

Language and culture

Onika Whyte

Language ഭാഷা Linguaggio ЯЗЫК

Γλώσσα Język താമരം: بولی لسان

అనుచు నిపున గా a Lenguaje

Langage ভাষা 言語

भाषा భాషা 鮫 Ngôn ngữ اللغة

Linguagem Wika ଭାଷା താമരം

Sprache 语言 𑌕𑌕𑌕 Bahasa 언어



Why the interest in languages?

As a lover of history and culture i found languages to be the epicenter of some of the most vibrant places. Although i'm not bilingual i do speak the jamaican dialect patois. I love learning about other places and their cultures. I love hearing people speak in their native tongues and hearing their accents. It is instinctive to feel more comfortable when people who speak your native language, i tend to make friends with people who speak patois far easier than just standard english speakers.

***YU KNOW
HOW FI
CHAT PATWAH?***



Interview question

*What languages do you speak
and how does being
bilingual affect your
everyday life?*

Interviewee #1

I speak spanish and english. In mostly speak spanish at home with my family and english when i go out. As a second generation immigrant i consider spanish as my first language even though i speak english most of the time. I don't really see my life as being affected by my ability to speak two languages in a positive or negative light it's just a part of me. When i'm with my spanish speaking peers it doesn't feel any different than with my english speaking peers it is just the matter of flipping a switch for me.



Interviewee #2

I don't really consider myself as bilingual as im just now learning a second language. I first became interested in learning spanish because of my job. Im a cashier at a Macys and a lot of our customers were spanish speakers and in order to serve them better i began learning little phrases and after a while i saw that the customers really appreciated the effort i had put into learning their language rather than telling them they should just learn english. So my work life as gotten much more colorful now that im able to hold a conversation with someone who doesnt speak english.



Interviewee #3

If speaking with a dialect can be considered a second language then i speak patois and english. My daily life hasn't really been affected other than the fact that i've met a lot of jamaicans some of whom i became instant friends with. When i speak patois i don't necessarily have any great epiphany it just feels easier to communicate with my fellow jamaicans. Sometimes it's just more fun talking patois than "proper english."



This
is



Patois

THE LANGUAGE SPOKEN
IN

J A M A I C A

DON'T BOTHER ME	NUH BADDA MI
IT IS MINE	A FI MI
GOOD LOOKING GIRL	CRISS TING
JUST A LITTLE	JUS A TOOPS
CON ARTIST	GINNAL
LOOK AT THAT	COO DEH
CAN YOU PLEASE	A BEG YUH
LEAVE ME ALONE	LEF MI
OH MY GOSH	JESSUM PEACE
EXCUSE ME	JUS A WORD
TAKE CARE	WALK GOOD
HEY THERE	PSSST
TURN THERE	TUN DEH SO
THANK YOU	TANKS
GIRL FRIEND	DAWTA
FANTASTIC	IRIE
CHILDREN	PICKNI
FATHER	FADDA
MOTHER	MADDA

Current findings: benefits to learning another language

- ★ Connection-bilingualist have a greater chance of meeting and connecting with a wider range of people.
- ★ Health- helps deter early onset of demetria.
- ★ Advances in career- companies see you as more valuable when you speak more than one language.
- ★ Deeper immersion in cultures- you get a better understanding of a people and its culture when you are able to speak and understand its language.

Final thoughts

Language is a part of our very being. It connects us. One's culture is deep rooted in one's language. Only those who truly understand and speak another language can really appreciate the culture and history. A lot is often lost in translation and with many languages set to disappear in another century not only will we lose those unique languages we'll also lose many cultural things such as Songs, stories, legends and rituals.

Final question: what if you were the last speaker of your language?



Reference page:

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