and the classroom atmosphere, what's your response to the class?

M: First of all, I think I really appreciate the different approaches to learning. I know just from taking tests, I am an auditory learner but it's clear that in the class so far there's been an emphasis on trying to appeal to different learning styles. That has worked well for me. In contrast to French where for the most part, like I said, we were just drilling vocab. So, I've enjoyed that. I like the emphasis on working with different people too. And I think a lot of times when it sometimes takes somebody else making a mistake or somebody else saying something correctly for me to make the same connection. And I think people understand the language differently so by working with different people, I think there's some people... it seems like their pronunciation is better and that's helpful but then some people maybe understand the vocab, they memorize better. So, I've enjoyed that too. And I think in general the classroom atmosphere is pretty... positive is maybe the best way to put it. I don't feel like I'm getting judged if I screw something up or if I mispronounce a word which is also... I like it a lot more than maybe a more traditional classroom setting where if I remember correctly we had a board and every time you spoke English, you got a strike and if you got to like five strikes, it was something down on your grade. It was just a very... you were kind of always on your toes.

SP: Where and when do you use Czech outside class?

M: So. I think the most successful times I've been able to use Czech is when I first tell people that I'm an American student studying Czech so definitely the places that I go more frequently to, so a bakery for example because we tend to go there fairly frequently. It's a little bit of a game now where they'll speak English to us, and we speak Czech back to them and I think they maybe think it's cute that we don't speak Czech but we're trying. And then definitely the gym that we've been going to a lot. At least with the people that you see frequently, they'll tend to, you know, just ask you normal things like: *Jak se máš?* and that's at least a good start too. And then, another really fun experience we had with Czech. We were in a cab, two days ago, this weekend. And the cab driver, it sounded like had been a Czech professor in the past and because she also spoke French and I could speak a little bit of French back to her. She was going through, and she would point things out and say the word in French, in English and then Czech also. And so I think that's been good. I think when I'm meeting someone for the first time it's a lot harder because you're a little bit nervous. I mean I always say *dobrý den* and try to introduce myself like: *Jsem z Ameriky*, but beyond that, I usually get too nervous after that.

SP: How important are the exams and the final grade for you?

M: I don't think they're important for me in terms of my learning Czech was only successful if I get so and so grade. I think to me success looks more like what we're discussing, how much I'm actually able to communicate with people and to what extent can I show respect to the culture and show respect to people even if I'm not fully communicating. But then, I think, at the same time I have to also be conscious of the fact that grades and transcripts and stuff really matter for when I'm trying to get jobs. So, I think it's almost separate in my mind. Does that make any sense? But I'm approaching the exam it's like: "Alright, here's the exam, I'm going to memorize what I need to memorize, this is what I'm going to learn and this is how I'm going to get a good grade on the exam". In that sense, the exam and the grade are only significant. But then, when I am just in class and outside class living in the Czech Republic, that's not what I'm thinking about. I try to separate them, if that makes sense.

SP: Sure. What are your language goals for the future if you have any?

M: It's definitely not something I thought about as much but from the standpoint that I was talking about earlier, of cross training, I think I've started to make other connections by... it's hard to put this into words but by taking Czech, this is the first time I've taken a language since high school, so it's kind of making me realize, both living in the Czech Republic and taking a language at the same time, you start to make a lot more interpersonal connections and

connections with the sights I'm seeing for example, you know, like the clock tower is no longer the clock tower, it's the *Staré mesto*. So, I've enjoyed that aspect. And also studying abroad has made me feel like I definitely want to study abroad again or live abroad again and so, I think, I definitely wherever I was living, I would want to at least become familiar enough with the language where I would be able to make those same cultural connections and show respect to the people that were living there because I think that has made a pretty big difference when you can at least show you are trying. So – this is probably not significant to the research – but the benefit of me having that extra semester, where I'll graduate in the winter is that I will probably not start an actual job until that summer. That would give me approximately another six months to travel and so after this experience, I think, maybe I can just pick a place and just live there for six months, maybe work as a... my Dad worked as a janitor, or something like that, maybe try to have a similar experience with that extra time I have between graduation and starting a new job. And I think one of the cool things now is that there are a lot more resources in learning languages than there used to be. So, I know people have been fairly successful with different apps and listening devices and stuff like that. So, definitely depending on where I end up for those six months, I think I'd use either an app or something like that to at least, like I said, become familiar enough with the language to make the time there worthwhile.

SP: Thank you very much.

7.3.2 Matt – rozhovor 2

(květen 2019)

SP: How are you feeling about having learned Czech now?

M: I feel pretty good about it. The fact that it has a reputation as being such a hard language to learn, that makes it a little bit more exciting to me and I think any amount of understanding is perceived as impressive. At least in American schools since French and Spanish are more traditional languages to learn, most people can speak either a little bit of Spanish or a little bit of French but none of my friends can speak any Czech. It's pretty cool.

SP: If you compare how you felt at the start and now, what would you say?

M: The thing that most made me realize... Because in some ways, you're kind of going along and because you learn a new topic and then you get to a new topic, you never really except for exams and stuff you never really feel like: "Here's my opportunity to show what I mastered in the language". All along the semester, it kind of always felt like... I don't know, it's hard to tell how much progress I was making. But I think actually, the thing that made me realize the most how much I've learned throughout the semester was my parents visiting. My parents visited towards the end of the semester and realizing that they didn't speak any Czech, that's where I was four months ago. My mom speaks phenomenal, with most languages. So, hearing them struggle through *děkuju* and *dobrý den*, the very basic aspects of Czech, was a little bit eye opening to me to realize: "Oh, that was me four months ago," and thinking back to how much more I know now compared to that. I also think even though it was a little bit stressful sometimes to study for exams and record the video and stuff like that, I do think those were good opportunities to realize there's a lot that we covered and when you can incorporate all the different things we learned into one video or one monologue, it's easier to realize how much you've learned along the way. Whereas when you're just focusing on one small portion, it's harder to realize. So, I think I've made a lot of progress.

SP: Were there any other factors that influenced your attitude on your journey?

M: Yeah. I think traveling probably was the biggest challenge especially the two-week spring break... or not two weeks, ten days. That definitely was challenging. I don't think if that

influenced my attitude necessarily, but it sets you back, a little bit. I mean it comes back fast but that was a little set back. I also think once I started to be better about getting to know people, just in the random things that I do throughout my day and getting to know the waitresses at the restaurants I would go to a little bit better and gym, I finally got – I think I wrote this in my journal - at one point I finally got to the *čau* level. For the most part it was all *dobrý den* or hello but I finally got to the *čau* level. That was a big moment, I guess. Making some friends who were actually Czech is also a bit of encouragement to learn more of the language and I think especially because they all speak English so well compared to how I speak Czech, that almost feels like an unfair balance where I almost feel bad that he can completely communicate in my own language, but I can barely communicate in their language, so I think that was a motivator.

SP: What do you think of the mandatory concept of the class here in UPCES?

M: I think it's great that it's mandatory. Even going into this semester, it was the one class where I felt like: "I don't take languages, why would I take this," just to be totally honest with you. Like I said, I hated French in high school. But looking back, I'm so glad that I did take it and in some ways it's a really easy way to remember my whole experience here too. I guess outside of pictures and obviously memories you have a whole basis of a language to also remember the experience by and I think from that same point too, I would encourage the program to keep it mandatory because I think it really added to my experience and especially what I'm going to take back to the United States.

SP: How does it fit into the big picture and the future of yourself?

M: That's kind of what I mean. For any of my other classes, some of it was related to Prague and central and Eastern Europe but it's not really anything that I couldn't take at home, if that makes sense, and this is the one class you really... taking Czech at an American school in English context would be really difficult, I think. I think I definitely have a solid base going forward. I certainly plan on returning to Prague and I found how quickly French came back to me when I was in France, so I'd imagine a lot of the Czech is going to come back to me. And Coltrane and I were for just talking on the way here too, we were saying how it'll be really funny for us to be able to, even if it's just broken Czech, to speak Czech even slightly at school and have everybody else wonder: "What are they talking about?" So, it's almost like a secret language where no one else can speak it but we can speak it.

SP: Is there anything else you would like to share with me?

M: No, I mean, like I said, I'm really glad that I was forced to take the class and it was a great experience for me.

SP: Thank you very much.

7.4 Nathalie

7.4.1 Nathalie – rozhovor 1

(březen 2019)

SP: Can you please say your name and your age?

N: [...] and I'm twenty-one.

SP: What do you study?

N: Economics and psychology.

SP: And what year are you in?

N: I'm a junior, so my third year.

SP: What is your language background?

N: I've taken Spanish for seven or eight years. I stopped a couple of years ago. But I know it pretty well, not fluent by any means. And now a little bit of Czech.

SP: Did you have any experience with Czech prior to your arrival?
N: None.
SP: Did you know anyone who was here maybe, took this program and studied Czech?
N: Yeah, a couple of kids from my school had come here before I did.
SP: And did they say anything about the language?
N: Everyone likes the Czech classes here. They're fun.
SP: And the language maybe?
N: Hard. It's very different from English and there's little basis but a few of the words are kind of similar but it's definitely tough to learn.
SP: Your course is mandatory so you had no decision – would you have taken the course without being made?
N: Initially, I probably would not have. But then I probably would have wanted to switch into it because I think it's so useful, knowing the Czech language here. It wouldn't have been my first thought to take it but in hindsight, absolutely. I think it's a great idea.
SP: I'm just asking because it seems that not many people say that they would have.
N: Right.
SP: What do you think about the course overall?
N: So far, I love it. It makes me more comfortable being outside of the classroom just in everyday life situations at a restaurant or at the gym. I feel comfortable that I can hold my own. I can order at a restaurant in Czech. And I don't have to just resort to English and I even feel comfortable asking people: "Do you speak English" in Czech, so they know I'm trying and they appreciate that.
SP: Okay, you already partly answered, where and when do you use Czech outside class?
N: Mostly in restaurants. If I'm ordering a coffee so at a coffee shop, at the gym. But that's pretty much it. Most of my teachers here speak English or they teach us in English, so I'd say those are the main places.
SP: Do you enjoy interacting in Czech?
N: I do... I really do.
SP: Glad to hear. What about the classroom atmosphere, do you think that you get on well with the people?
N: Absolutely. I love how engaging the classroom is and I've made a ton of friends in the classroom. It makes it more fun to learn because it's so engaging.
SP: How important are the exams and the final grade for you?
N: Definitely important. I definitely work hard in school because I like to get good grades. My grade carries over back at my university, so yes, I'd say pretty important.
SP: And what are your language goals for the future? Is there any ideal?
N: I definitely think it's important to know more than one language and I would like to continue learning Czech and continue learning my Spanish to kind of just be more fluent in other languages but it's difficult.
SP: How about your future career, what do you want to do?
N: I'm interning at a bank this summer in New York City. So, we'll see from there.
SP: Do you think that in banking you could use other languages?
N: Absolutely because there's a lot of international business transactions that go on and in a lot of divisions you need people that can speak other languages. So, I think it can only help.
SP: Thank you.

7.4.2 Nathalie – rozhovor 2 (květen 2019)

SP: How are you feeling now, at the end? What is your response to having learned Czech?

N: It's sad that I have to leave because I feel like I've honestly gained a very good understanding of Czech. I can easily maneuver my way around the city and honestly studying for the final exam has helped me understand Czech a lot more. I can like hold a conversation like where I went over the weekend. So, part of me kind of wishes that I knew that from the beginning but obviously it takes time.

SP: So, if you were staying, would you continue learning?

N: Definitely. I think it's really important that people can navigate through the city and people here don't prefer to speak English nor should they. They speak Czech and I think it's a good way to really immerse yourself in the culture.

SP: If you compare your attitude now and at the beginning, was there any change?

N: I think in the beginning it was more like: "I have to take a fifth class. It'll be cool to learn it but it's going to be more work," and now, looking back, it's completely enhanced my experience here and I'm so glad that we had to take it.

SP: What do you think of the mandatory concept that it's required. Is it a good thing or not?

N: I think it's a good thing because a lot of people probably wouldn't take it otherwise. But I think it's really important that people do. I know students, where Czech is not mandated in their schools and they just speak English everywhere they go. And I don't know, I think it's a very different experience doing that.

SP: If you look back at the whole experience, what were some of the factors that influenced your attitudes towards learning Czech?

N: I think in the beginning I definitely got some weird looks when I would speak English and so it definitely made me want to learn more Czech because I didn't like when people look at me like that. But it's also fun to learn another language and I feel like I've learned a lot about how people live just being here and being able to understand some of what they're saying.

SP: Would you say that success also has some influence, like success outside class or maybe even in class?

N: Definitely. Because it's kind of rewarding when, you know, you go to a restaurant and you completely speak Czech to your waiter. It's a cool experience.

SP: Would you recommend learning Czech to your friends who would be doing study abroad here?

N: Definitely. I would say if it's optional, definitely do it.

SP: In general, in the study abroad context, do you think that people should learn the local language?

N: Yes, I think it makes a big difference in your time studying here. It makes it more authentic and I think you owe it to the people that live in that country to try and learn their language.

SP: How does learning Czech affect your overall attitude towards learning foreign languages?

N: Initially, again I was a little bit like: "It's going to be an extra class, a lot of work," but I think again, it really enhances the experience. It makes you feel like you fit in more even if I still can't have a twenty-minute conversation with someone, I'm not at that level but it definitely allows me to communicate with people more.

SP: What did you think of the class?

N: I like the class. It was one of my favorites. I love how interactive it was. Students were engaged and even though some of the activities were... they were fun, it really helped. You know like when we would play Pictionary, it made you really think about "How do I say that in Czech?" They were really helpful.

SP: How do you think in the future, in the big picture, how does the Czech language learning experience fit into your ideal self?

N: I never expected that I would be learning Czech. But I am definitely glad that I could say I know some Czech and it would be fun to continue.

SP: Do you think in the future does it... can it affect something?

N: Absolutely. The tough part about Czech is people really only speak it in the Czech Republic, not in many other countries but I think knowing another language is so helpful and I definitely want to come back so...

SP: Is there anything else you would like to comment on, about the stay and the experience, the learning experience?

N: I definitely think taking this course made me learn more than I was expecting and, like I said before, I would recommend it to everyone and I'm really glad that I got the opportunity to take this class.

SP: Thank you.

7.5 Joseph

7.5.1 Joseph – rozhovor 1

(březen 2019)

SP: Can you say your name and age, please?

J: [...] and I am twenty.

SP: And what do you study?

J: Economics and finance.

SP: And how far are you?

J: I am a junior, so it is my third year.

SP: What is your language background?

J: I grew up learning English and then high school, middle school, we had to take Spanish, so I had seven years of that. And that's really it.

SP: Did you like learning Spanish?

J: No. I hated Spanish. It was very tedious, all memorization. I am better at learning a concept, not just memorizing words. But it was easy because Spanish is an easy language to learn.

SP: What is the language policy where you live?

J: Our district required you to choose a language all throughout middle school, that's three years and then in the tenth or eleventh grade you take the state exam for whatever language you'd chosen. If you pass it, you can stop. I did it for the fourth year, the senior year just because it was a very very easy class. They also gave us an option to go to a more advanced level which I did.

SP: Did you have any experience with Czech prior to your arrival?

J: Not at all.

SP: Did you know anyone who was here or spoke Czech?

J: No. Nothing.

SP: So how did you feel at the start?

J: The start was the worst, because of the class size, it way too big for learning a language and I also found it difficult to focus on memorization for three hours.

SP: How are you feeling now?

J: It's a lot better. It's still learning a language so something I'm generally not too favorable about, but I think I'm doing okay. I would like it better if there wasn't an exam, if it was just recreational.

SP: Where and when do you use Czech outside class?

J: Occasionally for the small things like saying hello and goodbye, maybe ordering at a deli but I find that everyone here at least where we're living speaks fluent English, so not much.

SP: How important are the exams and grades for you?

J: Very important. In the industry I want to go into, you need really almost all As. However, I've never taken a class pass/fail. This is my first time. So, it's a lot less important now but I still want to do well because it will still be if I apply to grad school or something.

SP: How important is learning a language in the industry you go to? Does speaking languages play a role?

J: Learning to code would be if you consider that a language. Otherwise, language really is very insignificant.

SP: My last question is if you have any language learning goals for the future.

J: Hopefully never take a language class after. I don't think I'll have to.

SP: Okay. Good, thank you.

7.5.2 Joseph – rozhovor 2

(květen 2019)

SP: How are you feeling about having learned Czech now?

J: A lot better than I did at the start. I think I definitely learned a lot. I lived so close to the tourist area, I found that everyone spoke English and they wouldn't even start out speaking Czech. So, I didn't think it was absolutely necessary to live here but it was definitely useful, it was helpful.

SP: So, what were some factors that influenced your attitude? You say the people did not speak, you could get by in English, that would be one thing. Were there some other things that you would like to comment on?

J: I came in a very bad attitude. I think it was a mix of... In high school, middle school I was forced to take seven years of Spanish and I hated Spanish. It was just like having to go every day and language is a lot of memorization, it's not interesting. So, I came with a bad attitude and that, I think, combined with the culture shock when I first came here. I really did not want to take the class in the beginning. I think you did a really good job making it interesting and fun to go to, especially given that the class is at eight twenty in the morning.

SP: Did you succeed? Do you think that we were successful in the learning?

J: Yeah. I think I learned enough to survive here without having to speak much English. I took the class pass/fail, which I kind of regret doing now, because I thought the grading was generous and fair, especially with the quizzes being pass fail and you get full credit for passing. It was definitely fair. You guys did a good job making it interesting. Going forward, I think more school visits, restaurant visits, maybe once every two or three weeks would make it even a little more fun, but also switching it to three.

SP: Did you like the school visit?

J: I liked the school visit a lot. I felt very like I was back in middle school weirdly. I couldn't take my phone out, I had to ask you if I could go to the bathroom which was... the setting. But it was nice. It was a lot different than ours.

SP: Interesting. Would you recommend if your friend was coming to do study abroad in the Czech Republic, would you tell them to learn Czech?

J: Yeah, I think I would. It just made it helpful to kind of understand my surroundings a little better. Maybe not even speaking to people but just reading the train stops and knowing how to pronounce the street I was on. I would have liked the Czech class better if it wasn't for a grade at all. If it was an activity I went to once a week instead of a class with a final or mid-term, you know. The first week, I hated the first week. Maybe hate is not the right word. I

didn't really like the first week just because it was combined with... everything's new so much, sitting there for three hours trying to learn the language.

SP: What do you think of this mandatory concept?

J: That I don't like. Specifically, because it's for a grade. At my school at home, there's no classes that are mandatory even if you take... you pick your major, this obviously is not my major and given that we sign up for classes, we get to choose the classes, we get to choose the time and teachers and then we have two or three weeks to drop it without any mark on our transfer if you pick up another one. We have nine or ten weeks to drop the class completely. Having to take a class mandatory in college, I think that was... I felt very forced and it also contributed to my misunderstanding or my bad attitude in the beginning and it also influenced my picking of this program. When we are sold it, when I was choosing between this and CIEE, this was sold as the cheapest but the downside to it was definitely that you have to take Czech. Which the study abroad academic advisers said – that's definitely the worst part, you probably want to consider the other ones and even spending more money, so you don't have to bother with that.

SP: How does this whole experience fit in the big picture for you, your ideal self?

J: That's a big question.

SP: Do you think it enhances something in any way?

J: I think there's a mix of both. Having been done with the final, I'm happy I don't have to memorize flash cards anymore or anything of that nature. I think it definitely enhanced the culture aspect of being here for four months. I don't think I will ever use Czech again, just given that I will probably not be back here. And at home I don't think...

SP: Do you think it has some other implications maybe or some consequences?

J: Yes, but I can't elaborate on what they are. It was not just this class but at home I am very... all my classes are accounting, finance, some math based, here this is the first time I've taken humanities. If I was supposed to take languages at school, I tested out of it. So, it was a lot different. It gave me a little different analytical perspective on stuff. At the same time, going into ten weeks of intense work I'm just... I feel like... after taking financial accounting versus after taking Czech, I feel like the financial accounting applies to work, whereas Czech... I am happy I took it but at the same time, I don't think it's going to help me much in the future.

SP: Is there anything else you would like to share with me?

J: I think you did a really good job of making the class fun and interesting. In language it is hard to do that sometimes and I've had teachers who had been good in language and some who were just: "This is what you have to learn and practice this way," and you did a really good job not doing that and also you came with a really good attitude which helped a lot both in a class that I initially did not want to be in and being... how early it was in the morning. Changing it would make a big difference, to three o'clock.

SP: Thank you.

7.6 Luisa

7.6.1 Luisa – rozhovor 1

(listopad 2019)

SP: Can you say your name and your age please?

L: [...] I am from the Netherlands and I'm twenty-three years old.

SP: What do you study?

L: I study at home philosophy and here I do some economic courses.

SP: How is it related?

L: It's not related but I want to do an economics minor and then do a business master and then go into environmental economy. So, it's a step in that way.

SP: Why did you choose philosophy?

L: When I started doing philosophy, I didn't know what I wanted in life so then I thought philosophy, I think, is very interesting and it's always helpful and it's always good floor, good start.

SP: So, you know what you want to do after it seems.

L: Yeah, but the environmental economics thing, I just started to get that here. So, I think, maybe in two years I want something else. I don't know. I just keep on going.

SP: What is your language background? What languages do you speak?

L: I speak Dutch, it is my mother tongue. English, I speak very well, C1 level, almost C2. I had a French B2 level. But that was five years ago, I'm not sure on that level now. Three years ago, I lived in Spain for two months, so I learned Spanish. I was very good at that but it's all drifting away. I can understand German very well, but speaking is a little bit harder, but I can have a conversation and now I'm trying Czech.

SP: Impressive. Did you have any experience with Czech before you came here?

L: No. Nothing.

SP: Why did you decide to learn it?

L: Because I think it's very important that you learn the language of the city you live in. And I thought: "I do not want to speak Czech fluently or I am not going to spend five hours doing homework in it". But now I think it's very important and I think in the Netherlands nobody speaks Dutch and I always like it when people try to speak Dutch to me. I work in a cafe when international people try to speak Dutch, I am like: "This is nice, I am helping you". So, I really like that. So, I thought: "Okay, here I have the opportunity to follow a Czech course for free, why won't I do it?"

SP: What do you think about the language now?

L: I think it's very nice. Although it has nothing or a little bit but almost nothing, well compared to Spanish, French or German - they all look alike and the same grammar, Czech is a whole new different language. But the grammar is actually very easy, only the words and the pronunciation, that's very new to me so that's very hard for me to get there and learn that. But further than that, like you only have past, present and future, it is so much better than in French or German.

SP: What do you think about the course?

L: I think it's very very nice. I also do the tandem thing and I think it's very nice. Because at home when I learn another language, you always start with all the grammar and how to do "to be" and "to have" and how it works. So, when I was here it the first week I was waiting when I'm going to learn that, when I'm going to do that because I'm very used to having the structure first and then learn more. But now I was talking with my tandem girl and she said it's so important that if you learn a language you don't look at it like mathematics. When you are a child, you do not learn the language through the grammar, you learn it by speaking it and trying it. Just go out there and make mistakes. That made me really think. So, I think it is very important. And now, since we had the restaurant stuff, I am finally getting okay, now I am a little.... I get there. The restaurant is the most important theme for learning a language. The directions... everybody has Google maps now. So, I think it's a little passé. Last time I asked someone for directions on the road, I was fifteen or something. But the restaurant is... how to order a beer or say thank you or ask for the bill, I think that's important. This is the main communication when you live somewhere. Or the supermarket.

SP: Do you use Czech outside class?

L: I try to. But then they ask something in Czech...

SP: What's your experience?

L: I tried to order some beers. When we first started counting, I tried to order in Czech, but I ordered with the wrong number, so I got five beer instead of three. But it was fine, I tried. This is how you get everything. I try to order coffee in Czech and in the restaurant when I see the words. I am trying but it is very hard. Especially when they talk back in Czech and ask me questions then I am lost.

SP: Do you find it rewarding talking outside class?

L: Yeah.

SP: How important is the grade, the exam for you?

L: None. Maybe that helps because this course, I won't get any points for it because back home they don't validate them, so I am just doing this for myself, I don't care if I get 4 or 10, I just want to experience Czech language.

SP: Good. What do you find as the main motivator for you to learn a language?

L: I think understanding the country or the city or the people because, I think, language is the main thing that... now I'm going to go in a philosophical way. Philosophy of language is very interesting because language makes you see the world differently, like how you have some words in English that you don't have in Dutch or in French, so once you have a word for something, you can say it better and you can get closer to your own feelings and language is what makes us human. So, I think learning a language is learning the people and learning their country and learning how they think about stuff. So, when I first started to know that in Czech you don't use the words in front of the noun... articles, I thought okay, now I finally understand why always when I hear people from eastern or middle Europe talking English, it sounds a little bit weird because they never use "the" because they don't have it in their own language and now I have a lot more appreciation for them and I'm a lot more... understanding.

SP: Good. Do you have any language goals for the future?

L: Yes, I'm going to get back to Spanish, I think. So, once I'm back... I had a Spanish course as well last year in the Netherlands, but it was just once a week for one and half hour, so it was very slow but now I really want to improve my Spanish, so I'm going to go back to that and then once I'm done with my bachelor, I'll probably go to South America to learn some more Spanish. But these are ambitious plans, we will see.

SP: Good, is there anything else you would like to comment on?

L: I really really like the lessons. It's so much better than everything, all the classes, and I've had a lot of language classes, but this is so much better, so much more fun and you interact so much with the other people, asking and do the pronunciation and try, and all the games you have, learning the language with the small Lego puppets. It's so much more fun.

SP: Thank you.

7.6.2 Luisa – rozhovor 2

(leden 2020)

SP: How would you describe your Czech learning experience from the beginning to the end in a couple of sentences?

L: It sounded really strange in the beginning because I just had no clue where everything comes from. Spanish and French are so similar but Czech, it just started from the bottom, but it was really nice to experience throughout the semester that you noticed more or comprehend more what the language exists from or the past and the future and all the little verbs and everything. Throughout the semester, it made a little bit more sense to me and in December I went to Budapest and I thought this language is so strange and then I came back in Prague and

everything seemed so familiar again and that was such a weird experience because I would never think Czech would feel familiar to me, but it did.

SP: Were there any memorable moments on the way? Like things that maybe helped you learn or things that maybe did not really help?

L: In the class or outside?

SP: Both.

L: I think in the classes, what's really helpful for me, are the games because then you have so many people you talk to, so many different people as well and you just have to speak it and everybody feels a little bit awkward but because you're on the same boat, it's all fine and then outside, outside of the Czech class, I always found it really hard to speak it because a lot of people when you try, they switch to English because they see you're struggling which is also very kind of them but also... I want to try.

SP: Did it make you want to learn more, or did it make you want to give up?

L: If I would have stayed longer in Prague, I definitely would've wanted to learn more but because I knew: "Ah, it's only one more month I'm not going to try anymore because they'll just switch to English, and I only have one month left so why would I try if they don't give me [-]". Because, you know, it's only such a short time and then at the end it just felt [-]. Now I know I'm not going to try it a lot more now because I only have one more week.

SP: When you said that if you were staying... So, if you were staying, would you continue learning?

L: Yes, definitely.

SP: In the formal setting in the course at university or some other?

L: If I would decide now to stay a half year longer, I would just continue in the formal class, but if I would decide up front that I would stay for longer than half a year, then I would do the courses and something else as well because then I already knew I'm going to stay all year round, I would really like to get to know the language and really have a conversation. Maybe somewhere to work or something where you would just meet more Czech people because with Erasmus, you only meet international people, so that doesn't really help, and I had Lisa of course. She was really nice, but she also sometimes gave me so many words that I needed to remember, and it was sometimes like: "Okay, I just don't know," and then I forgot.

SP: Would you recommend learning Czech? In what way did it affect your Erasmus experience, the Czech learning?

L: It really helped understanding the country as well. I think I already said that – the same way that I found out that the Czech or most of European languages don't have the articles. I always thought eastern European people, they speak so bad English but now I understand, it's not their speaking, they are just not used to using articles and that really helped you understand the people. So that would really help me in understanding Prague and understanding if people talked English to me and it would sound a little bit different than what I'm used to, I know where it comes from because it's hard to suddenly put words in the sentence where you're not used to put a word.

SP: What did you notice about people's reactions when you spoke Czech to them? You already said that many times they switched to English. Is there any other way you would describe how they reacted to your attempts?

L: Sometimes really surprised. It was really funny when I came back from Christmas break at home and then I was sitting in the bar and I was just saying *dobrý den* like I always do in Czech and then the girl started speaking Czech to me as well and then I went: "Sorry, you are speaking too fast and I'm not fluent," and she said: "Oh, but you really have Czech accent". You know, that was really nice. But it just sometimes feels... it's a language barrier because you cannot go any further than a certain point.

SP: Did you think that people were friendlier if you tried Czech?

L: Yes. Yes, I think you could definitely say that there's a difference in saying "hello" and difference in saying *dobry den*. That's such a small effort but you always see that people smile and go "hello". And if I say "hello", sometimes they're really annoyed because you're a tourist and they don't want tourists.

SP: How is it in the Netherlands, do people appreciate people trying to speak Dutch?

L: Yes, definitely. I always love it and then especially, I work in a bar and there are many tourists, but some people also try to learn Dutch and you see them struggling but I'm always trying to help them, try really slow talking... It's just really nice when people try to speak your language.

SP: Should everyone when they do Erasmus learn the local language?

L: I would say so. Yes, especially because at this level it isn't taking that much time, so it isn't that much of an effort to learn a little bit of the language and it's only two hours a week, or three, and a little bit of homework. So, you should do that.

SP: Now, what about your future language self? Are you thinking of continuing learning Czech or using it?

L: I'm not thinking of continuing Czech, but I am going to start Spanish courses when I am back in the Netherlands.

SP: Do you think the Czech language learning experience has any impact in the bigger picture?

L: Yes, because the way you teach is so much better than I've ever learned a language because all the other languages that I learned, they were so focused on the grammar and so focused on getting to know the rules and not the speaking. Well, that's the only thing you're going to do with the language and that's what I really appreciated in here and all the games and sometimes you're a little tired and you just want to sit down and listen but it's so nice to keep on talking and that it's twice a week really helps as well because once a week... I already know if I wasn't there for one lesson, it felt so far away again. So, yeah, I think playing games and making it fun to learn the language really helped me and I think in Spanish I'll use that maybe as well to learn with my other classmates. Maybe we can learn it like this.

SP: Is there anything else you'd like to tell me?

L: Not really. I think I've said everything already. I just really like your class. It really gave me a new perspective on how you can learn a language and what is important and what is not. Maybe it isn't as fast as normally because maybe if you had taught us another way, we would have known more words or more grammar, but this is so much more useful.

SP: Maybe one last thing. If you look at the motivation at the start you had. Did you feel more motivated or less motivated on the go? Is there any curve?

L: I don't know. I was still motivated but especially because you know your time in Prague is ending, so the time you're going to use Czech is ending as well. That's what stops you trying harder than you maybe did in the beginning, but it didn't stop me from being motivated to learn new stuff or something.

SP: Good, thank you.

7.7 Valerie

7.7.1 Valerie – rozhovor 1

(listopad 2019)

SP: Can you please say your name and age?

V: [...] and I am twenty-one.

SP: Thank you: What do you study?

V: Humanities.

SP: How far you are you in your studies?

V: I am in my last year of bachelor.

SP: What do you plan to do after?

V: I have no idea. That's the big question. It's quite frightening.

SP: What languages do you speak? What's your mother tongue and what else did you study?

V: My mother tongue is French, and I've been learning German since childhood but I'm really bad at German and then I learned English, which is okay and at university I started to learn ancient Greek and I really love it and I've learned some Norwegian on my own just for fun, but I'm not good. Because it was just informal.

SP: Do you think it helps you to learn more languages, the more you know?

V: Yeah, I think so. I understand many things like for example ancient Greek is really useful to understand French words or when you study history, you understand concepts better, I guess.

SP: Did you have any experience with Czech before you came here?

V: Yeah, I tried to learn a bit on Doulingo, the app, and it was not that successful.

SP: So, you heard the sounds and saw the spellings.

V: That was a good start, I guess.

SP: Why did you decide to learn Czech or take the course?

V: Because I think it's always interesting to learn a new language and to see how it works and especially Czech is a Slavic language, a language I know nothing about, so... I think it was interesting and funny. I like to learn new things.

SP: What do you think about the course in general? Like the pace, the material, the topics, just anything that comes to your mind.

V: I think it's really funny and playful, so I really like to learn it that way because all my language courses were really boring and focused on grammar and that was horrible. Like German, it was horrible, and I am not able to speak German because we never practiced.

SP: Do you use Czech outside class?

V: I try but sometimes it's hard because it goes fast in daily life.

SP: In what kind of situations have you practiced so far?

V: In the supermarket and restaurants. But it's not really successful, I have to try harder. But I really want to be able to say a few sentences and things like this because I think it's always nice when someone tries to speak your language if the person's foreigner.

SP: How important are the exams and the grades in the Czech course for you? Does it play a role in your motivation?

V: I don't know, I haven't thought about it. I think it's always important because in France marks are really important. Perhaps it's in my head, unconsciously, but yeah, I want to have a good mark because it would be... I want to be satisfied because it would mean that I've learned things and that I know.

SP: What would you say in general motivates you to learn more or maybe demotivates you when you learn?

V: Because I'm curious when I hear people speak, I want to understand what they say because I think it sounds nice and I don't know what they're saying, it makes me curious, and I want to understand.

SP: Do you have any goal about learning Czech this semester? Like what you want to reach by the end?

V: Not really.

SP: Do you have any language learning goals for the future?

V: Well, I'd like to learn so many languages and I have to choose because I cannot learn ten languages at the same time, this is not possible, but I'd really like to learn Hebrew or Arabic languages.

SP: Why?

V: I don't know. Because it sounds nice and I like the writing, the alphabet. It looks really different from what I know and Hebrew especially because it's a language that hasn't changed that much and historically, it's extremely interesting and it's full of symbols and things like this. I think it's a really rich language.

SP: Is there anything else you would like to comment on?

V: Not really. I like the course. It's good not to focus on grammar in a boring way, on every grammar point one after the other. I think it's nice to practise some situations and learn things by topics and themes.

SP: Thank you.

7.7.2 Valerie – rozhovor 2

(leden 2020)

SP: How would you describe your Czech learning adventure in a couple of sentences, what would you say?

V: It was challenging but also really funny. The courses were hard because we had a lot to learn, well... not that much but the language is so different that you have to really work on it but you made the class really interesting and it was always playful and funny and I really liked the games we played. It was really helpful and to learn with movement was really helpful for me.... it's amazing. Also, in the semester, I had another class, a history class, in which we walked around the city and talked about the buildings we went to. And it's amazing, I remember everything.

SP: Did you prepare at home? Did you study at home?

V: Yeah. I reviewed the course every time. Maybe the weekend, yeah. I didn't spend that much time on it.

SP: If you compare how you felt at the start and how are you feeling about it now?

V: I think it's quite similar because I've always been really enthusiastic and willing to learn.

SP: And are there any moments you remember throughout the journey?

V: Maybe there was one point where I felt less comfortable and I felt like I was stagnating and not learning anymore, and I was busy doing other stuff for school also. It was kind of... I needed a break maybe. But then it went...

SP: Throughout the course, did you feel more motivated or less motivated or maybe the same?

V: It really depends but after each class I felt really good and motivated but sometimes there were some days before going to the class I thought: "I'm not that motivated today, I'm tired I feel like I don't know anything," and then after the class, I was feeling really good or sometimes the course was intense and so it was really challenging and at the end I was feeling kind of overwhelmed but not in a bad way. I wasn't disheartened or anything, I was tired.

SP: Did you write about your feelings like being tired in the journal too?

V: I think I did.

SP: To what extent did success or failure in specific situations affect you in the semester, both in class and outside?

V: It affects me a lot because I'm French – the system is really like if you make a mistake it's terrible. It's the end of your life. So, every time I thought: "Okay, I'm not good enough," and I always have this. That's not good. Sometimes I was feeling that I could always do better but sometimes in a way it can be motivating because it pushes you to learn more but sometimes it's... yeah, you feel down. Especially in the course it was... Well, I knew that I just had to learn and review everything but in the situations like when I tried to speak Czech with some

people and then I failed, I felt... It was even more negative. Sometimes I tried but the people didn't have time to speak Czech with me and even though they knew I was trying, they switched to English because it was easier. Sometimes I kept trying and one day I went into a bar and I ordered in Czech and I had to ask something in English because I didn't know how to ask but then I kept talking in Czech and she did everything in Czech because she knew I was really trying. When this happened, I felt really proud.

SP: You're going home but if you were staying and you had the time, would you continue learning Czech?

V: Yeah, sure.

SP: Would it be in the university course setting or any other?

V: I don't know, maybe here.

SP: Would you continue the course maybe?

V: Yeah. Especially if it was with you because I know your method works and that's always a nice moment. I think we all agree.

SP: Thank you. Would you recommend learning Czech to other Erasmus students who are coming?

V: Sure. It's really helpful, I mean... If I were working in a country and foreigners were trying to talk my language, I would be really happy to see that they are trying to fit more.

SP: What was the response of the people to your trying, were they friendlier?

V: Yes, usually yes.

SP: What would you think if the course was mandatory for Erasmus students?

V: I don't know, because I think that I would have taken it anyway and I did. But I think that if you're not motivated to learn Czech, you should not be forced.

SP: Now, in the bigger picture, you are going home. Do you think learning Czech will have an impact on any aspect of your life in the future?

V: Maybe I will have some private talks with Mel. That may be useful. I don't know. I think it will be very hard especially in France because no one learns Czech.

SP: What about the bigger picture, do you think it might have any impact on any other aspects?

V: Yeah, probably. Maybe my mind is more flexible because I learned a really different language than what I am used to. So that is my general feeling about Erasmus like I am more flexible.

SP: With respect to language learning in general, do you have any goals for the future? Where do you see yourself? Any plans to learn languages?

V: I really would like to learn Hebrew. At least to start because I think it's really interesting and so complex. Extremely hard.

SP: Is there anything else you want to comment on? Maybe you wrote in your journal and want to add to, or something you did not write about and would like to share?

V: I don't know. The things I wrote in my journal were quite random and honest. I really don't remember what I wrote.

SP: Sure. Thank you.

7.8 Melanie

7.8.1 Melanie – rozhovor 1

(listopad 2019)

SP: What is your name?

M: [...]

SP: And how old are you?

M: I am twenty.

SP: And what do you study?

M: Humanities, it's about history, literature and philosophy.

SP: What year are you in? How much more time do you need to finish your degree?

M: One year to finish the bachelor, so it's the last year of the bachelor and then I will see.

SP: What are you thinking of doing afterwards?

M: I don't know. I wanted to think about it here, but I don't have time to think about it.

Perhaps a master but I don't know. Too many choices.

SP: What is your language background?

M: I have two mother tongues, French and sign language, my both parents are deaf. I've learned German since I was a child and English for a few years and Czech for a few weeks.

SP: Did you have any experience with Czech before you came here?

M: Absolutely not. This is the first time.

SP: What do you think?

M: It's a beautiful language but complicated because it's not related to something I know. So, it's completely different. It's really a beautiful language.

SP: Why did you decide to learn Czech, to take the course?

M: Because it was an opportunity to learn it here and I think when I am in the country, it's always interesting to learn the language of the country but I don't know if I will use it after being here but for the time I am here, I think it's a good experience to try to learn some basic sentences.

SP: What do you think about the course?

M: I think it's really amazing because in France, the language courses are always so boring and that's horrible. Because they teach us in a way that is so strict... always grammar, the grammatical stuff. We don't learn the things that are immediately useful, and so it is not a pleasure to go there. I think that's really sad because language is not like that in reality. So, I find the course really amazing.

SP: Do you use Czech outside class as well?

M: I try but it doesn't work well. I always try to begin to speak Czech in shops or so and people immediately understand that I am a stranger, and they begin to speak English.

SP: What motivates you? How would you describe your motivation?

M: I think learning a language helps to understand the country, how the people are thinking and how the culture works, that motivates me a lot. And I have a really bad memory, so I always forgot everything that I have learned, so that's difficult. But I think when we are trying and repeating things, it will perhaps stay in my brain and it will be better in the future, perhaps.

SP: Do you have any future language learning goals?

M: Oh, I never thought about that. I don't know, but perhaps yes.

SP: Is there any language that you would like to learn?

M: I always would like to learn Arabic but it seems to be very complicated but perhaps one day.

SP: How important are exams and final grade in the Czech course?

M: It's important to validate the thing in the administration. That's why it is important but for me it's not the aim. It's part of it, because I am in school and I have to be graded for that but not the aim.

Thank you, that's it.

7.8.2 Melanie – rozhovor 2

(leden 2020)

SP: Can you now at the end of the course, can you summarize or describe your Czech learning experience?

M: It was a really wonderful experience, even if I know that I am not able to really have a big conversation in Czech, but to have this basic knowledge was really something that helps me to feel better in the country. I know that if I have a problem, I can try to speak with people who cannot always speak English. And it also creates connection between me and the country and so not on a concrete level, even if I don't use it always outside, I know that yes, this exists somewhere and that was really good. And at the end I was sometimes able to understand some words when other people were talking. That felt good.

SP: If you go back in your memory towards the beginning and you compare how you felt at the start and how you are feeling now, were there any moments that you remember?

M: At the beginning it was really difficult just to read and with the pronunciation and I was like: "Oh, I will never be able to say it correctly," but then we just talked together with everyone in the class and I really felt: "Okay, we can try together and there is no judgement," it's not a big problem if we make mistakes, it is about trying. So, I really feel more and more comfortable by just trying. I also remember the first time when we were able to write a couple of sentences when we began to learn verbs. That was so good. And also, at the end during the exam, the interview, I thought: "Wow, this is amazing."

SP: How about outside class? Did it motivate or demotivate you? Were there any moments that you remember outside class?

M: I often tried but it not so often worked. Sometimes people just see immediately that I am not Czech and speak English with me or they don't really understand what I was trying to say. Sometimes it works but not so often. But I revised Czech in the metro for the exams and so and people were: "Oh, you are learning Czech," and that created a conversation and I always tried to say: "Okay, how do say this in Czech," or so. That was really nice.

SP: If you were staying longer and had the time, would you continue learning Czech?

M: Yes, of course.

SP: Would you study it in the course at university or would you choose another way?

M: I think I would continue the class like this one but perhaps if I was staying the whole year, I would perhaps have made the tandem or something like that to have deeper practice and... but I thought for one semester it was not enough to create something because the experience is so short.

SP: Would you recommend to everybody, to all Erasmus students to take Czech when they come here?

M: I will definitely recommend it but not make it an obligation. Because I think when it's an obligation, people who don't want to do it will not feel good. Perhaps it will be with the time a good experience but at the beginning they will feel like: "I don't want to be here, I'm forced". I think it can create a bad relationship with the language at the beginning, but I will definitely recommend it.

SP: How does this whole experience affect your overall attitude to learning languages?

M: I think now I'm really... I see this whole process in a different way because in France languages are taught in a really different and I think bad way because we are so focused on writing but we never speak and I think that we as a nation... that there is a big problem in France with languages and here I really discovered that we can learn a language in different ways and that it's not a big problem to make mistakes and it's just about practicing and concretely not like being able to write big things but just communicate about basic things.

And we can play games and it is also a way to learn, so it changed completely my view about it.

SP: Do you think you'll continue learning or using Czech after you go home?

M: I hope I will read the Czech book a little bit to learn some words, but I don't know if I will really practice it because there will be no opportunities. So, perhaps not but I really would like to keep contact with this language just to remember some little things. But I don't know if I will continue going deeper in it.

SP: Can you think of any ways in which this experience could be helpful in the broader picture? Was it useful for the time you were here, or do you think it can have some impact on other areas?

M: I think it helped me to be more open because, I think, language is also deeply related to culture and how people relate to things, so it helped me understand it better. This will help me forever.

SP: I wanted to ask you whether at the start you had some goals and whether now you are satisfied with what you learned?

M: I had no specific expectations, I think. I just would like to have some basic knowledge to say: "Help me, I'm lost," or things like that but I didn't expect to learn about food or about specific field because I thought it would be a little bit like in France, a lot about grammar and so. So, it was a good surprise, but I can't say I'm happy because of my expectations because I did not have that many expectations. I just supposed that I would be able to read in Czech at least, with pronunciation but not more. I was really happy to learn about the time and week, to say the days and so but I didn't have expectations but sometimes I thought: "I'm really happy to know how to say that."

SP: I think I asked all the question I wanted to ask. Is there anything else you would like to comment on?

M: I think it was really interesting for us as a class to see that language is something interesting as a project to study also because you are so involved in that with the diaries, and you are aware of how we feel with the languages. I think it was a really good thing for us to see that someone... It really helps us to think about: "How is my relationship with that language now and why am I learning it? Is it just for credit point or for something else?" I think it was really good to have this back up with the diaries.

SP: Thank you.

7.9 Johannes

7.9.1 Johannes – rozhovor 1

(listopad 2019)

SP: Can say your name and age first please.

J: My name is [...] and I'm twenty-three.

SP: Where are you from?

J: From Augsburg, Germany.

SP: And what do you study?

J: I'm studying history in Prague but normally I'm studying European Studies.

SP: What do you want to do after you get your degree?

J: I want to be a journalist, yeah, working for a newspaper.

SP: What is your language background? What is your mother tongue and what other languages do you have experience with?

J: My mother tongue is German, and I have experience with English and with French a bit.

SP: Did you learn at school?

J: No, I learned the last year at university but I'm not so well. And Latin, I had Latin for five years in school, yes. And now a bit of Czech.

SP: Did you have any experience with Czech before you came here?

J: No.

SP: Why did you decide to learn it?

J: I think when you go in another country for a longer time, for a few months then you should also try to assimilate and learn a bit of the language. Yes, language is a part of culture and I want to learn something about the Czech culture. It was kind of normal for me to do that.

SP: What do you think about the language now, after a month?

J: I expected that it will be hard so there's no surprise that it's hard. But yeah... It's not a big surprise for me.

SP: Do you find it hard?

J: Yeah, but I think the pronunciation for Germans is a bit easier than for example French because I'm from Bavaria, we also have harder speaking, maybe a bit, and most of the letters or sounds are similar to German.

SP: What do you think about the course?

J: I like the course because we learn it in different ways. You make some games with us and that's good to mix it a bit, not to make the same all the time.

SP: You appreciate the variety?

J: Yes. Normally I don't like group works but in the language course, it's normal.

SP: Do you use Czech outside class?

J: Yes, I ordered. Last week I ordered in a restaurant and they understood me, so not so bad. They said that was good pronunciation. I said we want to pay separately. In the supermarket, I say *dobrý den* and *na shledanou*. Sometimes, they don't recognize that I am not a Czech. So that's success.

SP: How important are the exams and the final mark for you? Does your university validate the credits?

J: Yes, they validate it but I'm not sure yet if it's... if this... I take it for a separate part of my studies and there I also did the French course, so I'm not sure yet if I still need it but I will do it. I think I will need it.

SP: So, the mark is important?

J: Yeah.

SP: Alright. Do you have any language goals for the future?

J: In Czech?

SP: Not only in Czech.

J: I want to get better in English because when I started here, I was really really bad and now it's a bit better and I want to improve it. Maybe to improve my French skills because I started it and I have the basics.

SP: And there are a lot of French speakers.

J: Yeah, I tried to speak with them but that's not really possible for me.

SP: Do you mean you are not good enough or they aren't friendly?

J: They are very friendly, but I am not good enough. I can speak a bit but not make a real conversation.

SP: Is there anything you would like to share with me about the learning about the journaling, about the country, the language, anything?

J: I recognize that some Czechs are... you are really nice, but some Czechs are not so nice. But I know that from my home city, so for me it's not so special but all the...

SP: What do you mean?

J: They are a bit reserved and a bit closed.

SP: The people in Augsburg are...?

J: Yeah, they are the same, so for me it's not so special.

SP: I thought Germans were super friendly when I went to Germany.

J: Okay, maybe they are a little more friendly. But compared to the people from South America, for them it's a bit more different.

SP: That's a good point. Maybe after some time you find out that we're just different. It takes a longer time to let people get close to us. So, we're not friendly, but when...

J: I wouldn't say that they are not friendly, I would just say they are a bit reserved and if you know them better, they get open.

SP: That's a good point. I am glad you are making it.

J: But otherwise, I don't know.

SP: Okay. Thank you very much.

7.9.2 Johannes – rozhovor 2

(leden 2020)

SP: Can you just repeat your name?

J: [...]

SP: Thank you. So, how would you describe your experience learning Czech this semester? Can you say a couple of words about it?

J: At the beginning it was very difficult. But after a few classes I got in, I would say, and it made fun and when I could use it in a restaurant or in a supermarket, that was a good feeling.

SP: What do you mean by difficult? What was difficult, can you be specific?

J: Difficult is that the words are completely different from other languages I knew before. The pronunciation is, I think, okay for a German person but the words are completely different.

SP: What factors helped you? You said that the class, can you be more specific, or using it outside class?

J: Do you mean other motivating factors?

SP: Well, maybe. Do I understand right that these two were important? The helpful factors for you?

J: Yeah.

SP: Was there anything else? Or anything specific about the class or using it outside?

J: Hmm... Maybe to try to understand other people when they were talking but just a few words, to understand a few words and like if I'm in the metro, and at the beginning I didn't know any or couldn't translate any words at any station, but after a few classes we could translate some stations or what the person is saying.

SP: Do you understand now? Something?

J: Yeah, some things but with the doors that we go out and in – I just knew it because you said it in class.

SP: Okay, but still I was thinking, sometimes students say that, you know, at the end of the semester when they hear people talking, they can understand some words.

J: Yeah, some words.

SP: They find it exciting...

J: I wouldn't say I could understand the whole conversation but a few words yeah.

SP: Sure, after three months of learning... What were your expectations by the way? When you look at the beginning and where you are now – is that what you expected?

J: I would say yes. At the beginning, I think I was realistic. I knew that we couldn't make a conversation with a stranger but that we can deal with the situation in a restaurant or in the supermarket and that we can maybe ask for directions. So, I would say it's similar. Similar to the level where I am now.

SP: Are you satisfied?

J: Yes.

SP: To what extent or what role does your success play, in class or outside class? Did it help you? Or were there situations where maybe you failed in some aspect? Are there any moments you remember?

J: Yeah, I was very happy when I ordered the first time in Czech and the waiter said: "That was very good," but I also remember a few times when I started a conversation or was asking in Czech and then when the other person replied and then I was overwhelmed and couldn't answer again but I think it was a good experience because most of the time, the people were happy that I tried it and that I know a few words.

SP: So, you felt a positive response?

J: Yeah. I could remember when my mother was here. I could remember an older man in a church and I tried to ask if we can go upstairs and he knew or he realized that I'm not a Czech person and he was trying to teach me and he was very happy about it. So that was a very good situation.

SP: If you were staying for another semester would you continue learning Czech?

J: Yes, I would continue.

SP: Here in the course or in another way? Just hypothetically.

J: I would continue this course.

SP: What do you think, would it be a good idea if learning Czech was mandatory? If Erasmus students had to study Czech?

J: Yes, I think it would be a good idea.

SP: Why?

J: For me, I couldn't understand why some people, or some other students don't try to learn a bit of Czech because when you go to a to a country you should try to learn a bit about the culture and language is maybe the most important thing of a culture. So, I think it should be mandatory.

SP: Would you recommend it to people coming here?

J: Yeah.

SP: In what aspects did it enhance your experience?

J: I think it has something to do with respect for the country you come to. That you try to learn a bit about the culture and a bit from the language and it also makes sense if you speak... sometimes you speak with Czech people and they only speak Czech and if you know a few words, you're not completely lost, and I think that's a good chance for all the Erasmus students who come here.

SP: If we look at this whole experience from a broader perspective, do you think you're going to use Czech or learn Czech back home?

J: I'm realistic. I think I won't use it in the next years. It's a bit sad. I already looked if I could continue at my home university, but they don't provide it.

SP: You were thinking about it? I'm always surprised when students go home, and they think of continuing.

J: Yeah, because when I start a language, I want to continue otherwise after a few months it's like me and French, I also lost my French skills. So that's sad because I would really like to continue because I think it's special to have Czech skills because that's not the first language you learn in Germany. So, I would like to if it was possible but realistically, I won't continue.

SP: Do you think that it can affect you in any way that you've studied here Czech for three months? Has it, maybe, affected your overall attitudes to learning languages or do you think it could be useful for anything even if you don't continue learning the specific language?

J: Maybe it could be useful in the future because I want to become a journalist and you never know where you have to go then and maybe it would be useful. Otherwise, I think, for the

next years when I'm back in Germany, it won't be useful, but you never know. If I meet by coincidence a Czech person in my hometown or in Germany, that could be then. It's also a good thing to know some words.

SP: And my last question, where do you see yourself language-wise in the future? Do you have any language learning plans?

J: I would like to continue French because I started it the last year or over the last year and I made two classes and I met many French students here and I couldn't speak with them in French and that was sad because I made it for one year. So, I would like to continue French.

SP: It's a good plan. Is there anything else you would like to share, you'd like to comment on, point out or explain?

J: What I really liked the about the class or the course is that we made so many different approaches to learn the language and we made different games and walked around, and I really like that because it's not always the same. Especially with the numbers and we made it with the fly swatters, that was good to get it in your mind.

SP: Great, thank you very much.

7.10 Helena

7.10.1 Helena – rozhovor 1

(listopad 2019)

SP: Can you please say your name and age?

H: [...] and I am twenty-one.

SP: What do you study?

H: I study in a liberal arts program with my focus on cultural studies and sustainability studies.

SP: What year are you in?

H: It's my third year now.

SP: What do you want to do after?

H: I don't know.

SP: What is your language background?

H: My mother tongue is German, and I learned English since I was in the third grade and I learned French for seven years I think, in school.

SP: Did you have any experience with Czech before you came here?

H: Not at all.

SP: Why did you decide to learn Czech?

H: I thought it would be nice when I live here, to understand the language, to speak a bit.

SP: How do you find the course?

H: I really like it. I think it's nice that I know all the people in the course because they are from our program. So, I like the atmosphere and I really feel comfortable there. I think I like that we learn practical things that we can use. Sometimes it's a lot of new things at once but when I repeat them, it's okay. So, it helps me to repeat them very often.

SP: What do you think about Czech as a language now after a month?

H: It's complicated but...

SP: What do you find the hardest?

H: I think the pronunciation is really hard for me.

SP: Do you use Czech outside class?

H: Only to say hello and goodbye.

SP: How would you describe your motivation to learn the language?

H: I think I'm really motivated. I have fun in the class. I really like also remembering the words outside class. I think it's different from when I learned French at school, I really hated it sometimes. Now I like the language but in [-] it was not very nice, and I think now I am more motivated to learn.

SP: How important are the exams and final grade for you?

H: So, I get the grades on my transcript, so they should not be too bad, but I think it's more important for me to learn the language than the grades.

SP: Do you have any language learning goals for the future?

H: Maybe improve the Czech now, when I just started it.

SP: Would it be useful for you? Where are you from exactly?

H: Close to Hamburg, so it's pretty far. It's not really practical. Maybe, I'll come back.

SP: Is there anything else you would like to comment on?

H: I take part in the tandem course. It was really nice until now. We met twice, I think. Adela, my partner, is really nice. It's fun.

SP: Thank you.

7.10.2 Helena – rozhovor 2

(leden 2020)

SP: If you think about the learning journey from the beginning to the end and you look back how would you describe it in a couple of sentences?

H: I think it's a long time ago that I started learning a language so it was exciting and I really liked the ending when I saw that I can build sentences on my own, not just putting the things I learned by heart together to build a sentence but to really speak a bit on my own at least.

SP: Were there any memorable moments on the journey, like success or failure in or outside class?

H: I think after we learned a lot of verbs, I could understand more of the things I read outside the class and I think that it was also important to build sentences.

SP: Do you think you were successful in using Czech outside class?

H: A bit. Sometimes it's a bit sad because when I try to order in Czech and often when the people realize that I'm not a native speaker, they switch to English. So not much. But last week we went to the supermarket and I was really happy that I understood at least the number she told me because I didn't look on the screen. That made me happy. At least after Christmas when I went back to Germany for two weeks and I thought that I forgot a lot of things.

SP: When you think about how you're feeling now, what are some of the emotions that come relating to the learning, the language, the country?

H: I really liked it and I think also that the Czech class was one of my favorites also because of the people and it was always fun, most of the time.

SP: Are you happy with what you learned?

H: I think it was fine. I'm just a bit sad now. Now that I'm at the level where to get better, I end, and I think that I won't continue.

SP: If you were staying would you continue learning?

H: Yes.

SP: Would it be in the formal school environment or any other?

H: I think here, I like the class.

SP: Do you plan to continue learning Czech?

H: I don't think so. I really looked up the courses but, in my home, in the town where I studied, it's really small, they don't offer Czech.

SP: Do you have any other language learning goals for the future?

H: Not at the moment. I learned French at school and I thought about continuing learning it because things are going away.

SP: How does having learned Czech fit the big picture? Will it have any impact?

H: I really liked learning a new language and last week I was in Poland and there I could understand some of the things on the signs so that made me happy. I mean I couldn't speak to them, but I understood some of the things.

SP: In general, would you recommend to Erasmus students to learn the local language?

H: Yes. I think it's just a good feeling when you are somewhere to engage with the culture more and to be able to help yourself a bit. At least saying that I don't speak Czech in Czech and ask for easy things.

SP: In what way did your Czech enhance your Erasmus experience?

H: I think it made me feel a bit more comfortable because often when you're on holiday in another country, I at least feel totally strange there and I think it made me feel a bit more home.

SP: You did the tandem, did that also enhance your Erasmus experience?

H: Maybe a bit, I don't know. But it was nice to know a person from Czech because normally I'm only around with the Erasmus students. We only met for these sessions, but it was good.

SP: How about writing the journal? What do you think? Did you find it interesting or was it something you didn't really want to do?

H: It was okay. I think sometimes I wasn't sure what to write and I think I repeated things sometimes but yeah...

SP: Is there anything else you would like to comment on or share with me?

H: I don't think so. I don't know.

SP: Thank you.

8 Počet studentů v kvantitativní části dle země původu

Francie	14
Německo	7
Itálie	4
Španělsko	3
Austrálie	2
Brazílie	2
Čína	2
Litva	2
Nizozemsko	2
Švédsko	2
Velká Británie	2
Belgie	1
Irsko	1
Island	1
Portugalsko	1
Slovinsko	1
Taiwan	1

9 Dotazník pro kvantitativní část

Czech Learner Survey

This survey is a part of research on the motivation to study Czech during Erasmus stay at the Charles University. It is anonymous, so be honest please. Read the following statements and write how much you agree or disagree with them. Please, do not leave out any items.

strongly disagree	disagree	not sure	agree	strongly agree	
1	2	3	4	5	
1. I like learning new languages.	1	2	3	4	5
2. My university requires me to take a Czech language course.	1	2	3	4	5
3. I would have signed up for the course if it was optional only.	1	2	3	4	5
4. My university validates the Czech language course credits.	1	2	3	4	5
5. Learning the local language is important when you study abroad.	1	2	3	4	5
6. At the start, I was excited to start learning Czech.	1	2	3	4	5
7. I am learning Czech in order to understand Czech culture better.	1	2	3	4	5
8. I study hard because I am afraid of getting a bad mark.	1	2	3	4	5
9. At the beginning I thought learning Czech was important.	1	2	3	4	5
10. I felt uneasy at the start of the course.	1	2	3	4	5
11. Learning languages is a burden for me.	1	2	3	4	5
12. Learning Czech is important for living in the Czech Republic.	1	2	3	4	5
13. I like the atmosphere of my Czech classes.	1	2	3	4	5
14. I use Czech outside class.	1	2	3	4	5
15. I am good at learning languages.	1	2	3	4	5
16. I enjoy learning Czech.	1	2	3	4	5
17. The course meets the needs of the students.	1	2	3	4	5
18. I like the teaching method used in the Czech course.	1	2	3	4	5
19. I find Czech a hard language.	1	2	3	4	5
20. I often feel overwhelmed in class.	1	2	3	4	5
21. At the start of the course, I was afraid.	1	2	3	4	5
22. My final grade in the Czech course is important to me.	1	2	3	4	5
23. I look forward to my Czech classes.	1	2	3	4	5
24. I would like to be able to communicate with locals in Czech.	1	2	3	4	5
25. Having learnt Czech may be useful for me in the future.	1	2	3	4	5
26. I am glad that I have taken the course.	1	2	3	4	5
27. I like my Czech teacher.	1	2	3	4	5
28. I think that the Czech for beginners course should be mandatory.	1	2	3	4	5
29. Learning Czech enhanced my study abroad experience.	1	2	3	4	5
30. I plan to continue learning Czech after I leave the Czech Republic.	1	2	3	4	5

.....
 Please provide the following information:

Gender: male female

Erasmus student: yes no

Nationality: _____

Mother tongue _____

Age _____

Major: _____

Czech is the 1st 2nd 3rd 4th 5th or further foreign language I have taken up (please circle).

Did you have any contact with Czech prior to your arrival? No. Yes. Specify:

Thank you very much, your help is highly appreciated!