Activity 4 Transcription

**What’s good about being bilingual?**

Because I always speak it, like the most comfortable place I speak it is in my house or in Africa. Because no-one else speaks it, it’s unique.

*Unique - that’s a good word.*

When you grow up, you might go to the language that you speak – the country that the language you speak, and there’s a lot of words that you might know. And if you didn’t learn your other language, and when you grow up you go to that country then you won’t know what it says.

*Yeah, yeah. Mm, hm.*

Some languages are similar and if you go on holiday somewhere you might understand and communicate.

See when I speak to Aidah in Swahili coz we both speak it, my friends are like, ”What are you saying?” and we just tell them what to say in Swahili but they still don’t understand. We just teach them how to say it.

**When do you use each of your languages?**

I speak English to my friends and sometimes I speak Swahili to my mum coz she speaks back to me and then I reply it back to her but sometimes I can just mix it up and say it in English. My mum knows English a lot so she still understands what I say.

I speak Polish at home and to my friends.

I speak Chinese, I speak Chinese at home and with my friends, they’re Chinese too.

*Do they go to this school?*

Yeah, and they two are in the same class.

*Yeah. What about you?*

I speak Polish in school and at home.

I speak Swahili to my friends at Mosque and at home, and at school I speak English. When, like, if I know that somebody else is speaking Swahili …like this, this is my accent for English right but if I start speaking to Amira my accent just changes.

*Does it?*

Yeah.

*Do you think about changing your accent or does it just happen?*

Yeah, it just happens.

People say, “Why do you talk like that?” because when me and her talk English together they say we talk differently or coz when we talk to them they think that we’re talking Scottish to them but then when [we talk together] we talk with a Swahili accent in English.

I went to Africa for my holidays, to Tanzania coz that’s where my mum and my dad was born and see, me and Aidah don’t even speak English anymore, we just speak in full Swahili. We even forgot about English and when we came back to Glasgow and we all started speaking English again and when we came back it was raining and I was like aww! Coz when we were in Africa it was all warm and hot, and then the next minute you know it’s raining.

And my brother just chased chickens everywhere!

**Do you use other languages in school?**

I speak to my sister in Polish and my friend Julia - I speak to her in Polish too.

*That’s good. And what about in class?*

In class I usually speak English but sometimes I speak Polish.

*Do your teachers sometimes give you the chance to use the language, your other language?*

Yes [most of the pupils]

*They do? Can you think of a time when that happened?*

When we were writing down words in our languages.

*Anyone else? Do you sometimes use it in class?*

No [shaking of heads, shrugging of shoulders]

*Would you like to?*

Yeah [all]

*Yeah, you would like to? Do you think it would help you?*

Yes, yeah.

My mum and dad says, “You’re forgetting your own language. Get your head straight”.

**Is there anything you don’t like about being bilingual?**

My language, when you speak it. It’s got like, lots of…How do you say it? I don’t know…..It’s got lots of little bits that are different. Like one bit is like *SH* and the other bit’s like *NG*.

*Like different sounds?*

Yeah, like in one word, and it sounds really gibberish. So then it’s kinda weird saying it in public.

*Coz people might think it sounds a bit different or a bit strange compared to Scottish?*

Yeah, and then they judge you by it.

Sometimes I feel shy and embarrassed when I’m… to speak in front of my class in a different language coz my class will be like, “Oh, what is she saying?”