

## Exercises

1. The trend in academia has gone from viewing bilingualism as a disadvantage to learning and linguistic ability to viewing it as an advantage in cognitive development (see the websites listed in the links in the online material for this chapter for some background information on this with a focus on bilingualism and cognition.) But what about social advantages and disadvantages? Talk to someone who grew up with two languages and see what they have to say about whether they consider it an advantage or a disadvantage. Here is a preliminary list of questions you might want to ask:
  - Are you glad to be multilingual?
  - Do you continue to use all/both of the languages you know? Describe how and when you use them. Are they used in separate domains or do you use multilingual discourse?
  - Have you ever been ashamed of speaking more than one language, or of being a speaker of a particular language?
  - Do you have different emotional attachments to your different languages?
  - Are there situations when it is very good to be multilingual, and others where it is less good? What are these situations, and what influences how you feel about your language background?
  - If you had children, would you raise them multilingually? Why or why not?
2. Look at the transcript below for a conversation between two young speakers in Berlin, Germany. First read the background information about these speakers, and then, if you would like to hear the conversation, go to the website and click on the link to play the sound file and follow along as you listen. Write a short analysis of the language use by the speakers, using one of the approaches outlined in the chapter.

### Sarah and Hans: New Glasses

Sarah and Hans are a heterosexual couple in their early to mid-twenties. They have been together for about two years; they are currently living together temporarily while Sarah looks for a new apartment. Sarah has a German mother but grew up in the United States; she spoke some German growing up but her dominant language is English. She has lived in Germany for about three years. Hans has always lived in Germany and German is his dominant language; he speaks English as a foreign language, having learned it in school. Up until recently, Sarah and Hans almost always spoke German together, but at the time of this recording, Hans was going to be leaving soon for a semester as an exchange student in the United States, and Sarah had been speaking English to him because, as she told the researcher who collected these data, she felt he needed to work on his English.

This segment of the conversation is about halfway through an hour-long recording, during which they have been preparing their evening meal, chatting, and eating.

German words are in **bold**, English in plain font.

- 1 S: Oh, you know what I had, what I did, I got my eyes checked –
- 2 H: Oh, where?
- 3 S: – and my eyes are worse, now, in the last few years, they've gotten worse, especially the right eye. So my right eye has gotten much worse. And um, I need a new, new **Gläser**. Right?  
'lenses'
- 4 H: M-hmm.
- 5 S: And it's the same man that I know from 1990, 1989.
- 6 H: **Wo warst Du, Du warst bei der** –  
'Where were you, you were at the –'
- 7 S: **Brillenwerkstatt, wo ich meine Brille, wo ich die habe, eigentlich. And um, ja, er sagte, ja, das kostet 300 Mark mit Krankenversicherung. Und ich muss 300 Mark bezahlen.**  
'The Brillenwerkstatt [name of the optician], where I [got] my glasses, where I got these, actually. And um, yeah, he said, yeah, that costs 300 marks with health insurance. And I have to pay 300 marks.'
- 8 H: **Was kostet mit Krankenversicherung 300 Mark.**  
'What costs 300 marks?'
- 9 S: **Die neue Gläser für diese Brille.**  
'The new lenses for my glasses.'
- 10 H: **Echt? Hat er gesagt?**  
'Really? He said that?'
- 11 S: **Ja ja, wir haben alles aufgerechnet. Alle, ich war da mindestens anderthalb Stunden, er hat alles geprüft, meine Augen, mit die alle verschiedenen Maschinen, die Stigmatismus, die ... alle Sachen.**  
'Yeah, yeah, we calculated it all. Everything, I was there at least one and a half hours, he checked everything, my eyes, with all the different machines, my stigmatism, the ... everything.'
- 12 H: **Du musst, du musst trotzdem zum Augenarzt gehen, oder? Weil er dass verschreiben muss, wenn Du was von der Krankenkasse haben willst?**  
'You have to, you have to go to the eye doctor anyway, don't you? So he can prescribe it, if you want to get something from the health insurance?'
- 13 S: **Um-umm.** {meaning no}
- 14 H: **Geht nicht Du lasst nur der Optiker machen.**  
'That can't be, that just the optician does it.'
- 15 S: **Doch. Das is so, auch so wie ich meine Brille gekriegt habe. Ist genau so.**  
'Yes it is. That's how, the way I got my glasses too. Just like that.'

- 16 H: **Du warst nicht beim Augenarzt.**  
'You didn't go to an eye doctor.'
- 17 S: **Nee, nie. Nie, Du musst nie da. Er prüft alles da, die haben alles da. Es ist ganz super, der Laden, echt. Ich war da schon ein Paar mal.**  
'No, never. You never have to go there. He checks everything, they have everything there. It's really great, the shop, really. I've been there a couple of times.'
- 18 H: **Brillenladen in Kreuzberg.**  
'Glasses shop in Kreuzberg [a nearby district of their city].'
- 19 S: **Ich kenne die auch. Ich kenne den Typ.**  
'I know them too. I knew this guy.'
- 20 H: **Ich werde irgendwie skeptisch, also.**  
'I'd be skeptical, though.'
- 21 S: No.
- 22 H: **Weil der Augenarzt der hat eine Medizinische Ausbildung.**  
'Because a doctor has medical training.'
- 23 S: **Ich war bei Augenarzt, ich kenne das auch, und die, die machen nichts anders. Die machen die selben Tests und so.**  
'I've been to an eye doctor, and I know that too, and they, they don't do anything different. They do the same tests and so on.'
- 24 H: Uh-huh.
- 25 S: **Aber das Problem ist, ich brauche 300 Mark nächsten Montag. Kannst Du mir das ausleihen?**  
'But the problem is, I need 300 Marks next Monday. Can you lend it to me?'
- 26 H: **Du kriegst eine neue Brille jetzt, oder was?**  
'You're getting a new pair of glasses, or what?'
- 27 S: **Ja.**
- 28 H: **Uh-huh.**
- 29 S: **Ich habe die bestellt.**  
'I ordered them.'
- 30 H: **Tatsächlich?**  
'Really?'
- 31 S: **Ja, Hans, meine Augen sind schlechter, was soll ich tun, ich renne blind durch die Gegend!**  
'Yeah, Hans, my eyes have gotten worse, what should I do, I'm running around blind!'
- 32 H: **Aber du siehst, du sagst du siehst immer so viel mit der Brille.**  
'But you see, you saw you see so much with those glasses.'
- 33 S: No, can you loan me 300 Marks. Do you have it?
- 34 H: **Natürlich, klar.**  
'Of course, certainly.'
- 35 S: Do you have that? I thought you had nothing in, on your **Konto.**  
'account'

- 36 H: **Ja, ich nehme das von meinem Sparkonto.**  
'Yeah, I'll take it from my savings account.'
- 37 S: **Geht das? Ist das kein Problem?**  
'Will that work? Is that a problem?'
- 38 H: **Kein Problem.**  
'No problem.'
- 39 S: Okay. That's what I wanna know. All your other comments are unnecessary.
- 40 H: Blah-blah-blah.
- 41 S: So anyway, it's a good thing to go, because I've been having headaches a lot lately. And I knew that there was something wrong so I went to my xxx
- 42 H: **Ja, Dein rechtes Auge sieht immer ein bisschen anders aus.**  
'Yeah, your right eye looks a little different.'
- 43 S: Shut up! It does not.
- 44 H: **Doch**  
'yes it does.'
- 45 S: **Nicht wie bei dir.**  
'Not like yours.'
- 46 H: **Hängt schon fast heraus.**  
'It's almost hanging out.'
- 47 S: No way. Shut up (laughs)
- 48 H: (laughs) **Irgendwie dachte ich der fehlt irgendwas an deinem Augen.**  
'Somehow I thought there was something wrong with your eye.'
- 49 S: **Arschloch!**  
'Asshole!'
- 50 H: **Na na na.**

3. Code-switching and borrowing are said to be different phenomena. Try to distinguish between the two, using examples from two languages you know. What criteria do the various scholars who have discussed this issue rely on most? What disagreements do you find? Is there possibly a continuum here, that is, no clear division between the two? You might begin your search for answers by consulting Myers-Scotton (2005, 253ff).

### Further Reading

Mahootian, Shahrzad (2006). Code Switching and Mixing. *Encyclopedia of Language and Linguistics*, 511–27. In Keith Brown (ed.), *Encyclopedia of Language and Linguistics*, vol. 2. 2nd edn. Elsevier: Oxford, 511–27.

An overview of research on code-switching, incorporating different models and approaches to the study of social and structural aspects of the use of multiples codes.