

## **Abstract and key words**

Language is a powerful tool that not only allows humans to communicate with one another, but it also enables the ability to express oneself and connect with other human beings on a deeper and more emotional level. In the case of the bilingual, the ability to communicate and express emotion is enhanced, due to the privilege of expressing oneself in two languages. Thus, having the option and space to think in two languages, the bilingual speaker is able to use words from both depending on the ability of the word to properly capture the emotion that they want to express. Owing to the significant global rise of the use of English (due to the Internet and the majority of mainstream media being in English), many, whose mother tongue is different, have become very adept and almost bilingual speakers of the language, causing them to often use English as their preferred means of communication, as it seems to express their feelings more appropriately. Through a survey made to examine this phenomenon, this thesis will focus on Czech native speakers with an above average English proficiency ranging in ages from 18 – 25 and their use of both their mother tongue and the English language. The survey features questions about which language the participants would use in certain contexts, for example when speaking of private and emotional matters versus casual small-talk. The survey also features questions regarding the participants' Internet usage and online culture knowledge, as this thesis is an attempt to prove that the language preferences of Czech-English bilinguals are directly related to how much time they spend on the Internet and how well-versed they are in the online world, arguing that the more time they spend using English online, the more likely they are to use English terms for expressing emotions. This is a result of the fact that English (specifically English on the Internet) contains a wide variety of terms for emotional expression far larger than Czech and non-internet English. Given these points, this thesis is an endeavor to prove that due to the presence of English in media and the Internet, the majority of Czech-English bilingual

participants is inclined to use English in a majority of situations, often to the point where it pervades into native language territory.

**Key words:** English, Czech, bilingualism, emotions, digital natives, native language, Internet, media