# Transcript of Motivation and self-reflection (12:05 min)

[Music playing]

**Chiara Bicanic** – Hi, how are you? My name is Chiara and last year I studied Italian at school.

**Ilha Jung** – Hello. My name is Ilha and I studied Japanese at school for 6 years.

**Anika Popovik** – Hi, I am Anika. I studied French. I really like languages, I hope everyone can continue to learn languages.

**Thomas Elibank-Murray** – Hello. My name is Tom. I have been studying Japanese for 6 years. Pleased to meet you.

**Scarlett Elliott** – Hello. My name is Scarlett and I studied German and Japanese for the HSC.

**Ilha Jung** – All right. Luca. Why did you choose to study a language for your HSC?

**Luca Butterworth** – Language learning, I found pretty fun. It was a good kind of change from the other subjects, which are quite content heavy, and sometimes a bit dry. And I also wanted to talk to family members as well who spoke that language. So yeah, that's why I learned languages.

**Jerry Zhang** – Well, for me, in year seven, I always knew that I wanted to study a language so I can take it beyond high school. And I felt that languages could be beneficial for me in the future. What about you, Lily?

**Lily Parsons** – Well, I chose to study language because I'd really like to live overseas. And I'd like to travel a lot. And with Spanish being one of the most commonly spoken languages, I just thought it would be really helpful.

**Chiara Bicanic** – My chosen language was Italian. And I chose to study that because I have family who live over there. And I wanted to be able to communicate with them and just really learn more about the culture, and the language, and the history.

**Scarlett Elliott** – How did your teacher motivate you? Describe the impact they had on your learning. When I was studying language at high school, I actually had two different methods of learning. So, for Japanese, I was in a class with my teacher. And that was fantastic because the way that the language was taught to us there was very much with like a contextual sort of background. So, all the fundamentals and stuff was taught to us within a contextual sort of like how this would be used in real life.

So that helped a lot. For German, I was doing distance education. So, I was very self-governed in that sphere. So, the motivation was basically entirely from myself.

**Luca Butterworth** – I think the most motivating thing that my teacher did was that she'd give us feedback all the time. And so, you could kind of see how you're improving.

**Lily Parsons** – My teacher motivated me really well actually. She was always there for us when we needed. We could email her any questions we had. And having that constant feedback and support, that was really good for motivating.

**Anika Popovik** – How did you push through when you felt your motivation lagging, or when you found something particularly challenging? I can't say that I had one strategy for that. Again, I found myself, I guess, constantly reminding myself that this is what I wanted to do. This is my passion. Because I have continued on with languages after high school.

**Melissa Park** – So I think language learning doesn't always have to be difficult and challenging. Even when you want to take a break, doing things like listening to music in that target language. So, I like listening to Japanese music, or even just watching a short YouTube video in that language really helped.

**Thomas Elibank-Murray** – Being able to talk to someone else in another language being able to open yourself up to a new culture, being able to hear, and see, and understand things that you previously never really could before is, I feel, a huge motivation.

**Scarlett Elliott** – Unbeknownst to me at the time, I actually had ADHD. So that did come with a fair amount of issues in terms of language learning. But I just had to keep reminding myself of the goal, which was ultimately to just get quite fluent. And I also wanted to continue to study it at university.

**Jerry Zhang** – How did studying a language impact you as a student?

**Lily Parsons** – I think as a student, it helped me to be more self-motivated. With all the distance learning, it really helped me take time away from being guided in all my classes. It helped me, yeah, become more self-reliant. But it was also just a really good break in my study routine. I did a lot of guided subjects, English, and math, and religion. So, it was a really good break away from that. I just got to be independent. And I think it actually helped me stay motivated for all of my subjects.

**Jerry Zhang** – Yeah, right.

**Scarlett Elliott** – As a student, it helped me a lot with just sort of broadening my horizons in terms of media consumption. Because I was able to sort of delve into different spheres of film, and art, and literature, and whatnot. And it also opened up the possibility of travelling overseas.

**Melissa Park** – Studying Japanese helped me build that confidence with connecting with people. And that's not just with Japanese people, but people in general. So, building that social skill. And I have a background in medicine. So, I have this goal of mine, which is to enable and utilise my Japanese to connect with patients who aren't able to speak the English language, and patients from linguistically diverse countries, and be able to convey what they want to say in the healthcare setting.

**Luca Butterworth** – Was there a time, Ilha, when you achieved beyond your expectations?

**Ilha Jung** – For sure. I think when we went to the school trip to Japan, I didn't think that I could have a conversation with Japanese people there. But when I was able to make friends with them, attend their classes, attend their after-school activities such as tennis, soccer, and really engage in their culture in first person, I think that really made me realise that, wow. I'm actually learning something. I'm actually applying what I'm learning.

**Melissa Park** – A time where I achieved beyond my expectation was when I applied for the position as a health care interpreter. And that was a few years after I graduated from high school. But I think the reason why I was able to achieve that and apply for it was because of the confidence that I had built over through studying languages during high school.

**Thomas Elibank-Murray** – What did you enjoy the most? And why? There was a lot that I enjoyed about learning Japanese.

**Lily Parsons** – I really enjoyed learning about new cultures and new ways of life. It really opens up your world view. I also really enjoyed the unique relationship that I got to have with my teacher, because it's just so different than the relationship you have with any of your other subject teachers.

**Luca Butterworth** – Being part of a small class and kind of helping each other along, it was a lot of fun. You didn't feel like you're doing it all by yourself, which sometimes, other subjects, it feels like.

**Anika Popovik** – The teacher would bring in Chinese food. We would actually do cooking.

**Melissa Park** – My teacher would always bring little bits of the Japanese culture into our classroom, and also allowed us to get involved in incursions as well. So, we would have people like sushi chefs come along, and teach us a bit about how to make sushi.

**Thomas Elibank-Murray** – Me and another person who comes from another background may be different. But there are so many things that make us the same. And being able to talk to them in language and recognise those differences, but also find those common things, is so, so amazing and wonderfully-- wonderful to be able to do.

**Chiara Bicanic** – What do you think is the biggest factor in succeeding in language learning? Practice.

**Jerry Zhang** – Practising every day, spending a bit of time revising your vocab.

**Lily Parsons** – Lots of repetition and getting feedback and support from your teachers.

**Anika Popovik –** Perseverance and being able to understand where you went wrong, and how you can improve.

**Scarlett Elliott** – Surrounding yourself with the language in any way that you can.

**Melissa Park** – As long as you have that determination, and perseverance, and of course that passion for that language learning, then that's how you'll succeed in that language. So next question is looking back, is there anything you would have done differently?

**Luca Butterworth** – I think in a way, maybe stress less, to enjoy it even more. Maybe that's just post-HSC.

**Ilha Jung** – I kind of wish I went out of my comfort zone a little bit more though. Yeah.

**Luca Butterworth** – Ok.

**Ilha Jung** – Just asking questions to my teachers, not being afraid. Because I think that's when most of my learning comes from.

**Lily Parsons** – I think I definitely would have taken more of an advantage of my teacher to practise my speaking skills.

**Chiara Bicanic** – I would have managed my time a little bit more in making sure that outside of school hours, I was practising a lot, which I already was, but it was important to make sure.

**Scarlett Elliott** – Do you see languages in your future? I do.

**Ilha Jung** – Well, actually, earlier this year, I've been working part-time in a casino as a table games croupier. Every time there is a Japanese guest, I try to engage them through using their language.

**Scarlett Elliott** – I want to pursue tattoo artistry over in Europe. So, I anticipate languages of many forms will come into play there.

**Ilha Jung** – So every time they win, I'd say some catch phrases like, ‘oh, amazing, that's amazing isn't it?’

**Lily Parsons** – At the moment, I'm tutoring my language at my uni. And in the future, I'd love to live abroad.

**Thomas Elibank-Murray** – In addition to studying Japanese at uni, I'm also studying chemistry. And in particular, I have an interest for green chemistry, and within that, hydrogen. And Japan would potentially be a massive market for the consumption, and possibly even production, of hydrogen. And I see that complementing my study of chemistry and that area of interest very well.

**Chiara Bicanic** – I definitely see languages in my future if I was to talk to family again, go overseas, which I would love to do. The more I do it and the more I practise, which I'm now really motivated to do after HSC, the more that I'll be able to use it.

**Ilha Jung** – Out of everything, if you had to give one piece of advice to the people that are starting in stage six, what would it be? I would definitely say, don't be afraid to ask questions to your teachers. It is so important that you challenge your own learning. That way, you will get sincere feedback. And your learning would improve so much quicker and so much more efficiently.

**Chiara Bicanic** – Make sure that you learn vocab and practise speaking in ways that you wouldn't necessarily predict for an exam in the HSC. For example, you might be often asked, what did you do in your spare time? Or what did you do over the weekend? And it's very easy to give formulaic answers about those sorts of topics.

However, a real conversation is more of a back and forth thing, whereas HSC questions are very, ask a question, and then you answer it, and then you move on. So, it's really important to study phrases and vocab that comes from a conversation that might be unpredictable, and unexpected, and practising being able to think on the top of your head.

**Melissa Park** – Find something about the language that motivates you. And find a study buddy who has a similar study ethic and study pattern as you. Because that's how you sort of grow and learn from each other.

**Anika Popovik** – Just stick to your teacher. Be friends with your teacher. Because that is what they want from you. They want you to be able to ask them any questions that you have with languages.

**Melissa Park** – They want to see you excel. So even if you're struggling with something, they're always there for you. So, if you have any questions or concerns, always go to your teacher.

**Chiara Bicanic** – I'd like to say: ‘Good luck everyone’.

**Thomas Elibank-Murray** – Good luck!

**Luca Butterworth** – Lots of luck.

**Jerry Zhang** – Wishing you success and remember where there is a desire there is a way.

**Anika Popovik** – I hope you all love languages like me, one day!

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