

## Supplementary materials C | Additional interview quotes

The following pages contain additional quotes from the interviews that provide further insights into our participants' (1) digital literacy and attitudes towards technology (see §2.3, in the paper), (2) extent of engagement in MALL and perceptions of language-learning apps (see §3.1, in the paper), and (3) language learning practices as late-life learners (see §3.3, in the paper). The interviewees' comments for each of these topics have been grouped by subject to help the reader navigate through them.

### 1. Digital literacy and attitudes towards technology

- *Lower digital literacy / limited interest in technology*

"I use my tablet only for research purposes. I'm not a technophile and need support from my family".

"My interest for technological developments is limited. I use an email program, YouTube, and Google-search. Whenever I have questions, I ask my daughter and let her help me".

"I quit [using technology] when I stopped working and my interest in it is also low. I have technical devices, but I use them very little and only for communication. With my tablet I look at more current things, such as the weather or political events. What I have learned, I have learned from my grandchildren".

"During the week I fight with my [new] mobile phone [a smartphone]. That takes up a lot of time. I regret very much that I have had so little contact with smartphones so far. My son is a computer scientist and I often have the feeling that I live in the jungle".

"At the tablet I use Skype. I don't use any other programmes yet; I still need some private lessons from my grandson. Especially the handling of the touchpad is still difficult for me".

"I have not used digital dictionaries yet. I am too stupid for that. My wife can do that".

- *Successful technology adoption / positive attitudes and interest towards technology*

"The technological boom is a happy circumstance".

"I use Facebook, Instagram, WhatsApp and a Chinese communication system to talk with my son. At the time, I invested a lot of time learning all this".

"For learning, I currently use primarily the Internet. Texts and YouTube videos are a great help".

"Through my work as a draughtswoman, I learned how to use technical tools, attended PC-trainings and was always interested in technical developments".

"With videos on the Internet and by trying things out I always learn more".

“I have a smartphone, a computer and a laptop. I use these devices daily for communication, research, and photography, for example. Besides WhatsApp I use many other apps. I learned to use these devices autodidactically. I have experienced their development and have grown with it”.

“Yeah, I use everything... smartphone, tablet, computer. My wife and I each has a computer in our office. We use apps and computer programs, for example, Excel and Word, differently nowadays than when we were working. We have stayed in the system and have learned along the way”.

“I also use the new technologies to expand my knowledge in other areas, for example. cooking. I always try to educate myself further and use the modern communication media for this purpose. I am active on Facebook, sharing posts with friends and developing myself further”.

“I have a laptop, a [desktop] computer, a tablet and a smartphone, which I use every day for communication, to search on the Internet, to do the shopping, to sell stuff, etc. I have learned everything on my own and I am even more likely to be asked for advice. Playing around with digital devices is for me a lot of fun!”

“I have noticed that the older you get, the more cautious you become with new technologies. I now look for a suitable contact person, read more about the topic and have respect for the developments”.

“I am open to new possibilities, although handling them is not always easy for me”.

## **2. Extent of engagement in MALL and perceptions of language-learning apps**

- *Positive attitudes towards language-learning apps but no experience with them*

“I also think it is very important to offer such apps, especially in this digitalised society”.

“I've never heard of such applications, but it's good to know that there is such a thing!”

- *Reluctance to try out language-learning apps*

“With the languages I already know I don't think these apps can help that much. And then I prefer to learn a language in a group with more people. It's more interactive”.

“I don't use language-learning applications because I think that I like language courses better due to the personal contact. I would miss that in language-learning applications”.

“The level of these apps is too low for me and I think that you have to spend a lot of time on them to be really successful”.

- ***Opinions of the users about language-learning apps***

“Unfortunately, I cannot find any uses for language-learning apps. The few resources I found for Hungarian are mostly for beginners and I’m past that stage, so it’s not really useful to me”.

“I have also been involved with language-learning applications. But they didn’t get me. I think interactively you learn more because you can help yourself directly”.

“I’ve heard of many apps and used *Babbel*, but it was too tedious and difficult for me. I couldn’t handle it. It was cumbersome and not user-friendly. And at some point you had to buy it. If I needed it professionally I would invest in it, but that was too much work for me”.

“While using this app I had problems with the technical implementation. I simply did not have the necessary possibilities on the computer. Therefore, I decided to take a course at the *Volkshochschule* [adult education centre]”.

“I have already used *Babbel* for English, which has helped me a lot. I like this way of learning better than analogue learning. But I always stopped for money reasons as soon as you had to pay for the app”.

“I have used *Babbel* for example. But that’s nothing for me. Today I would rather learn languages at a language school because interaction is very important to me”.

### **3. Additional insights: Language learning practices in older adults**

- ***Preference for refreshing over learning a new second language (L2)***

“A few years ago I took a Persian language course. Since my planned journey did not take place in the end, I stopped again. But I was surprised that I could refresh the basics so quickly”.

“[Language] learning has rather become practising”.

- ***L2 learning perceived as more challenging over the years***

“I notice clearly that I learn much more slowly today. I need more time to memorize words and, if I don’t write them down, I forget them again. But if I have learned them 2-3 times, I can do it. To really learn something, I have to write down words by hand”.

“Learning is more difficult for me today. [To learn new vocabulary], I need not only to see what I have learned, but also to hear it”.

“Learning has changed a lot over the years. In the past, you heard a new word and remembered it immediately, but today you have to hear it very often until you have really internalized it”.

“Over the years I became worse at retaining certain vocabulary”.

“Learning has changed substantially. My long-term memory is now much more active than my short-term memory”.

“Learning has changed over the years, especially because of the sporadic work on a language”.

“Today I notice differences to earlier times, when learning languages. Today it is more difficult for me. Especially when learning a language independently. Today I simply forget more quickly and I notice how the short-term memory declines”.

“Learning has changed over the years. I learn more slowly now and have to look at things several times to really master them. I had to revise my learning strategies”.

“Today I simply need longer to learn. But I have time and no big goals”.

- ***L2 learning perceived as less challenging over the years / compensating factors***

“Learning is easier for me today than in the past because my head is free and I can absorb much more”.

“Learning, in any sense, has always been difficult for me. I always had to do a lot to succeed. With age that has changed because the pressure to perform is no longer there”.

“In any case, it has become more difficult to learn new languages than at a young age. You just forget faster. I can see that in my knowledge of Russian [learnt at school] compared to English [a new L2]. But my motivation now makes up for these difficulties”

- ***Age effects on the selection of instructional methods***

“I used to learn languages from a teacher and now I study them all by myself and with my own methods”.

“Over the years, I have developed my own learning system with books and I’ll stay with it”.

- ***Advantages of digital technology for L2 learning***

“Now that I can get the Hungarian radio and television online, I use those apps for listening practice. It’s brilliant!”

“For Spanish I have also watched videos online. Sometimes with German subtitles”.

“I often watch tips, you know, videos online for hearing comprehension. I find that very useful”.

“I read texts on the Internet. No newspaper articles, but on Facebook and what I get in private”.

“I use Google translate to be sure [of what I write in Spanish]. Especially concerning the grammar. I also use this app because the answers are there immediately”.

“I often look at articles in Wikipedia and compare the versions in different languages”.

“I use the Google translator very often and find it really good. It is great to see how it improves quickly. It is simple and fast”.