

Interviewee: MT

Interviewer: Hubert

Languages: English (Native), Mandarin (Professional Speak+Listen, Intermediate Read+Write), French and Japanese (No significant fluency)

Mainly uses English in day-to-day life, Mandarin when interacting with parents/certain settings

Mandarin:

- Has Experience speaking at home (not much reading/writing), Saturday school lessons in elementary and middle school (all modalities), advanced Chinese course in college (all modalities).
- Motivation was consuming media and interacting with more Chinese content on-line without using google translate that much.
- Other Resources:
- Also sometimes looked at Chinese media (tv shows), Pleco (Chinese dictionary apps), Quizlet
- Challenges: Memorization of vocab, speaking naturally. Non-consistency (after advanced course, stopped learning due to time commitment and lost some ability)
- Reflection: Feels other methods like Anki flashcards can be useful for memorization. Wants more advanced apps after taking advanced college course since language apps may be too basic

Japanese:

- Self learning (on and off), super basic vocab level. Also took college course
- Challenges: Course was fast paced and hard to absorb info. Forgot a lot of info afterwards, not enough time
- Motivation: Read and understand media without using google translate
- Resources used: Textbook for college course. Videos on social media/YouTube
- Reflection: Didn't reach language goals. Want to use more resources like tutoring/flashcards.

French:

- Motivation: Requirement for middle school. Thought french was most interesting.
- Challenges: Class wasn't very challenging. Too easy and not effective.
- Stopped learning after 10th grade.
- Resources: Middle/High School courses, teachers, textbooks.
- Reflection: Don't plan on relearning unless for travel

Notes: France was easier to learn due to similarity to English. Japanese and Chinese had some relations that helped one another in reading, but pronunciation is different

Preferred Resources: Native speakers to help sound more natural, ways to be more immersed in language like living in China. App to allow for quick translation of words in the text. Also have a dictionary that includes 'slang' terms/verification, with community engagement.

Challenges: Not many opportunities to practice with friends. Older people who do speak Chinese more often may be different from younger people.

Feels with appropriate tools, would be more motivated to learn.

Interviewee: CB

Interviewer: Hubert

24 y.o. Native English Speaker. Some proficiency in French (moderate read/write, proficient speaking) + Farsi (moderate speaking/listening, basic reading, can't write). Previously I spoke Spanish with moderate fluency but forgot it after high school.

French:

- Motivation: Thought it would be interesting and 'cool' and was a major in college + studied abroad
- Used Duolingo (~30 min/day) for vocab
- iTalki: App for signing up for language lessons with others (x1/week, dropped after a few months). Useful for conversation since people can help correct you
- Studying Abroad: Helpful, but also weird when talking to native speakers (felt like they didn't like him speaking France as non-native speaker)
- Reflection: Want to be more consistent and focus on learning just one language. Feels his strategy was working and maybe just wants more people to talk to.

Farsi:

- Motivation: Mom's side of the family spoke Farsi. Want to speak to friends in persian community.
- Challenges in reading, writing, expanding vocabulary
- Resources: Farsi Textbook for vocab, Joined Farsi Club for native speakers.
- Reflection: More consistent time talking with native speakers. Want to focus more on reading/writing too. Put more effort in using iTalki (Duolingo does not have Farsi)

Spanish:

- Motivation: High school requirement.
- Noted to be easier since it's close to English.
- Resources: iTalki, self-studying, classes, speaking with other classmates in and out of the course, forcing each other to speak Spanish.
- Reflection: Be more committed. Challenge was finding time to practice

Overall:

- Most useful is having someone/group to practice with and speak to. Felt iTalki, Duolingo, and textbooks were also good.
- Courses having standardized organization is a positive for review.
- Different resources improved different areas.
- Duolingo was 'fun' but not impressed with structure

Ideal App: App that has all the features: textbook curriculum, practice with others, teachers/experienced speakers for additional help. Would be motivated if such an app existed to learn more. Also would like a method to connect with nearby speakers/prospective learners.

Interviewee: OB

Interviewer: Hubert

Native English Speaker

Spanish in High School. College, Med School (Not fluent, but can speak some phrases/words)

Farsi (Small amount, "Toddler Level")

Spanish:

- Can speak certain phrases/listening
- Motivation: Language requirement in high school and college major requirements. Currently, also believes it is useful as medical student from California (lots of hispanic patients).
- Challenges: Lacking practice opportunities, grammar/verb tenses, may be difficult listening to experienced speakers whos peak quickly
- Resources: Spanish club in Medical School (x1/month to practice phrases/medical terms). Not too demanding for time and seems fun to practice with others. Also considering taking a medical Spanish elective.
- Ideal Resources: Person to practice with consistently.
- Notes: Did not use duolingo or media but feels like they may help

Farsi:

- 11-12: Some experience in reading/writing but not anymore. Can't speak well but can listen through context.
- Motivation: Family, but English was still predominantly spoken in the house. Today, feels some 'shame' in losing part of culture/heritage
- Notes: Did take some lessons at 11-12 years old, but has since stopped and have not practice since.
- Challenges: Different from English, wasn't motivated, lack of practice. Currently not learning due to lack of time.
- Resources: Tutor and workbooks at 11-12 years old
- Ideal Resources: Immediate Resources that are convenient and can be quick to get started. Cites things like Duolingo or Rosetta stone (not used, but interested)
- Notes: Regarding culture, even then she believes something like food gives her more connection than language, since it's not used as much

Overall: Motivation in listening/speaking due to being a medical student and for patients.

Doesn't see much need to read/write, but feels it would be simple to learn after some experience.

Ideal is having resources to practice and learn through that practice, and also ensure consistency.