Hellllllo Everyone and welcome to the language learning podcast. I am your hostess with the mostest Eron Lutterman and today we are going to aprender (that's learn in Spanish) about whats different in the brains of people that speak more than one language or maybe just speak a different language than we do. To learn about this topic I am joined tonight by the ever-illustrious Joe Faullin. Joe how we doing tonight. Joe - . Great well Joe here is, fortunately for tonight's topic, a bilingual speaker.

Joe what language do you speak?

And do you mind telling the listeners in 100 words or less why you, a White American 19-year old from Winston Salem, speak Indonesian of all languages?

Now that Joe has established himself as the coolest person in the room we’re going to get this show on the road. So I am going to start us out with this clip from a UC Berkeley panel called Dreaming in Different Tongues. This is the moderators intro to the topic for their panel which is also coincidentally the topic we are going to talk about today - Linguistic Relativity.

So this all started with- \*explain sapir whorf theory”

So one of the panelists from that day is Lera Borodistsky she’s a linguist from UC Berkley that is really on the forefront of Linguistic Relativity and she gave a TED Talk a couple years ago about the work she was doing to answer the question: do the languages we speak affect the way we think. Lena has done really amazing work trying to change this field from one where people guess and speculate based on observation to a hard data driven science. Ive watched a couple of her talks and lectures and she really loves this example involving a tribe from Australia.

Lena clip

Talk about Lena clip

So just because thats so much fun lets listen to another one

Gndering language example

So Joe any insight into this from your experience with Indonesian? Can you say a few words about the gender structure in indonesian if there is any.

“Languages such as Mandarin don’t employ a future tense, like English does. That has been shown to mean that Manadrin speakers don’t view the future as a far off concept, but more of a whole of their experience,”

Transition to talk about benefits of bilingualism

So listen to this guy John McWhorter, hes a American academic and linguist who is Associate Professor of English and Comparative Literature at Columbia University, where he teaches linguistics.

So again Joe I turn it back to you I just wonder if you find any truth in his reasoning there. Now in full transparency before Joe starts I am his roommate and I can tell you that he unequivicollay agrees with the third one about whether its fun or not because this kid lovvveeessss flexing his indonesian skills.