

Czech Australians and Australian Czechs: Grammatical borrowings between English and Czech in reverse situations

Chloe Castle

PhD student (external, University of Adelaide) and visiting scholar (Macquarie University)

This seminar will summarise the main findings from the four papers created for my thesis by publication, which is to be submitted later this year. These four papers include:

- (1) "Language contact, grammatical borrowing and attrition: A study of Czech in South Australia"
- (2) "Language loyalty and language purity in a language contact situation: South Australian Czech"
- (3) "Expats in Prague: Borrowings in L1 English speakers"
- (4) "Expats in Prague: Motivators in language use and language borrowing".

These findings provide supporting evidence for the existence of grammatical borrowing and contact-induced language transfer, which is a much-debated topic in the literature (Weinreich 1953; Campbell 1993; Thomason & Kaufman 1998; de Haan 1990; Poplack & Levey 2010; Winford 2010; Thomason 2011; Torres Cacoullos & Travis 2018). The papers are innovative in that they consider language use by the Czech diaspora in an Australian context, position the L1 English speaker as the immigrant engaging in language learning in a Czech context, and compare directly opposing (as far as possible) language contact situations. A new model is also created which links the concepts of matter borrowing (borrowing form and function of a morpheme or word-form) and pattern borrowing (borrowing of function only) (Matras & Sakel 2007) to register, language mode (Grosjean 1998) and the conscious choice to engage in borrowing.

The focus of the seminar will be on whether grammatical borrowings have occurred from between English and Czech, and why borrowing due to language contact may occur between these languages.