Podcast #8: Why Does Language Matter?

Release Date: December 15, 2022

Hosts: Cole Group & Sara Abdelrahman

Guests: Community Members of Athens, OH

Description: A look into the complexity of linguistic identity portrayed in the multitude of communities of practice through research data collected from random recorded interviews across the Ohio University college campus.

Transcript:

Cole Group 0:11
All right. Hello, Sarah.

Sara Abdelrahman 0:13
Hi, Cole!

Cole Group 0:15
Hi guys, this is our podcast episode for the research practicum. This semester in which we did a topic on why does language matter the question that we created the two of us, and we're excited to share our findings.

Sara Abdelrahman 0:28
Yep. So hi guys, this is Sarah here. I'm in second year of the Applied Linguistics master, and here we are.

Cole Group 0:37
My name is Cole group. I am an undergraduate student here studying both linguistics and Spanish. Yeah, let's let's start diving right into it. First, I want to talk a little bit about how we did this and the our process into getting the information. So Sarah, how do we do it?

Sara Abdelrahman 0:56
We are taking the research practicum with Dr. O'. And we were just thinking about let's talk about why language matters. And we went to College Green to interview people in the street. Like I mean, it's not actually like structured interviews. It was just like random people we we ran after in college green and stopped and asked for permission to be recorded ask their permission to be recorded. So yeah, that was fun, actually. And one of the interviewees is actually the president of the university.

Cole Group 1:15
Yeah, I actually thought this was a really good time. We Yeah, we just we took the microphone out there to college green. And we just ran around and asked random people questions about language, and why does it matter? And so basically, we went out there with some preconceived notions, some ideas that we thought were that were going to be conveyed, and some of them weren't met. But you know, that's, that's the exciting part of it, and what we thought going into it. I know Sarah made this comment earlier was we really didn't expect the answers that we got.

Sara Abdelrahman 1:58
Totally, I thought that probably people wouldn't be actually that cooperative as they were actually, they actually we're, and also, we didn't expect people to be, like the answers that they gave us, we didn't expect those answers in depth, like, they were detailed, and people were thoughtful

Cole Group 2:19
they got deep. That was pretty awesome!

Sara Abdelrahman 2:21
Yeah. So it made me feel like people actually thought a lot and considered their language use.

Cole Group 2:26
I think that means we asked good questions.

Sara Abdelrahman 2:28
Yeah. Probably

Cole Group 2:30
And diving into the actual research itself, and how we did it, our expectation going into this, you know, because we looked kind of into communities of practice. And what that means in regard to linguistic identity, you know, and how, like, the, the language we use can be different. And all of the different these different communities of practice that we apply ourselves to. And we were just kind of curious how people who maybe did not have a linguistic background viewed these ideas. And our expectation, honestly, going into this was that people would, in fact, kind of recognise that, that we use language differently, and all these different spaces, and maybe kind of apply that to their own identity. I don't know if that's the same thing that you thought, but I was really expecting that people would kind of grasp on the idea that we do use language differently and all these different spaces.

Sara Abdelrahman 3:22
And they did actually, that I mean, I didn't expect them to be that thoughtful. Like my application, I think, I think, I think my implecations were the opposite of what we actually found. There were so thoughtful, and they had, like, concrete answers. That actually seemed linguistic, like a lot, like deeply,

Cole Group 3:42
I feel like, they can really talk about language, you know, because we use it every day. And so I think, you know, there were quite a few times where people found these answers to be very easy to come by. And I thought that was really fascinating, you know, coming from the linguistics perspective, and understanding that and then studying this for so long. And then to see people be like, of course, you know, I think was really cool. And to see people really do understand, to a certain degree, why language does matter.

Sara Abdelrahman 4:10
Also, one of the expectations were the people, we expected that people would actually be open to talk about gender, and the language influence on gender or vice versa. But we didn't see that at all.

Cole Group 4:24
We did we had a part of our question was geared towards that. And we'll talk about this little later when we when we bring up our actual findings from the interviews. But yeah, we really expected people to, for some reason, in this day and age, we kind of expected people to not be so shy to talk about gender and gender performance. And there was really none of it. And we'll talk about that a little later and what we thought that meant to us, but let's let's start here with just like our first findings of the interviews, and what we're going to kind of do is is format it through the way in which we asked the questions and so first, our or what's our first question involve, you know, where you from and, and the amount of languages you speak, and asking people to define language. And I thought, really, fascinatingly, that and even less so fascinating, I'm sure for you, Sarah, for someone who's not from the United States, but that most people did not speak multiple languages. I think the vast majority of those who we interviewed, spoke only English. And I think, our conclusion or not really a conclusion because I think this was relatively obvious. But there's clearly a lack of second language acquisition in the United States.

Sara Abdelrahman 5:37
Yeah, I think one of the one of the interviews actually referred back to this, one of the interviewees said that, I mean, the US didn't actually, prioritise, prioritise, like second languages, like they only focused on English. And also maybe that also, like the, we found all the people like are English speakers, that also might be because we didn't find that much of international students around. I mean, if we found international students around, we would have actually had, like, better, better, like or bigger scale of people who are bilingual.

Cole Group 6:12
Yeah,

Sara Abdelrahman 6:13
yeah, probably.

Interviewee 6:14
I think it's really important. I think, unfortunately, in the United States, we don't prioritise it other than English. And I think that is something that impacts our whole society in a detrimental way.

Cole Group 6:26
Yeah, with with that, I think, you know, it's, it's important to remember that, you know, the research we did, it was a small number. And, you know, we didn't have a really, really large sample size. And we only had a limited amount of time. So we went out and asked, Well, I think we had what 20 To 30 interviews, in college green, so the sample size was not, you know, this this vast corpora of information, it was just, you know, our findings through a small sample of college town of little people that live in this college town of Athens, Ohio, and those who happened to be walking across college green at that moment in time. So I mean, I Yes, I would, I would agree that would have liked to have seen maybe more representation from multilingual and bilingual. But what I mean, it's we have to remember, we're also in Ohio. Moving on to the next part, though, which was essentially our biggest question. And the one we were really trying to focus on, we were talking to people out there and called on college green. And it was the question about using language differently in your different communities of practice. And we alluded to a couple examples. But we actually found some really fascinating conclusions.

Sara Abdelrahman 7:35
Like, one of the conclusions that we found is that most people agreed that they feel different in different situations, or different communities of practice, like we call it, and only a few, I think, I think like three out of all the interviewees that we interviewed, only three like actually referred back to, like the situation or different situations to they are actually portraying different parts of themselves. But at the end, it's actually them like one of the interviewee interviewees, like said exactly the same, like, "I feel different. But all of them are actually part of who I am. Part of my cultures part of my character. So I don't feel like I'm a different person." She said, just like different parts of myself.

Cole Group 8:25
Yeah, we got that a lot, which I thought was really interesting. A lot of people really resonated with the fact that they do speak differently in all these different spaces. And there was there was what two or three that didn't agree with that, and said that they were always speaking true to themselves and speaking the same way in certain circumstances. But I mean, then we would ask them questions, and they said, Yes, we do speak differently. So I don't think they entirely understood what we were trying to get at, at times. But I think generally, the consensus was that, maybe not to, to, to a difference in identity, but we do generally speak differently. And I think, with our most common finding was that people spoke to formality. And formal language was like, the most concrete example of when we use language differently. And there was a mountain of examples from from the interviews of people, you know, referring to formality versus friendliness, formality versus anything else that was not formal.

Sara Abdelrahman 9:29
They used like expressions like, "oh, when I'm when I'm in a formal setting, I would use formal language but versus in a football game or with friends, I would just use slang."

Cole Group 9:42
Yeah.

Sara Abdelrahman 9:42
And one of the professors actually also said..

Cole Group 9:44
I think the president of the University, said, the football one.

Sara Abdelrahman 9:47
Yeah, that's the one. Yeah. And also, I remember one of the interviewees also said that in a class setting, he was, interviews were, there interviewee, was a professor and he said in classroom setting, I will use like a certain language versus when when I'm speaking with my friends, I would use an entirely different language that my, my students would be actually shocked of if they heard it. So..

Cole Group 10:14
yeah

Sara Abdelrahman 10:14

like, these are good acts, like examples of answers.

Cole Group 10:19
Yeah. And he said it like this and this clip here actually.

Interviewee 10:25
I think I think that we do have you know that we use different words, when we're different places, especially like your example being in church. I mean, I know that I would be, I just be more sensitive to being more respectful and probably quieter. If I'm in the church versus, you know, if I'm at a football game, like last night watching, you know, the Bobcats win against buffalo.

Cole Group 10:47
Okay, um, with that, we also found that most people did really resonate with the fact that there was a language shift. And like we just said a minute ago, if there really was some concrete evidence, and well, I'm going to play a clip here first. Just to hear some voices from those people that we interviewed, but it goes as follows.

Interviewee 11:19
Does it affect us? Well, it's good to be I have the ability to switch between, you know, whatever, given your situation, or and it'd be horrible. If you were in like, an interview and spoke, how you would do in a bar, for instance, I don't think that will go down very well. Culturally, I haven't been back to England in 20 years. But I know it's changed a lot. So the way I speak and phrase my sentences is a lot differently to help kids with today.

Cole Group 11:45
And this kind of really spoke to us in the way that we really saw that people were recognising that shift. And I think in this in this clip, she the lady from from, I think she was from England.

Sara Abdelrahman 12:01
yes.

Cole Group 12:02
She really kind of highlighted the fact that it was not only you know, recognising that shift, but how important it was that like, you know, to be a human survivor to survive, and human interaction, you have to be able to shift your language in and out of these different communities of practice.

Sara Abdelrahman 12:17
Yep, yep. And, and also, she refer back to the she thought, like a speaking an English speaking country would be just similar to to England, where she came from, but she actually, like, I mean, what she was wrong. She recognised that she was wrong when she arrived to the US, because it's different cultures, different language, different tenses, and all that

Cole Group 12:19
she, I think she spoke to she, how she realised that she had to shift her language in order to not be offensive, I think is the word she used, right. And she was like, I don't want to offend anyone, but with my language use, you know, that I'm used to back back back in England, she found that

she was offending people in spaces, which she would not find offensive. And that's that language that and that's a very specific example, and a very hyper one. Where, you know, you come from a separate culture. But that exists. Even in the United States, between people have the same kind of the same states, you know, we use language differently in such a few areas. You know, it's not too far from each other, that we use language differently, especially, you know, we're in Athens, Ohio right now, which exists in Appalachia. And Appalachian English is actually one of the biggest studies of this research practicum itself.

Sara Abdelrahman 13:37
Also speaking about, like, different you talked about different language languages, or different types of expressions used within the same state. I want to also like, get a little bit broader, where one of the interviewees referred back to southern drawl. And that would also would mean that you would actually identify the the person once you actually like, they are from the south, once you once you hear the drawl that the interviewer refered back to you know. And also like, it identifies a lot of things, not only where that person from, is from, but a lot of also background and yeah.

Cole Group 14:23
I love that clip, actually, because that to me, really helped me understand how, at times we understand formality. And I remember in that clip, he spoke to the southern drawl being on convergence of informal language. And speaking to that, you know, Southern southern drawl cannot be a formal use of language. And I thought that was a really fascinating part of that where he was alluding to the fact that not only accents can can mark formality but also, the actual words we use the which we know can be the case as you, as many times in this these interviews, people said, You wouldn't say the same thing there, too, that you went to your boss at a bar to the boss, you know, there was that illusion many, many times. So the fact that formal languages are where's the biggest shift is that

Sara Abdelrahman 15:22
yeah, and also, one of the things that you reflected on is that he came with this comparison between like, the southern drawl versus like you have a French accent, and you would know that you come from Canada or something like that, or you're from the northern part of the United States of America, is what you actually reflected on earlier? I mean, I don't remember what you said exactly. But also that actually pours in the same cup of like, you portray who you are, based on the accent based on the words that you use.

Cole Group 16:01
Yeah, absolutely. And we also saw a lot of examples in which people talked about a language shift in regard to fitting in. And that was, we had kind of geared our questions a little bit towards that to see if people could maybe resonate with that in order to recognise a language shift. And we really did find that they did. And we have a clip here, that really kind of highlights that. And I'm gonna play it for you.

I got another question for you. When do you feel most yourself speaking language?

Interviewee 16:40
When I know what I'm talking about.

Cole Group 16:42
Okay, so I guess going back to to identity, do you always feel like you're speaking your most yourself?

Interviewee 16:52
Do I? No, I definitely wouldn't say that. No, I guess there's some points where I have to speak in like a different way. Yeah, I guess. I guess language can be a little bit like manipulative, you can kind of get what you want out of people, I guess. Out of like the words you say or how you say it

Cole Group 17:10
awesome.

And in this clip, this gentleman spoke to not really feeling like himself, using language. And I think the word he used was manipulative language that was manipulative. And that kind of spoke to, we'll dive in again, here in a minute to what it means for identity. But in regards to fitting in, you know, and the actual language shift. He was he kind of alluded to the fact that we might manipulate or use language in different spaces, in order to apply ourselves to those spaces.

Sara Abdelrahman 17:53
So maybe to get what you want

Cole Group 17:55
Or maybe to get what you want. Yeah, and I thought that was a really interesting conclusion there is, is a lot of them did agree. And I think this is a good example to kind of move into identity as well. But I think it was important to note before we move on to that identity point, that there were some people that really did not feel as though language shifted too much. And there were there were there were not very many. And I know that this was a small sample size, but some people did disagree with the fact that language shifts, and I think that was a fascinating result as well. And I think we would see that a lot more often in a bigger corpora.

Sara Abdelrahman 18:36
Also, with regards to fitting in, like one of the interview we said, "I don't think it's fitting in as much as it is understanding the situation". So I think

Cole Group 18:47
Oh I remember that one.

Sara Abdelrahman 18:48
Yeah. So I think that that interview we was not aware of like, of intention, intentional change in his language. He just did it spontaneously. From his answers, I felt that. I'm not sure if he actually got the same like, like impression about his answers or not, or no. But that's what I felt about his answer. Like he made me feel like he, he didn't reflect on using specific language in different situations on his own, you know, like, yeah, he was different than other interviewees. He was like, "I don't know if it's actually fitting, and I think it's actually based on the situation or understanding the situation and coping with it like, yeah.

Cole Group 19:36

Yeah, and I think that interviewee himself was I think he was a business student, I think if I remember, and someone who was never trained in any sort of linguistics, and or any sort of language training, and I thought that was actually a really interesting response to that and to some from someone who has never had to, I don't think has or had any sort of language training. And then that was an interesting response. So, next we wanted to speak about linguistic identity, which was a large part of what we wanted to dive into in this research study. And we wanted to see how people that we interviewed perceive this, maybe how this related back to them or or what was their understanding of maybe the linguistic identity that they perform and present. And so I think the most commonly referred to the most commonly referred to portion of this in regard to identity was culture. You know, your linguistic identity reflects your culture and where you're from, and just like we had said a minute ago, with the guy talking about the southern drawl. And I'll play that clip here, actually, so you guys can hear that.

Interviewee 20:57
I think it impacts your identity. Like, obviously, if you got a southern drawl, like, you'd be from the south or like, I don't know if he's, were like, really well spoken, but had a little like, like, Hannah French, I would like maybe like Canada, I don't know.

Cole Group 21:14
In this clip, the guy talks about, know where you're from, where you come from, and where even within the United States where you're from, and he I think he reverted to refer to Canada as well, you know, where you might have a French interpretations of words. Referring to how that is a huge impact on your linguistic identity, where you're from, and I think that was a large, large, largely common factor, when we were talking about linguistic identity to people and it was, you know, the roots of where people come from.

Sara Abdelrahman 21:51
Yes, yes. Yeah. I would reflect also on Omani guy. Yeah. So I would like also to reflect on the Omani, like, like, a couple of guys from Oman, and Oman is like an Arabic language speaking country, in the Middle East. So he was reflecting on his experience coming to the US, even though his language is, like, qualified him to enter, or to enrol in a Master's or PhD degree or like Graduate Program anyway, that that indicates like his language is not that bad. But he still suffered from trying to fit in, because everything here is different from back home. And also I can relate to what he said, Because I'm from Egypt, and it's totally different. So culture, like I mean, the English that we learned in the school has nothing to do with the culture that is actually in the United States. Yeah. So we didn't know how to fit in. And the slang gave us a hard time. I mean.

Cole Group 22:53
How did that maybe then affect your identity, then Sarah?

Sara Abdelrahman 22:57
Um, I wouldn't say

Cole Group 22:59
Like, did you feel like you really struggled to grasp.

I mean, the first time I was, I came to the US was in 2019- 2020. And I, I felt separated, detached, and I felt alone. And because I never actually understood, like a full conversation, I didn't know how to interact that much. And like, in, in my culture, when you just like cross by somebody in the street, for instance, you say hi, and you stop to like, I mean, to ask about each other. Hi, how are you doing? How was your sister? How's your mom? How are the kids and, and then you just leave them and, and you go, but in the US what I found, Hey, Sarah, and it was just like, stop. And the other person was like, just passing by.

Already gone?

yeah already gone?

Sara Abdelrahman 23:48
I was just like looking, oh how rude. I mean, I didn't

Cole Group 23:54
You probably think I'm very rude!

Sara Abdelrahman 23:56
No, no, but I got I got used to it, by time, Of course, like in the first semester was hellish. Yeah, I guess. I wouldn't actually, like, be more. I wouldn't be like neutral about my opinion. But it was really, really bad the first semester.

Cole Group 24:10
Absolutely. That's, that's a big shift in culture.

Sara Abdelrahman 24:12
Yeah definitely.

Cole Group 24:14
And you can see that there with yourself as in, you know, not having that linguistic capability to communicate, how lost you feel, and how that really does you know, when you cannot express your own identity. It's a real, real challenge. And I'm sure that was really hard.

Sara Abdelrahman 24:34
That is like, that is for sure. Yeah.

Cole Group 24:37
yeah, I really, this actually leads really well into that. And we talked a lot about culture and how there was so much different, you know, cultural aspects in regard to identity. And there was a clip here, we'll play another one from a student from Peru talking actually about the culture and how shifting into a new culture is really challenging. So I'll play that here for you now.

Interviewee 25:01
Yeah, if you don't have the, let's say, the cultural context within you, and you don't understand, it's difficult for you to express, as you don't know, the, the conventions or the ways of a certain space. So for example, I was at a conference two weeks ago, and I met with another Peruvian. And the thing was that we say a word that we understand but other buddies not using inother

Spanish speaking countries. So in that moment, we were like, We understand this, and they don't. So.

Cole Group 25:43
yeah, so I think that clip really hit home on on what you were kind of saying a little bit with, you know, it's really hard when you don't really fully grasp the the conversations and communities that are going on in front of you.

Sara Abdelrahman 25:59
Yeah, so that was actually an iten..... like an interesting answer from that Peruan, Peruan?

Cole Group 26:05
Peruvian

Sara Abdelrahman 26:06
Peruvian, thank you, student. And he reflected on even within Spanish communities, a Spanish speaking community, he used one word that only relates or only be understood by people from Peru. And that actually also emphasizes or highlights the fact that it's not only the language, but also the culture indicates the language and its perception, like expressions and words and all of that. Yeah, yeah.

Cole Group 26:41
I really liked what he was saying about that. And was actually really fascinating. With that, we want to talk a little bit about gender identity. And in this in this interview process, we kind of made an attempt to get people to speak about linguistic identity in regards to gender performance, and how they perceive gender through language. And we found that nobody would talk about it. And I think that really speaks to the comfortability and even of speaking about your, your presentation, and your performance of gender, but also, really how it's almost still taboo. And to specifically the United States in this in the space which we were talking, but I don't know if that is as taboo in some cultures as it is ours. But it was very evident, I think, to us that it was really essentially a taboo to speak about gender, you know, because we really attempted to gear people. And like we had said at the beginning, you know, we really anticipated people to speak about it. And I think that kind of speaks to the fact that it really is that uncomfortable

Sara Abdelrahman 27:51
topic

Cole Group 27:52
Gray area where people do not want to speak about, you know, their gender performance or their gender identity. And I think I would love to see a shift from that. But ..

Sara Abdelrahman 28:00
I mean, as, as we expect that people will be actually more open, even though like we mentioned, like in the questions, our questions were so direct, like, I mean, does that actually affect your identity? Like, I mean, identity, like for instance, like gender, identity, and culture, or values or all of that, but they just, like, always put aside gender and talk about the other topics.

Cole Group 28:28
Yeah,

Sara Abdelrahman 28:29
And this was unexpected.

Cole Group 28:31
And I think so too. And I really, admittedly, was hoping people would speak to gender more, but I think the conclusion that they weren't speaking to gender is almost just as conclusive, you know, the fact that, you know, that really is just that, that that uncomfortable area in which people have not, we haven't really permeated that yet, especially in American culture. And I know that these are things that are being talked about a lot in political spaces and social spaces now moving forward, but they're still within day to day conversation, that uncomfortable uncomfortability in regard to speaking about language, and, and how our agenda and how I perform it.

Sara Abdelrahman 29:12
Yeah, I agree.

Cole Group 29:13
It was really admittedly saddening to me at parts, you know, because it was it was I was expecting people to be almost vibrant about speaking towards the their gender performance and how they, how they feel and presenting themselves but we also have to remember we were running around on the street too so. And lastly, the whole podcasts are in the name of it is our question, why does language matter? And when we asked this question, then when we were carrying around on our shirt all day, walking around interviewing people, we kind of got a dichotomy of answers on this one question, which I thought was also a fascinating result. That in regard to "Why does language matter?" people often you know, the dichotomy of answers was to convey culture or as a tool of communication. So it was also it was either a cultural, deeply rooted cultural aspect of life, it was your language, or just a tool to communicate. And I thought that was a really fascinating discovery was there was really essentially just that dichotomy of understanding why why does it matter?

Sara Abdelrahman 30:24
Yeah, I mean, also, like, people said that they use language, I mean, to know, people, and to communicate, I mean, part of the communication aspect of it, like they wanted to know more people and one of the interviewees from Vietnam, they said, "we wouldn't have been, wouldn't have been able to be in the US if it was if it weren't for the English, for the language." And that was actually like the value added to their life that they came here. They got to know, other cultures, other people. And of course, it's actually like, like, I mean, it's mind opening or eye opening, like people get to know other people. I think it's actually like, part of our personal growth, like to shift gears towards other people like to get to know other people.

Cole Group 31:22
Yeah, I know, you were speaking to it a lot, actually, when we were kind of preparing for this episode, and preparing for these interviews, because you had said that, you know, "sometimes

language often fails, really, to help us portray who we really are." And I think that we really did recognise that.

Sara Abdelrahman 31:42
Yeah, one of the interviewees said, like "I'm not loud-spoken. But that doesn't mean I don't have much to say." And I related to that, that's why I actually came up with this, like opinion, like language sometimes fails to help us portray who we truly are, who we truly are. Like, I feel that in Egypt, we have.. my favourite writer, my favourite author said, "people in Egypt don't understand introverts" we refer back to introverts as people who are not actually loud-spoken. And he said, I'm quoting, like, "people just understand loudness, that you, you'd be loud. And otherwise, they will just like, think that you're suspicious. And they will just like, like, come up with assumptions about you, and why you're suspicious, why not spoken? Speaking, like loudly like them?" And this is also like you said, a taboo, right? Like, why do we actually put people in like a box? Based on the language that they use? Sometimes, Sometimes, I mean, this is maybe a counter argument, I'm not sure. But sometimes, like the language doesn't actually maybe be like the main factor to portray yourself maybe. What about people who don't speak? Don't they have characters? I'm sure they do. You know?

Cole Group 33:14
Yeah, absolutely. And I think we really did recognise that oftentimes, especially asking challenging questions to those to people on the street and trying to get people to speak about taboos like gender and, and values and things of that sort. That people really did, not only linguistically, but socially feel as though they cannot present entirely who they are. And because of maybe that social aspect of it, they fall short linguistically, I think oftentimes, because they, that taboo kind of forces them away from speaking about really how they feel and who they are. I think we recognise that a lot. And I think I'll play a clip here really quickly. That really kind of highlighted that for us. And I'll play it right now, actually.

Interviewee 34:04
But I don't really think like, maybe that is the case. I'm just like, not very, like loud-spoken. So, but I would say like I got a lot to say. So I don't know. It applies to like most people I guess.

Cole Group 34:18
In that clip, he really spoke to you know what you were talking about being maybe shy or someone who has a lot to say, but doesn't really say it. And is that a falling short of language?

Sara Abdelrahman 34:31
A fallen short?

Cole Group 34:33
Yeah, like is that you know, a disadvantage of language? Or

Sara Abdelrahman 34:37
oh, I wouldn't say it's a disadvantage, but maybe we don't we don't have the words. Maybe like, I mean, so speaking about what I said earlier, like, what about the people who don't speak? I mean, there, there's still sign language. Right? There's still language use, like, whether verbal or written or maybe sign? Right. But I think I think it's part of who we are, but not necessarily portraying who we completely are. I mean, yeah, I mean, you portray yourself using language or without

language? Or maybe the language itself, like you don't find it helpful to, to convey what you have in your mind. I'm not sure. Yeah.

Cole Group 35:27
Yeah, I really do think through, I think through this research, I think I found that, you know, presenting your linguistic identity really does have a lot of challenges. And, you know, there's a lot of ambiguity to it, and how we represent our own personal linguistic identities and, and how we speak in these different spaces, and what that means for our identities and our performances. And I think what these interviews really did was kind of opened the eyes to really how challenging that can be at times. And I know that there was a lot of, you know, large conclusions that we can make off a small sample size like we had, but I think it really did speak to the fact that your linguistic identity is a challenging thing to perform, you know, and is it something that changes or is it always us? You know, do we really speak like different people? Are we changing our identity, or are we always the same? You know, is that in that? I don't think these interviews really answered that for us. But I think definitely gave us some insight into that.

Sara Abdelrahman 36:37
Definitely. Yeah.

Cole Group 36:38
I thought this was really fun. Actually, I really enjoyed doing these interviews.

Sara Abdelrahman 36:43
Me too.

Cole Group 36:44
I think this was good research.

Sara Abdelrahman 36:45
Yeah, me too.

Cole Group 36:47
And I think that really concludes it for us. Thank you, everybody. And that will be the end of our podcast.

Sara Abdelrahman 36:54
Thank you.