

Mirela Setkic is a Bosnian refugee who now lives in the United States. Mirela conducts an excellent Ted Talk in which she describes her experience facing accent bias. She starts off by discussing a scenario in which a panelist receives questions about her accent rather than the context of her speech. Mirela discusses how this feels like it overshadows the content of the speech and her true performance. She then goes on to describe how people develop negative bias towards accents. Mirela argues about how this intensifies when the accent is from more disadvantaged countries. She presents examples from her own experience like how she is asked on a weekly basis where she is from based on her accent. She feels that this puts her on the spotlight and makes her feel like she does not belong. Lastly, she shares a fact that she read in a study that state we share 99.9% of the same DNA. Mirela likes to think that maybe accents are a part of the .1% that makes us unique. The main takeaway she would like her audience to have is that we are all human beings and our uniqueness is special.

Mirela's speech is a valuable primary source for me. Mirela does a great job at explaining the problems of accent bias that so many people face. Mirela uses her own experience to back up the claims that certain studies have made about unconscious bias. I find this to be an invaluable source to add to my project as humans are emotional beings. What I mean by this is that humans can identify a problem that we read in an article and accept that the problem exists. However, it isn't until we experience it firsthand or meet someone who has that allows us to fully grasp the depth of the problem and the importance of finding a solution. I believe Mirela humanizes the very real issue of unconscious accent bias. After watching this speech, I am much more openminded about the seriousness of this type of research.

Setkic, M. (n.d.). Retrieved July 19, 2020, from

https://www.ted.com/talks/mirela_setkic_where_is_your_accent_from_the_subtle_aggression_of_accents_guessing