



More than words: Real Life Stories

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

Thamali Leanage, MA Creative writing.

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

I speak English as my first language but my mother tongue is Sinhala, which I use when communicating with my family. I studied French in school and at university.

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

When I was 14.

4. How has being able to speak more than one language helped you in your personal life?

I was able to access more resources and enhance my knowledge. Also, making friends and understanding their culture

and learning about the entertainment industry, etc.

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

It has helped improve my communication skills.

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

Teaching/ administration/ writing.

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

Being able to access a wider amount of resources.

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

Being able to win a scholarship to go to France!

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

Code-switching and mixing languages which makes communication sometimes confusing!

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

Paraplu - means umbrella in French. I love the way it sounds.

11. Are there any other languages you wish you could speak?

I would love to speak Japanese and Spanish.

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

It has helped me appreciate its value more.

13. Has anyone or any one particular moment or thing, inspired you on your language learning journey?

Nobody in particular but my parents encouraged me to learn foreign languages.

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

Go for it, in a few years you will thank yourself for being brave!



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