



More than words: Real Life Stories

1. **What is your name and what is your course of study?**

Mitantsoa Solofoniary, Applied Linguistics for TEFL.

2. **What languages do you speak, are interested in, or that you relate to in any way?**

Malagasy is my native language but I also speak French and English. I'm currently learning Polish since my boyfriend is Polish and I want to understand his culture better. I'm very interested in Korean too.

3. **At what point in your life did you realise how important and how valuable knowing multiple languages was?**

After my undergraduate degree, when I was looking for a job. I suddenly had lots of doors/ opportunities opening for me because of the foreign languages I spoke.

4. **How has being able to speak more than one language**

helped you in your personal life?

It has helped me make lots of friends and improve my understanding of different cultures. It has always provided me with a 'wow' expression wherever I go and meet people.

5. **How do you think knowing more than one language has helped you, or will help you, in your professional life?**

I wouldn't have been here, in the UK doing my Masters, without English and I wouldn't have gotten my previous job without it as well. Working for an international organisation gave me a lot of professional skills that were quite different from what I was used to. These skills are still feeding back in to my life now. I'm so grateful.

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6. **What career/s do you hope to go into in the future?**

I want to be a teacher trainer in my country and to teach English internationally.

7. **What has been the most impactful thing about learning a language on your life to date?**

I can read books in English and that's so impactful.

8. **What has been the most unexpected benefit of learning languages during your life?**

Multitasking and adaptability.

9. **What has been the most challenging aspect of learning languages during your life?**

To find lots of opportunities to use the language.

10. **What is your favourite word or phrase in a language other than English?**

Nabi (butterfly in Korean) - I like it because it symbolises joy and life of prosperity.

11. **Are there any other languages you wish you could speak? If so, what are they and why would you want to speak them?**

Mandarin because I feel it is a rising language, and Spanish because it will be very helpful while travelling around South America.

12. **How has being an MFL Mentor supported your journey with languages?**

It has taught me many things about languages. I see languages in a slightly different way and that is very constructive.

13. **If you could give one piece of advice to students thinking about learning another language, what would it be?**

Enjoy every part of it and making mistakes is part of the learning processes. Learn to embrace

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them and move on. Remember, bilingualism is an advantage and the norm 😊.



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