



Slamet Setiawan
Editor

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on LINGUISTICS

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Volume 1

Editor:
SLAMET SETIAWAN



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FOREWORD

Alhamdulillah; thank God! Finally, the dreamed book is completed and published. It has been for ages to think how to make students' final assignments worth reading. One of ways is make them edited and published. This is the first book which is planned to be serial book under the same title "Anthology on Linguistics". The only different from each book is the "Volume" label. This first book, then, is Volume 1.

Writing final assignment requires sacrifice form both students and supervisors: time, energy, and more importantly psychological aspects. This book, therefore, is a collection of final assignments which have been accomplished by students and their supervisors as "reward" for they have done and achieved. This is like pain relieve from their suffering.

Language is like air. It is everywhere. It is 'tangible' in a very broad sense. Those who have linguistic sensitivity encounter hundreds or even thousands linguistic phenomena around them. These phenomena can be inspirations for them to investigate. This book is the reflection of linguistic, social, and cultural mosaics in which we live by.

This book is expected to be beneficial for all students, teachers/lecturers, researchers, and practitioners whose passion is in language.

Surabaya, October 1st, 2019

Slamet Setiawan

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DECIDING SELF-IDENTITY FOR POLYGLOT: A QUALITATIVE CASE STUDY OF AN IMMIGRANT MAN

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Abstract— Immigration has been happening since then and now. Those who move from their country to another one regardless of their reasons are called immigrants. Hence, an adaption skill is required, so is learning new language that might lead someone to be either a bilingual or a polyglot. This ability influences the language proficiency of each language someone could. Other than causing someone to be bi-/multi-lingual, language reflects someone's identity as well. This fact makes it not easy for those who could speak more than one language to consider his or her identity. In order to identify this phenomenon, this study involves an immigrant man who has based in Denmark for years and has been a polyglot since he was a child as the subject. The data was based on informant's report collected through virtual interview; both via text and voice call. The result shows that the informant could master five languages with one of it is in lower level of fluency. These five languages did not make him change his identity according to his mother tongue and where he was from. The facts that Danes treat him differently made him keep the distance from society since Danes never recognize him as Danes. In conclusion, how someone is fluent in using a language depends on how much practice he got, particularly the native speaker. Furthermore, someone's identity, particularly an immigrant, is affected by not only himself but also the surroundings. This could be revealed through the language that represents him the most.

Keywords—*identity, polyglot, language proficiency, immigrant*

1. INTRODUCTION

Globalization has made changes; one of them is moving and living in a new foreign country namely immigration. This moving is

easy to do and has reasons to motivate it. Many countries welcome newcomers kindly makes people become more interested to move and to be immigrants. Some reasons behind people doing so are including economic changes, wars or violence, and environmental disasters. These reasons create crises in their origin countries in which eventually cause mass migrations (Gould & Eldredge, 1997). As a result, almost all countries are inhabited by numbers of non-indigenous people and have a multicultural society. It has happened as well to one of the European Union members, Denmark.

The Kingdom of Denmark has got an experience of immigration from non-Western countries since 1960s. In 1973 when the suspension immigration occurred in which there were increasing of oil price and of fear of unemployment, immigration from non-Western countries came from Turkey, Pakistan and Yugoslavia. They left their country to be guest workers in Danish industrial sector. In 1980s, a bigger number of refugees came to Denmark with a higher intention to get Danish nationality than the foreign nationals who were already there before them. After the mid-1990s, naturalizations increased in which most of it was from Turkey, Iraq, Iran, Lebanon, and Somalia. In 2008, those five countries along with former Yugoslavia, Pakistan, Vietnam, Afghanistan, and Sri Lanka were the ten leading countries of origins (Danmarks Statistik 2008). In the same year, the non-Western immigrant populations mostly were Turks, people from the former Yugoslavia, Iraqis, Lebanese and Pakistanis. In this situation, knowing a new culture was a must and mixing it with the old one was an alternative way to survive.

Living in a second culture could feel like a roller coaster. It is challenging and amazing at the same time. These feelings are surely experienced by an immigrant. Living in a foreign country requires adaptation skills because becoming an immigrant means learning and understanding a new language, new behavior, new rules, and other things that matter and run in that country. However, the most important thing to do in order to survive is learning the language. It is a must because language is the prime device used to communicate with people. For example, an Iraqi moving to Denmark makes him start to learn Danish. As a result, this immigrant could speak both of his first language and the language used in that country (being bilingual); or even more than those two languages (being multilingual or polyglot).

Having the ability to use two or more languages is power. It does help people to conduct intercultural communication. It is such a must for those who live in an area enriched by people with different culture because one person with another speaks a different language. However, as a person masters more than two languages, each of them surely has a different level in fluency. It does not matter in what level a language he masters as long as the interlocutors are able to understand. Because mutual intelligibility between speakers matters more to make the conversation go well (Kemp, 2009: 20). Besides that, language reflects the identity of each individual. What language used by a person shows which community he belongs to. Instead of related or separated from its action, an individual's identity 'exists through routinized action that includes the material (and physical) conditions as well as the social actors' experience in using their bodies while moving through a familiar space' (Duranti, 1997: 45). It is built up steadily on a micro-level in which the identity is claimed, disputed and re-constructed in interaction with other participants (Norris, 2007: 657).

As an immigrant, identity matters more than an indigenous person. How he defines himself as part of society without leaving his heritage identity could be seen by his language. It reflects who he really is. A study conducted in 2018 by Anita Lie, Juliana Wijaya, and Esther Kuntjara focused on the second-immigrants in California towards their language use and cultural identity. These children are Indonesian-Americans, they were born and raised in America from Indonesian parents. This circumstance gives different impact for the children as the language used there would automatically be their first language, regardless of the fact whether the parents would maintain the heritage language or not. However, heritage identity or cultural identity could not be separated from these children in which it influences how they see themselves. These children know that they are American, but they also realise that Indonesian blood flows inside them. By doing ethnographic participant observation, in-depth interviews, and questionnaires, this study focuses more on how the children master the heritage language and how this mastery influences their consideration as Indonesian.

However, the study above did not explore more on how the children show their identity as Indonesian-American to American friends. They tend to hang with Indonesian-American children like

them in which made these children do not need much effort to socialize. As the impact, the data on how this kind of identity impacts in children's surroundings is not provided. Looking at this few lacks, the current study intends to explore the points mentioned before as it is also important to understand how multilingual immigrant face the situation. Besides that, the subject of both studies is different. The prior study observed children, while this study did to an adult man in which he faces more challenges in his environment.

Lidia Bilbatua and Elizabeth Ellis did a study in 2011 about the language shift and the suffering of a bilingual immigrant woman in Australia and how it affects her identity. She was born monolingual but raised bilingual due to government regulations. When she has already been an adult, she moved from Spain to Australia in which required her to learn English. She admitted that she needed 20 years to really mingle with her surroundings and to be proud of herself as bilingual. However, her hybrid identity gives an impact on how she behaves and talks. She realises that she now is more Australian than Spanish. The subject's experience in considering her identity is similar to the current study, but the subject's condition is not. If she was born with one mother tongue, the subject in the present study was born with two languages at once, then he grew up with another language. He also has been an immigrant since he was young. It does have an effect on how both subjects consider their own selves as a multilingual immigrant.

Another study written in 2009 by Andreea Cervatiuc is used as the last previous study. As the title mentioned, this study is about the experience of adult immigrants to Canada in shaping their cultural identity. They considered themselves as successful and proficient in English as the target language. It explains the role of human agency in good language learning and how they find ways to consider their own identity. By doing interviews, it was found out that the strategies used by these people at first were kept talking with the native speakers and did not mind their imperfect English. As long as the English native speaker could understand, then that was the only thing matter. Second, they tried to involve in social networks such as neighbours and parents in school in order to improve speaking. The last way was combining the elements of their first culture and the adoptive country to shape hybrid cultural identity.

Both the current and the prior studies use the first generation immigrant. Nevertheless, the difference between Cervatiuc's study with this study is the prior study learned English when the subjects moved to Canada, while the present study learned English as the subject was growing up. It obviously gives a different situation in which the subjects here becoming bilingual when they are an adult while the subject in the present study has been multilingual since he was a child.

As seen above, a polyglot person who lives in a foreign country with either multicultural or monoculture environment is attractive to be studied. Understanding the experiences this person has gone through deals with the language used to consider his own self-identity would be a rich finding. Internet, particularly social media, is chosen as the helping way since the informant is from abroad. As the detail, written interview via chatting application and oral interview via voice calls was taken.

Since the previous studies have not analysed more about an immigrant who is multilingual since being a child, this study is aimed to conduct a research about it. The writer also finds out that there are few studies which explores more about how this immigrant presents the inner identity to society and what are the effects. With this deficiency, the study intends to figure out: 1) How is the subject's proficiency in languages he uses? 2) How do subject's languages frame his identity? 3) What is the subject's strategy to show his inner identity to society? 4) What are the social consequences for polyglot in monolingual environment?

2. LITERATURE REVIEW

2.1 Polyglot and Language Proficiency

The term polyglot has been debated for so long with multilingual; which one is the suitable term for people who can speak many languages. It turns out that the difference between them is that polyglot derived from Greek while multilingual from Latin. However, they actually possess the same point which is able to use many languages, particularly more than two, in communication, both written and spoken. According to Kemp, a multilingual is a person who has the ability to use three or more languages. This ability could be separately or in different levels of code-mixing. In order to

describe this person, sometimes the term 'polyglot' is used (Kemp, 2009: 15). Therefore, it can be said that polyglot is the synonymous of multilingual; so both of them are acceptable term. Polyglot has been a world-wide phenomenon since one country may have more than one language to speak, many areas are multicultural with at least two languages inside, and numbers of schools offer at least three languages to learn. Due to this fact, polyglot or multilingualism is studied either as individual or as social phenomenon.

As there is more than one language, polyglot people are possible to have different level of each language they know. It is caused by each language may require the balance (of speaking, writing, listening and reading) in using it to other in order to be native like. However, Wardhaugh stated that a multilingual does not always mean 'an ambilingual (an individual with native competency in two or more languages)', but the person may capture the languages at different proficiency levels (Wardhaugh, 2002: 95). It is supported by Kemp who stated that recent definition of multilingualism does not employ an obligation to be proficient in native level (Kemp, 2009: 19). Because in fact, polyglots may have different repertoires in languages they used that might come from command of a few lexical items, conventional expressions such as greetings, and basic conversational skills all the way to finest command of the grammar and vocabulary and particular register and styles (Sridhar, 1996: 50). The proficiency of each language they master would be developed based on context why the language is used. It means that context is the consideration of language choice, particularly in a multilingual place. Hence, the subject of this study who is able to use five languages is counted as a polyglot. As stated by Kemp, this person is not required to be native like in every language he can.

Most people who eventually become a polyglot are those who move outside their country namely immigrant. The new culture and language urge them to learn language used there. In developing the mastery of languages, an immigrant's proficiency is influenced by number of factors. How family establishes bicultural and bi-/multi-lingual environment, how the socialization between the person and the peers is, and also how the community and the person communicate to each other give big impact on it (J. Zhang et al., 2018: 47). As Norton (2000: 3) assumed that 'the learner's attitudes towards

the target language community determine how motivated the second language learner is, and that levels of anxiety determine how much comprehensible input becomes cognitive intake.’ Another important matter that supports the proficiency is where and when this person becomes immigrant. To make it more specific, second generation immigrants are more competent in becoming fluent bilinguals. However, it does not make the first immigrant impossible to be fluent as well. As the subject is an immigrant as well, he gets more chances to be bi-/multilingual. His new surroundings and how the family communicate with him shape him to be able to speak more than one language.

As the use of languages relies on the surrounding, an immigrant will experience one, two or more circumstances. He would face a society that speaks another language than his first language. This condition requires him to learn new language in which may lead him to two types of ability (Hamers and Blanc, 1989).

1. Additive bilingualism is when a person acquires the second language and culture without anything or anyone forces him (or at least a little) to replace the first language. This condition even gives him positive cognitive outcome for being bilingual.

2. Subtractive bilingualism is the contrary to additive bilingualism. It may occur when a person acquires the second language and culture under pressure to reduce the first language in which eventually causes language loss of the mother tongue. The pressure may come from the alienation that the new society does. This condition gives the person negative cognitive outcome for being bilingual.

Thus, it is obvious that family and society lead to what type of polyglot will be. They also play role in how polyglot mastering languages in which eventually will have different level of proficiency. Where there is social gap between the person and the group, and not much practice in using the languages, as a result the person who learns the society’s languages is supposed not to become skilled speakers of the target language (Norton, 2000: 3). The key of the proficiency is bicultural socialization which means the environment is at the first place in influencing language proficiency. As the subject of this study became multilingual because of the society, it surely gave him impact on what type of bi-/multilingual he become. The theories above are suitable to categorize the condition of this subject.

Another thing that is important regarding proficiency of a polyglot is that how this person and his or her interlocutors understand each other. It does not matter in what level is languages that a polyglot has mastered. The way how a polyglot could do code-switching appropriately to interact with people in different languages is a necessity. As Kemp stated that mutual intelligibility between speakers matters more in order to conduct a successful conversation (Kemp, 2009: 19). Due to the study focuses on language proficiency, this theory gives a clue that native like does not as matter as mutual intelligibility.

2.2 Language and Identity

Identity is very important, both for individual and group. It is the way how people consider who they are, how they relate to others and the environment. What is in linguistic behaviour is explainable through the way how people try to negotiate, realize, or reject identity by the use of language. For that matter, ‘language is a profound indicator of identity, more potent by far than cultural artefacts such as dress, food choices, and table manners.’ (Wardhaugh, 2006: 6).

In a society, there must be one or two –even three or more– language used as communication. The interlocutor’s language, the time when the interaction happens and the aim of doing the interaction in this society are needed to think first before doing the conversation. As Wardhaugh (2006: 96) said, ‘Your language choices are part of the social identity you claim for yourself.’

As one of Bell’s criteria in discussing different kinds of language, the one that relates language to identity is called historicity (Bell, 1976: 160–1). It points to the fact that a certain group gets a value of identity by way of using particular language which they feel it belongs to them due to the bond of common language is the strongest tie within a group. It has been proven by a historical event in the nineteenth century when German language unified a German nation (Wardhaugh, 2006: 38). The recent study concerns on an immigrant’s identity. It can be revealed through his language as stated by theories above. However, as he speaks more than one language, the answer can be seen through his most attached language.

Dealing with language and identity, the differences may trigger someone to have perception of human’s languages distinction and the beliefs and values of the generation, particularly in contact between a

majority group and one or more minorities. In this circumstance, an individual might feel the emergency to seek the identity. As the result, languages in contact with the group influences both individual and group's identity. As Boada stated:

In virtually all situations, understanding and managing language contact also means understanding and managing 'identities in contact'. This 'identity' will lead the person to identify with given cultural, symbolic and behavioural models that will acquire pre-eminence, and which s/he will aspire to conserve and develop. (Boada, 2012: 19-21).

Since language is socially practiced, it possesses the power-bound relationship in which people who learned it get a complex identity that changes over time and space (Norton, 2000).

2.3 Identity and Social Surrounding

In using language, people do it with social history as the background in which it has shaped them in term of gender, religion, race, social class, and etc. With the existence of national boundaries, regional groups also contribute to define people such as westerners and easterners. It can be seen that identity here counts on the construction produced by historical, social, and even political context of each individual's experiences.

Norton stated that identity is the way how people consider who they are, understand how they relate to others and to world, and envisage their future in terms of opportunities and possibilities (Norton, 2000: 5). Identity is also the process of self-consideration toward what society does daily in order to join and get into it. How people pondering themselves within society carry an intention to be recognized and to be safe because identity reflects what people care about within society.

As human, people do not take the categories of identity define to them for granted, but they rather negotiate these categories through social interaction. Therefore, a social classification attached to someone is not always obvious to others, and this classification is not always the same with their identity. Actually identity is the result of social interaction and social practice because through this interaction with others in daily basis that has been the evident of someone truly is. Identity does not totally depend on his own perspective, because

how he presents his identity is formed by how he interprets others identities. His interpretation of himself might be different from how other interpret him. Identity is relational in which 'acts of self-definition are also acts of other-definition and vice versa' (Bucholtz, 2011: 10).

Those ways are common for people, particularly for immigrants who have to deal with new environment. According to Berry et al. (2006: 306), there are four strategies immigrants use to acculturate in order to involve in new society as well as to maintain their heritage culture and identity. They are *integration* (high identification of both cultures), *assimilation* (tend to identify new culture), *separation* (tend to identify heritage culture), and *marginalization* (low identification of both cultures). Most immigrants nowadays have tendency to use integration in which offers them biculturalism along with bilingualism. As the subject of this study is an immigrant, the people around him surely gives big impact on how he considers himself; which society he feels he belongs to. That is why, identity and social surrounding cannot be separated because they influence one another.

2.4 Immigration to Denmark

When people move to a foreign country in order to live there permanently, they are called as immigrants. Almost all countries over the globe have faced immigration, for example Denmark. The act of this moving to Denmark has happened since 1960s. Non-western countries have come to this country since then, and have been larger in the 1980s. Turkey, Pakistan and Yugoslavia are the former non-western countries that moved there to be guest workers and to seek Danish nationality. After the mid-1990s, naturalizations increased in which most of it was from Turkey, Iraq, Iran, Lebanon, and Somalia. These naturalizations were undertaken by both immigrants and second generation immigrants.

The biggest number of non-Western immigrants and second generation immigrant live in big cities and smallest number in the countryside. On the other hand, immigrants and second generation immigrants from Western countries based spread across the country.

2.5 Types of Immigrants in Denmark

Due to lots of immigrants who came in different years until having family in Denmark, there are three categories of populations

to make it easier in recognizing them. The division is based on parents' countries of birth and citizenship in which has been applied as far back as 1980. This method of categorization puts a larger number of Danish populations in group of non-indigenous people rather than what categorization based on citizenship does. It is done because group with foreign origins might include Danish nationals.

1. Immigrants: people called immigrants if they were born abroad, and their parents were both born abroad as well or were foreign nationals. If there is no information of the parents, people are also categorized as immigrants if they were born abroad (Danmarks Statistik (Statistics Denmark) 2005). The concept runs equally for those who are immigrant workers, reunite with family, or as refugees.

2. Second generation immigrants: people who were born in Denmark to non-Danish citizen parents who were not born in Denmark. If there is no information of the parents in which the people in question are foreign citizen, these people fall into second generation immigrant (Danmarks Statistik 2005).

3. Danes: People bore to parents (or at least one of them) who are Danish citizen born in Denmark, without considering the country of birth of the person in question or his or her citizenship. If information is not available about both parents, the person is considered as a Dane if he or she is a Danish citizen born in Denmark (Tænketanken (Think Tank on Integration in Denmark) 2002).

3. METHOD

This study is intended to know the way how a polyglot immigrant considers his self-identity. The way how he sees himself and shows it to society were analysed through languages he uses. As the goal of this study is to understand a person's identity, it was done by using qualitative study. This type of study (qualitative) is aimed to explore participant's part of life based on life experiences that cannot be expressed by number.

This study gained fascinating components in point of views, meanings and understandings since data obtained (qualitative data) 'is something related to judgments, perceptions, insights, etc.' (Wray, Trot, Bloomer, Reay, & Butler, 2001). Moreover, emphasizing the process and focusing on analysis and related theories are needed in doing this study.

As the theories that have been explained above, qualitative study is suitable to conduct this research due to the fact that this study is done to explore issues, to understand cultural values, and to answer questions without using any statistical data. The method taken is proper for this study as it analyses language and identity because the data in this study is in the descriptive form, specifically in the form of interaction including spoken and written interaction from subject with researcher.

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The subject of this study is a polyglot man based in Denmark, named Thor¹. His parents could speak Kurdish and Arabic since they have experienced living in Baghdad, Iraq. As he was born in Baghdad as well, he could speak those two languages at once. In school age, Thor went to school which uses English as the language in teaching and learning. After that, he moved to Jordan, Cyprus, Bulgaria, Greece, Italy, Germany, and Denmark. When he went to college, he took Spanish language subject to learn. Up until now, he is working and living in Denmark.

This study is carried out through online chatting and voice call. This method is called by online interviewing. It has to be done this way as the participant lives far away. Fortunately, internet does help to do online interview as long as it is 'organized in synchronous form' which means getting in touch with participant in chat room in order to do question and answer when both parties are online at the same time (Flick, 2009: 266). As it is done by online, the source of the data is the online interview. It is in the form of informant's interaction both spoken and written.

The data obtained in this study are divided into two types. The first one is the result of written interview. This written one is gathered from online chatting using an application namely *WhatsApp*. The second type is transcription of oral interview via voice call that has been recorded. The calls are done via *WhatsApp* and *Viber*. Two

¹ Pseudonym chosen by the subject.

applications are chosen as consideration of the clear and good internet connection during the call. In short, all of the two types produce data that is in the form of utterances and texts as given by Thor as the answer.

Marshall (2006: 97) stated that there are four techniques to gather data in qualitative research; they are *participating in the setting*, *observing directly*, *interviewing in depth*, and *analysing documents and materials culture*. This study used interviewing in depth method via online chatting and voice call to collect the data. The helping elements of the way how the data is gathered are called instruments of the study. For example, interview sheets, observation checklist, and observation field notes. These instruments are used in collecting the data in order to get the valid verbal and non-verbal data. Based on Marshall's theory, here is the explanation to presenting specific technique to get data for answering Research Question (henceforth RQ-1, RQ-2, RQ-3, and RQ-4):

RQ-1: Figuring out subject's language proficiency

To get data on Thor's language proficiency, interview and self-report questionnaire were conducted.

Interview

To gain data regarding what languages the informant has mastered, an interview was conducted. The interview was done via chatting application namely *WhatsApp* and *Viber*. To conduct this, tools that needed are mobile phone and laptop. The call was done using mobile phone, while the recording was taken using laptop. The instruments used were interview guidance and notes. Interview guidance consist of list of questions to be answered as it makes researcher easier to execute the interview. Notes was used to write (to note) the answers of questions given to the subject of the study.

Self-Report Questionnaire

The informant was given four categories to avoid central tendency in reporting his languages proficiency. Setiawan stated that the four choices are 'no ability, little ability, good ability, and very good ability' (Setiawan, 2013: 93). The questionnaire was in the form of online questionnaire (Google Form). This was conducted as it is impossible to do assessment for each language he can.

RQ-2: Figuring out subject's identity based on language use

In order to get the answer on how Thor's languages frame his identity, there was only one technique that was used. It was interview, both written and spoken. The interview still be done through *WhatsApp* and *Viber*.

Interview

In addition to the explanation for RQ-1, this interview was conducted more deeply. The questions were mostly about 'how' and 'why' to get the information of Thor's life deeper. The interview was in two forms; written and spoken. The written interview was conducted via chatting application to make it easier as both subject and the writer have different time zone. The spoken one was done by voice call and face to face interview in video call as it could minimalize the snapping judgment of what to note and what to avoid (Wray et al., 2001). However, the video call had to be cut due to bad signal from both parties. During this interview, the writer could take note of important answers given by Thor. The rest is the same as interview for RQ-1.

RQ-3: Figuring out subject's strategy to show his inner identity to society

To obtain data on how Thor's strategy in showing inner identity in front of his surrounding, the interview was needed to be conducted.

Interview

In addition to explanation for depth interview as in RQ-2, this interview was kind of telling story from Thor in order to go deeply how he feels about his identity and how to show it to society. With the story, researcher could feel the way he feels directly.

RQ-4: Figuring out the social consequences for polyglot in monolingual environment

Interview

In addition to explanation for interview as mentioned in RQ-1, the data is gathered from structured interview. It means that the questions were already structured in order to ease researcher to conduct the interview. By doing it, what Thor feels for being a polyglot according to his own perspective, along with the facts of data gathered from previous questions could be seen.

In doing the study of self-identity of a polyglot immigrant needs some procedure in getting the data. While the above explanation is to show the data collection techniques, this part is to explain how to look for the informant of the study and to obtain the data. The steps taken are explained below.

1. Looking for participant

First of all, in order to get the data needed directly from the horse's mouth, the fundamental way was to look for subject of the study who were willingly to be interviewed and to be observed. As in this case the subject needed was an immigrant, the person was gotten from the social media, namely *Tango*. As this media is like Facebook, people around the world could be connected. The subject was found randomly as people who could be friend were random as well. At the first met, the purpose for of the study was delivered. After the subject was agreed, the study could be conducted. Forcing was omitted in doing the study.

2. Making appointment

As the study was conducted by doing interview, both parties have to decide what time it would be done. To be considered, there was different time zone which made both parties need to think and see the schedule in order to make the interview and the observation go well.

3. Doing the interview

The next step to do after getting the informant was doing the interview. The written interview was done via *WhatsApp* while the oral one was done via voice call, both via *WhatsApp* and *Viber*. During the interview, laptop was needed to record the interaction.

4. Making transcription of the result of the interview

As the study was carried out by online, a transcription was needed. After the answers from participant has been recorded, the result would be transcribed which would be used as data.

4. RESULT

4.1 Thor's Language Proficiency

In the beginning, Thor has stated that he is able to use five languages; they are Arabic, Kurdish, English, Danish, and Spanish. He knows and understands those languages well. However, his understanding toward each language has different level. It is elaborated based on reported data given by Thor. The data is gained

from Google Form to rate the fluency in four options: ‘no ability’, ‘little ability’, ‘good ability’, and ‘very good ability’. The ability has included the four basic yet fundamental aspects which are speaking, writing, listening, and reading (see Chapter 3).

The reported data shows that Thor has very good ability in Arabic, Kurdish, English due to the fact that he is growing up with these three languages. He was born with Arabic and Kurdish at once, then went to English school. As he stated that he is able to use Arabic and Kurdish, he gave an example on how he was wishing Eid in Arabic and Kurdish without thinking too hard. He shared:

In Arabic:

عيد سعيد

Happy Eid

تقبل الله الطاعات وعيد سعيد عليكم عسى الله أن يعود به باليمن والبركات.

May God accept the good deeds and happy Eid to you, may God return to Yemen and blessings. (2019/03/04)

In Kurdish:

Happy Eid (to one person) (2019/01/05)

Regarding the way how he acquired English, his teachers in school were from Britain which made him got the accent. He was living his life in many countries by using English as the main tool to communicate with people, while Arabic and Kurdish with his family. As he stated:

I had my primary, intermediate school in Baghdad in whole English school. And we were taught by um, English teachers. They were...it was a missionary church, and have a charities and education institutions, and one of them was my school. That’s why I learned English at a...education language. (2019/27/02)

His good ability in English is also proven during the interview. He is able to use English very well both to explain and to understand. Furthermore, his ability in Danish is very good as well since he has

lived in Denmark for years. He learned Danish at school as well as he moved there, and he became more fluent as he worked and stayed in Denmark. Here is a short example of how he used Danish when Eid comes:

Tillykke med EID (Congrats with Eid) (2019/01/05)

He cannot give more regarding this topic as people in Denmark do not celebrate Eid because most of them are non-Muslims.

Furthermore, one of five languages he could has lower fluency. His Spanish is not as good as the other four languages. Based on the form, he chooses 'little ability' for Spanish. It is due to the fact he learned it in college and practiced it with his ex-girlfriend whose language is Spanish. Other than that, he does not use Spanish in daily life. Thor explained:

And Spanish language came because when I started studying in Denmark, it's by law that you choose an extra subject at language besides English. There was Latin, there was Russian, there was Spanish, and there was Portuguese. So we were many in the classroom who want to have Spanish. So that's why they found us a very nice Spanish teacher for two years- no, sorry, a year actually, who taught us the basic of Spanish. At some time later on life, I met somebody who was from Latin America. And uh, we were together for couple of years, and that enforced my spoken Spanish as well. (2019/27/02)

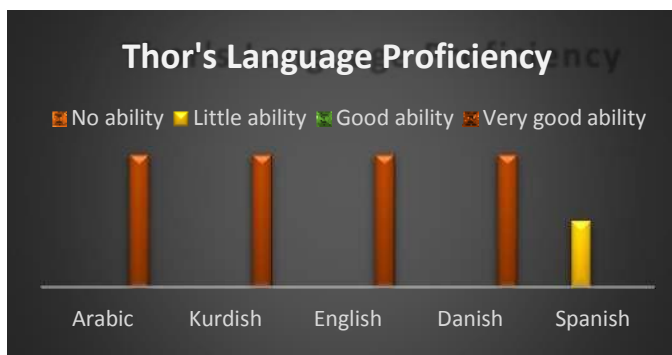


Figure 1. Thor's report on language proficiency

This report has been emphasized through the interview via chatting. Thor reported the same report as in Google Form. It shows that he is consistent in answering his ability. However, in this report he stated in percentage as what he has been requested.



Figure 2 Thor's report on language proficiency via chatting

Even though the five languages have different level of fluency, Thor is still counted as able to use it. According to Thor, being fluent is a blessing. It is not only a matter of using the language properly, but also knowing the culture due to the fact that language is cultural product. Language is also one of the keys to open up the culture. Along with his experiences in living in many countries, language gives him wide knowledge about each culture.

The fluency of a language also means that Thor does not need energy to use it. He could correct his own mistakes without thinking too hard in Arabic, Kurdish, English, and Danish. He can do it automatically. It is different when he uses Spanish. He needs to think how to fix and what to say in this language. He explained:

I use energy in Spanish. Because in other language that I became misunderstood I can fix it immediately, but in Spanish I have to think about it. (2019/27/02)

Another factor that makes Spanish is one level more difficult is that the accent. Spanish can have same written form, but different accent that makes it have different meaning. Other than that, different country has different accent. Therefore, which country Thor wants to speak Spanish determines the accent along with the meaning. He explained:

You see, Spanish is not Spanish. Spanish is also accents and dialects. Spanish in Europe is not Spanish of South America. And even in South America, they speak slightly different and... (2019/27/02)

However, it proves Thor's knowledge in Spanish. Even though he cannot speak it as well as Arabic or Kurdish, he knows how to use it. He can differentiate the accent but needs a longer time to think. He added:

The letter 'S' in Europe Spanish is pronounced 'tʃ'. They say 'Gratzias'. They don't say 'Gracias'. (2019/27/02)

On top of that, language that Thor masters the most is Arabic. His interaction between families mostly happens in Arabic. He learned basic Arabic since his very first life. What makes him even more competent in this language is that he does not only speak the daily Arabic and formal Quran Arabic, but also can speak and understand the dialects all the way from Yemen to Morocco. He stated:

I understand and speak Yemenis, Saudi, Kuwait, Emirati. I understand Bahrainian and I speak Moroccan which is very difficult, Tunisian which is very difficult. Egyptian of course. Of course, Egyptian. Lebanese, Syrian, Palestinian that call 'em Shami dialect. I can speak that as well. (2019/27/02)

Another fact is that Thor often uses Arabic, Kurdish, and English in everyday life while Danish at work only. Spanish is spoken only when he meets his Spanish friends. The frequency in using the languages gives big impact on how fluent he is. The more used the language, the more fluent he is. As what he has stated via chatting below.



Figure 3. Thor's report on family language

In summary, Thor is able to use five languages with different level of fluency of each language. It happens due to some factors like where, when and how he learned the language. The frequency of using the language also contributes in his fluency. Based on the form that has been given, Thor reported that he has very good ability in Arabic, Kurdish, English, and Danish. However, his Spanish is in lower level as he chose little ability. He masters four languages very well and one language a little.

4.2 Thor's Language and Identity

Identity is a sense of belonging to something like place, ideology or even someone. For that matter, Thor defined identity according to himself in languages as follows:

In Spanish:

Identidad, es el sentimiento de pertenencia a un lugar, un grupo, una religión, una ideología o una sociedad.

In Danish:

Identitet er følelsen af at tilhøre et sted, en gruppe, en religion, en ideologi eller et samfund.

In Arabic:

الهوية ، هي الشعور بالانتماء إلى مكان أو جماعة أو دين أو أيديولوجية أو مجتمع.

In English:

Identity, is the feeling of belonging to a place, a group, a religion, an ideology or a society. (2019/02/05)

This identity could be revealed through the language that attached to him the most.

It has been stated that five languages are mastered by Thor. He was born from Kurdistan parents in Baghdad, the capital of Iraq, in which makes him born with two languages at once; they are Arabic and Kurdish. He speaks Kurdish to his mother and Arabic to his father. Conversation that runs between him and his sisters is mostly using Arabic. However, sometimes he speaks in Kurdish in case he wants to speak something a bit secret. When he wants to do so, he will switch quickly and talk in Kurdish in short time to make no offense to other people. He stated:

If there is somebody in the area and the room that I don't want or we don't want him or her to understand what we're saying, we will switch to Kurdish. Shortly. Very shortly, yes. (2019/27/02)

His way to choose Kurdish to talk about secret implies that he feels connected to this language. It implies that Kurdish is part of him and can represent his feeling. Kurdish is the language he knows and chooses to talk about something private.

Thor has been a bilingual since he was born, then he was growing up with English. He went to English school in Baghdad where the teachers and the subjects are all in English. This school was missionary church where the teachers were from Britain. It makes

Thor got the accent in his way to speak English. As the result, he has been a polyglot since he was a kid. He shared:

I had my primary, intermediate school in Baghdad in whole English school. And we were taught by um, English teachers. They were...it was a missionary church, and have a charities and education institutions, and one of them was my school. That's why I learned English at a...education language. School language. Next to my Arabic language for I was born with since I was born in Baghdad. And for whole community, coming from Kurdish parents whom also speak Kurdish at home. So I was born with two, two mother tongue and then the English came as a school language. Education language. (2019/27/02)

He is an immigrant as well since he was young. He left Baghdad and started his journey by moving from one country to other countries. His first stop is Jordan. He stayed with family friends for a while. Then, he went to Cyprus. After Cyprus he left to Sofia, the capital of Bulgaria. He lived there for some months with family friends. English was the only tool he had to survive at these countries. After that, he moved to Greece. This time was longer than before. Still, English was his primary weapon to live. He worked only at English speaking works as there is no education he achieved to support it. He shared:

So in Greece I used English to work. I work different things, various things. But the spoken English of Greece is within the tourist industry mostly, not outside that. The sector tourism spoke English. Otherwise, no, non-other than that. And, being a Greece, a...being a very touristic country, many studies spoke English. So, but, yet, since I don't have any paper or any education I could work with, so I had to take some jobs with people that speak English. (2019/27/02)

He did several jobs in Greece, but the last one was doing his own tour guide. He also learned Hellenic there. As good connection he got, he could do two works at once. After living for some time in Greece, he moved to Italy. He stayed in Rome for a while. A more challenging

situation had to be faced as Italian could not speak English. He should seek jobs which did not use much talk. He explained:

I stayed in Rome and it's more difficult 'cause nobody spoke English, all most in Italy. So I had job that didn't need much talk. And it was all day at night. I had my phone root of delivery of newspaper to subscribers. At home, their homes. I will like go inside the building, and I have list in my hand, and I will put in the newspaper at their post box, for these people. All night to 5 a.m. (2019/27/02)

Spending some months in Italy, Thor had to continue his journey to Germany. He lived with his uncle in Berlin. However, as he was living illegally, he could not continue his study in Germany. They decided to move him to Denmark. There, he started his life until today. He shared:

And I came to Denmark. And I seek political asylum. And then I was accepted after the procedure of accepting political refugees. I was accepted and started my life in Denmark. I finished my education. I learned the language. I in higher studies. And I became an engineer. And I took my master as well upon that. And I worked with that. And I was, since then I was living a life that I have today. (2019/27/02)

Since then, he could speak Danish as well to his colleague at work. He still uses English to his international colleague. Along his journey to Denmark, English is his only tool to live with. He speaks Arabic and Kurdish to family only until he got Iraqi friends in Denmark. Since then, he mastered five languages. He switches from one language to another one based on whom he talks to. At work he uses Danish, at home he uses Arabic and Kurdish, and when meet friends he uses English as mostly they are from English speaking country. However, even though he lives in Denmark, the most used language is not Danish. He explained:

That's work language. Yes. But socializing, no. I use mostly at work. A couple of friends- colleague who became friends I used

with it as well outside work. But otherwise, it's Kurdish or Arabic or English with my friends here. (2019/27/02)

Even though Thor can master five languages, the connection toward each language is different. What it means here is that the way how he feels more attached to a language because it reflects himself the most. He stated that Arabic, English and Kurdish are he feels more connected to than the other two languages. He explained:

These three are of course the sharpest tool that I have. The most effective ones. So I would say Arabic is number one. And then English, and then Kurdish. Spanish and Danish you know; I master it but because it is only in work situation doesn't fill out whole my peace. (2019/27/02)

As his statement above, Arabic is the one which represents him the most. He chose Arabic as number one. This language is the most often used language in his everyday life. He learned anything new in Arabic. It took a big and important part in his upbringing. Arabic builds his personality as he was taught at home using Arabic. Moreover, as a Muslim, Arabic gives more impact to Thor. He explained:

Because that's the one whom I grow up, interacting with children with, playing with, learning new stuff with. It was the personality building language. It's the language that build my personality. And of course remembering that it is also the religion language which has made me fluent in my upbringing. (2019/27/02)

Being a polyglot is such a blessing. The more languages known, the more knowledge about culture possessed. However, this ability does not make Thor feel superior upon anybody else. He does not even call himself as polyglot. It is just himself. Mastering five languages is part of himself. He shared:

I don't feel like that at all. I don't. I just part of me. I just- this is my DNA. I don't much expect- I don't feel like anything

extraordinary or anything exaggerated or anything overrated at all. I'm just uh, it's just me. That's all. Not anybody else. (2019/27/02)

Furthermore, above five languages that Thor has mastered, none of them makes him feel as lower or higher. Those languages are part of himself. It is in his DNA.

Thor has lived his life for many years in Denmark. However, he ever thought to move from there to English or Arabic speaking country. He does not choose Kurdistan to live at since he does not feel any connection there. He goes to Kurdistan to visit his mother only. He explained:

No, no, I can't. I don't have any connection or any attachment or any, I don't identify myself there anymore with Iraq. Since a long time ago. (2019/27/02)

According to Thor, after some time, he does not feel connected to anywhere. It is due to he has travelled a lot and has lived his life as immigrant since he was young. However, even though he feels that way, he cannot avoid the fact that he was born in Iraq from Iraqi family. It is within himself. It is supported by his consideration to choose Arabic as language of his personality; his identity. Even though he is now a Danish citizen, he will always be an Iraqi. Citizenship is just passport to him, not an identity. He stated:

So, I will always be an Iraqi. Always. ... Yeah. Citizenship is just a passport, not an identity. (2019/27/02)

To sum up, Thor has been a bilingual since he was born. He became polyglot and an immigrant since he was young. Each language he masters has different connection to him. Arabic is the language that represents himself the most. It is due to he grew up in this language, his religion is in this language, and the most used language is this language. Up upon languages he masters, he does not call himself as polyglot. It is just himself. He also does not feel connected to anywhere. However, the fact that he was born in Iraq from Iraqi family and grew up in Arabic play important role for him.

Citizenship does not as matter as that; it is just passport. Thor confessed that he will always be an Iraqi.

4.3 Thor's Strategy and Social Consequences

Revealing the most connected language to Thor means knowing his true identity. Thor has stated that Arabic can reflect himself in which Arabic is his personality building language. He was born and grew up with Arabic. He is living his life in Arabic even though he has lived in Denmark. He stated that he will always be an Iraqi. However, this identity is influenced by society as well. It is known that Denmark has received immigrants for years. Yet, according to Thor Danish welcomes any immigrants but does not recognize them as Danish, particularly for those who are not blonde and have blue eyes. Immigrants can be Danish citizens but never be Danish. This condition makes Thor have not much social life, or even not at all. His typical days are all about going to work, gym and home. He explained:

From 8.30 to 9, I prepare for my morning meetings. 9.15 I have the meeting, 9.30 I have another meeting, and then my day starts until 4 o'clock in the afternoon. Sometimes 5. By leaving work, I go directly to gym on the gym day. I stay in gym. From there I come home around 9 in the evening- 8 in the evening. I make dinner. I watch whatever there is to watch on the internet, on YouTube, on Netflix or whatever. And then I'll be in bed by 11. And then next morning a new day start. (2019/27/02)

This condition is broken down into segments below

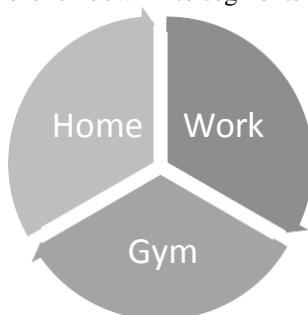


Figure 4. Thor's report on typical days

Due to this fact, Thor gets not much social life. There is not much neighbouring in Denmark. Individualism is absolutely high there. Thor did not get much opportunity to practice Denmark with his neighbours; he learned at school, and now use it at work only. Danish, according to Thor, prefers silent and does their own business. He shared:

But, you see, here there's not much of neighbouring and neighbour lives. Everyone take care of themselves, close the doors. Behind the doors nobody know what other people lives. And that their lives are very individualist, and very closed, and very conservat-not conservative but reserve silent. (2019/27/02)

Besides that, as Thor's appearance is basically different to Danish, he gets different treatments from them as well. They did this to him from day 1 Thor stepped his foot there. This is why he chooses to live his typical days with not much socializing. He explained:

Because you look different. And you cannot speak the language in the beginning. So of course you're different. Yeah. ... Well, racism is not something you got exposed to every day. But, since you look different, you will be treated differently. Not differently like in South Africa during segregation, no. But, still you are not one of them. (2019/27/02)

The same way as his statement before, Thor emphasized that he faced racism and dissemination even though it does not happen to him every day. He explained that these two treatments to him are getting even stronger than before. That was why he has not much social life, or even not at all. The more you look different, the easier people notice you differently. As the result, people only get together based on religion and ethnicity. He explained in the txt as in Figure 5



Figure 5. Thor's report on racism and dissemination

Being Danish citizen for years does not make Thor treated as Danish. He did get a proper job for him, but not social life. Though, Danish socializing style is not his. Danish way of making friend means drinking and clubbing in which their culture cannot get along with Thor's. As the result, he does not make friend with Danish. He shared:

No. I have colleague who became friends. We meet once outside once in three months or some. See, socializing with Danish people most of the time means drinking. That's part of the culture. It is not so bad for them. And by drinking, I mean drinking a lot I don't like it. That's not my style. That's not the kind of socializing or model or style of mine. So that's why I don't mingle so much. Because in the weekend is about drinking. It's all about drinking and clubbing. (2019/27/02)

Thor explained that his social life begins when he goes travelling. He will go travelling abroad and make friend with local people at his destination. However, Thor never travels with any Danish friend as he has no one. He always travels alone, then be friend

with people outside. The way he keeps in touch is by communicating via WhatsApp. Unfortunately, every time he wants to travel, he has to face different treatment from Danish security, particularly in passport control. The officer will always do some extra checks to him and give him question to see if he can speak Danish. It has to be done to prove that his Danish passport really belongs to him. This condition happens every single time he goes back from abroad outside European Union. When he can prove he owns the passport by speaking Danish, the officer will let him go. He shared:

When I travel and come to Denmark from outside European Union, we all have to go to passport control. Everyone went walked by the passport control without any headache, except me. Yes, they have to stop me and ask me couple of questions just to listen to my Danish, to see if I speak Danish. By speaking Danish mean that you are the owner of the passport. So that's every single time. As soon as Sunday when I came from Ukraine, everybody was showing their passport to the police and walked away, except me. The police woman smiles at me and asked, "What airlines you came with?" which is not a regular question this time. I said, "The Ukrainian Airlines." She said, "From what destination?" I told her, "From Kiev." She smiled at me and gave me back the passport and said, "Have a nice day." So there's an extra, always. (2019/27/02)

As Thor is treated differently without doing any sensational or controversial actions. His inner identity as an Iraqi does not need much energy to be revealed. Danish knows he is not a Danish at the very first time they look at him. Different treatments he faced make him choose not to socialize much. His ability to speak in five languages helps him to speak when it is needed. Besides, based on Thor's explanation about his education, Denmark requires the students to learn other languages than Danish and English. It makes him do not feel superior as people there are taught to speak more than one language even though the main language is Danish.

Furthermore, immigrants have been stayed in Denmark for long. It makes Denmark have such a place for ethnic shop center. It is located in Copenhagen where the shops are owned by people from abroad such as Arab, English, Persian, and many more. This place gives an opportunity to speak in those languages other than Danish, but still they are not considered as Danish by Danish. Thor explained:

Easy as for example, in Copenhagen there are tents and tents of ethnic shops. Owned by Arab speaking, Kurdish speaking, Persian, English speaking people. So you communicate with them with the language they know and you know. (2019/27/02)

In short, Denmark possesses racism and dissemination even though immigration has happened since years ago. They welcome immigrants to live there and be Danish citizen, but they never consider immigrants as Danish. Thor's identity as an Iraqi does not make him give an extra to show it to society because they know that he is not part of them. Danish people has treated him differently since day one. His ability to speak five languages is an extra power to adapt with people. However, this power is not weird in Denmark; it is common to Danish to speak other than Danish. This condition, again, does not urge Thor to reveal his true identity with big efforts.

5. DISCUSSION

5.1 Polyglot's Language Proficiency

Thor is a polyglot since he is able to use five languages; they are Arabic, Kurdish, English, Danish, and Spanish. Kemp stated that a polyglot is a person who can use three languages or more even though it is in different level of fluency of each language (Kemp, 2009:15). So is Thor who has various level of language ability. According to the form that has been given, Thor reported that he is very good in Arabic, Kurdish, English, and Danish. However, he has little ability in Spanish. He masters four languages very well and one language a little.

As Thor was born with two languages at once, he is an early bilingual person. Arabic and Kurdish are his mother tongue. He speaks, learns and lives with these two languages. He uses both Arabic and Kurdish as daily languages to the family even though Arabic is used more. The more often he uses, the more fluent he is.

This condition happens as well to his English. He grew up in English education, and used this language as his main tool to survive in many countries. His British accent makes him sounder like an English. Danish is also on his hand. He speaks and understands Danish well since he has lived in Denmark for years. Even though he has not many neighbours to practice with, he has colleague at work whom he speaks Danish with every day.

On the other hands, Thor's Spanish is in lower level. He learned

Spanish as an obligate subject in college. Further motivation to use it more is his ex-girlfriend who was from Panama. After they were not together any longer, Thor only uses Spanish when he meets his friends or people who speak Spanish. Unfortunately, he does not have a Spanish friend in Denmark. Spanish becomes less used which impacts on his fluency. He has little ability in Spanish. Besides, his fluency is counted on the mutual intelligibility between his interlocutor and him. Based on his report, he does not use much energy to speak in Arabic, Kurdish, English, and Danish. He uses more energy to use Spanish in which makes him to think more whenever there is misunderstood. It proves that the fluency counts on the mutual intelligibility between speakers. As long as both parties understand, the conversation will run well (Kemp, 2009:19).

The fact about different proficiency level does not much matter to his figure as a polyglot. There is no obligation to have the same level of fluency for being polyglot. It is common for polyglot to possess various stages as it is difficult to master the elements of each language. It requires the balance of speaking, writing, listening and reading. The fact is supported by Wardaugh who stated that multilingual do not always have native competency in two or more languages. They might capture different proficiency levels (Wardaugh, 2002:95).

This phenomenon occurs due to some factors like where, when and how he learned the language. The environment condition gives a big impact as well (J. Zhang et al., 2018: 47). The frequency of using the language also contributes in his fluency. Thor has family as a positive encouragement which supports him to use Arabic, Kurdish, and English. Unfortunately, Danish people are not as supportive as his family. Thor does not have much opportunity to mingle with his surroundings. Norton stated that where there is a social gap between a person and society, he will not have much practice in using the languages which makes him not proficient in that (Norton, 2000:3). In fact, even though Thor does not have good connection with his neighbours, he has colleague whom he meets every day at work to practice Danish with. It turns out that he is proficient in using Danish. The case for Danish is different for Spanish. The very first reason in learning Spanish because it is an order by college. This factor influences Thor's attitude toward Spanish. If Danish is also a must, it is different because he decides to live in Denmark in which learning it is a must to survive, while Spanish is not. As Norton assumed that learner's attitudes towards target language decide how motivated he learns, and that influences the comprehension of the

language (Norton, 2000:3). Besides that, the frequency to practice Spanish is also limited. He does not have much opportunity to speak Spanish other than when he travels abroad and meet his Spanish friends.

Furthermore, regarding how Thor becomes a polyglot is important as well in influencing his proficiency. He has been an early bilingual, become a polyglot with three languages since young, and then added Danish and Spanish into his languages list. These languages do not give bad impact to his mother tongue. They grow and stay in his DNA instead. This condition, according to Hamers and Blanc, is called as additive bilingualism due to Thor has been a polyglot without force to forget his first language (Hamers and Blanc, 1989). He has proved that he is able to master those five languages.

5.2 Polyglot's Language and Identity

An identity is an important matter for any existing entity. It is the way how people see themselves as who are they, how they relate to others and the environment. The easy way to reveal someone identity is by knowing which language someone uses. However, in polyglot case, the way how to reveal the identity is by understanding which language that closest to him.

Thor has become a bilingual since he was born, and become a polyglot and an immigrant in such a young age. He traveled and lived in many countries after he done his primary school in Baghdad using English to survive, Arabic and Kurdish to learn and keep in touch with family. Since he became a Danish citizen, he has to use Danish to live. However, he only uses Danish for working matter, not for socializing. Even after years living there, he considers his citizenship is only passport. It is different with the finding from Bilbatua and Ellis' study in 2011. Their subject by the time living in Australia now feels more Australian than Spanish. On the contrary, Thor stated that he will always be an Iraqi. He does not consider himself as a polyglot, he just feels blessed having the ability. It is his identity. Cervatiuc in 2009 found another fact that her subjects of study combined their heritage culture with the adoptive country to shape hybrid identity. While Thor in this case stated that he is an Iraqi, not Danish, nor the combination of both.

The identity as an Iraqi also supported by the way how Thor chose his languages. He stated that Arabic represents him the most as it is the language which builds the personality in his upbringing. Arabic is also his religion language. As Wardhaugh (2006: 96) said, 'Your language choices are part of the social identity you claim for

yourself.’

Arabic is the main language Thor uses to communicate with his family. He does speak Kurdish to his mother, but he speaks Arabic the most to other family members such as his father and sisters. He also stated that Arabic is the language he uses to speak with children and ply with. This fact is supported by Bell’s criteria called historicity. It points to the fact that a certain group gets a value of identity by way of using particular language which they feel it belongs to them due to the bond of common language is the strongest tie within a group (Bell, 1976: 160–1).

The case that Thor holds his heritage culture is the same as the finding of Lie, Wijaya, and Kuntjara in 2018. The children of this study cannot forget their Indonesian identity. However, they hold American identity as well which is different from Thor who does not hold Danish identity to combine with. Arabic is the most representative language of himself who carries an Iraqi as the identity.

5.3 Polyglot’s Strategy and Social Consequences

As the first generation immigrant in Denmark, Thor has to face circumstances in order to adapt and survive. Denmark is known as one of destinations for immigrants for years. They seek for political asylum and become Danish citizen. Danish people welcome them, but they never recognize them as Danish. As long as the immigrants do not have blue eyes and blonde hair, and speak Danish like them, these immigrants will always be Danish citizen only. Thor in appearance is different, and this fact gives him a rather special treatment from Danish. They have made him feel different since day one he moved there. As the result, Thor does not need any strategy to show that he is an Iraqi because Danish do not care as he is different.

Thor’s consideration as an Iraqi is also influenced by his surroundings. As Danish people treat him differently, he prefers to choose Iraqi as an identity. Because according to Norton (2000: 5), identity is also the process of self-consideration toward what society does daily in order to join and get into it. The social gap has been created since day one until today which makes Thor does not have much opportunity to involve in society. He is just a Danish citizen, and citizenship is only a passport for him. As Bucholtz stated that identity is relational in which ‘acts of self-definition are also acts of other-definition and vice versa’ (Bucholtz, 2011: 10).

In this case, what Cervatiuc found in 2009 cannot be applied. Her subjects of study used three strategies in order to practice their English and to mingle with locals. They did neighbouring, involved

in associations of parents in school, and combined the first and the new culture to shape hybrid cultural identity. Conversely, Thor does not have much chance to do that. The people in Denmark is highly individualist. The way how they socialize is by drinking and clubbing. These two factors make Thor do not mingle much and do not try to combine Danish culture. He stated that it is not his style. He still adheres to his heritage culture as an Iraqi. This acculturation strategy to maintain the heritage culture and identity in new society is called *separation* (Berry et al., 2006: 306). It is the way how Thor tends to identify his heritage culture rather than the new one.

Thor's ability to speak five languages gives him an extra power to adapt with people. His capability as a polyglot smooth his way to get proper job and live his life in Denmark. However, this power is common to Danish people. They have been taught to speak other than Danish in school and college. Thor's ability does not make him superior than them. Besides, the fact that Thor uses Danish at work only is not more than a tool to work with, not to socialize with. Thor is always an Iraqi who is blessed to master five languages.

6. CONCLUSION

Thor, the informants of this study, is a polyglot and an immigrant. He has the capability to use five languages. However, each language has different proficiency levels as it is common not to possess native like competency. According to Thor's report, Arabic, Kurdish, English, and Danish are in very good ability, while Spanish is in little ability level. This occurrence of various level of fluency is an impact of the difficulties to balance language competencies. It is also influenced by how much practice he does, particularly with native speaker. The often used, the more fluent. Moreover, this fluency is based on how Thor and his interlocutor understand each other so that they can run a successful conversation. As what he reported, he needs time and energy to think in Spanish when there is a misunderstanding, while in other four languages, he does not.

The interesting fact is that instead of recognizing himself as a polyglot, Thor is more comfortable to call it as a blessing. Out of five languages that Thor masters, Arabic is the most connected to him. As a matter of fact, his upbringing, his language personality building, and his religion are in Arabic. This language describes him the most. Another important matter is that his historical background as an Iraqi family convinces him more to see himself as an Iraqi. Danish citizenship is not an identity; it is just passport.

Furthermore, his consideration as an Iraqi is affected by society. Since Danish people never recognize him as Danish, Thor feels that he does not belong to them. Their actions to treat Thor differently, especially after looking at his appearance that does not characterize him as blonde people make it worse. They know he is different at the very first look. As the result, Thor's inner identity as an Iraqi does not require him to struggle in showing it. He tends to do separate acculturation. Fortunately, his five languages help him a lot to survive as an immigrant. There is no bad acceptance for his ability. It is a common thing in Denmark instead.

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