



Third Culture Kid

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Third Culture Kid was born in the Soviet Union and immigrated to the Netherlands in 1991. They grew up in the Netherlands, where they spent most of their life, before moving to Aberdeen, which they have been calling home for the past seven years.

I started learning English at school from the age of five [...] In the Soviet Union, it would either be English, German or French. And so I started going to a school that specialised in English. And then when I moved to the Netherlands, I went to a special school where we had a lot of Dutch... so within six months, I was ready to go to a regular school... it was just like full-on Dutch, Dutch, Dutch.

What I do appreciate [is] how much art is not translated... how fortunate I am... just to be able to watch a movie in a different language, read a book in a different language [...] being able to read Russian literature in its original form or some of the Dutch movies have been really great in the last decade... I've been watching them and it's so refreshing. And people here will never be exposed to them.

[My schooling] was such an eye opener because I didn't realise that language reflects the culture so much... [In Dutch or English], some words were not translatable, if that makes sense. And, to me, that made me realise how we are formed as people, how our decisions were formed with our language, because our frame of mind is defined by the words that we have... [Learning languages] opened up different ways of thinking [...], at a certain point it clicks with you and you say, "but there are so many other ways of doing things, and this is also okay"... So that's how it was, I think, for me: like a realisation.

I speak English with an accent... when I came here, I came as an adult... I won't have a Scottish accent by the end of my life and that's okay [...] but] I don't feel like speaking a different language or being from a different culture impacts me here [...] I wouldn't say I feel overly welcome, but I don't feel unwelcome... it's like you just get on with things.



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