

1: Multilingualism | Larissa Aronin and David Singleton

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Psychology[edit] A study in has shown that using a foreign language reduces decision-making biases. It was surmised that the framing effect disappeared when choices are presented in a foreign tongue. As human reasoning is shaped by two distinct modes of thought: Therefore, those who speak two languages have better critical thinking and decision making skills. The utilitarian option was chosen more often in the fat man case when presented in a foreign language. However, there was no difference in the switch track case. List of multilingual countries and regions A bilingual sign in Brussels , the capital of Belgium. In Brussels, both Dutch and French are official languages. Almost all railway stations in India have signs like these in three or more languages English, Hindi and the local language. Multilingual sign at Vancouver International Airport , international arrivals area. Text in English, French, and Chinese is a permanent feature of this sign, while the right panel of the sign is a video screen that rotates through additional languages. Three or four languages are shown: While Filipinos themselves are anglophone , such signs cater to the growing number of Koreans and other foreigners in the country. A Train name found in South India written in four languages: Kannada, Hindi, Tamil and English. Boards like this are common on trains which pass through two or more states where the languages spoken are different. Multilingualism was common in the past: Some states can have multilingual policies and recognize several official languages, such as Canada English and French. In some states, particular languages may be associated with particular regions in the state e. When all speakers are multilingual, linguists classify the community according to the functional distribution of the languages involved: Typical diglossic areas are those areas in Europe where a regional language is used in informal, usually oral, contexts, while the state language is used in more formal situations. Some writers limit diglossia to situations where the languages are closely related, and could be considered dialects of each other. This can also be observed in Scotland where, in formal situations, English is used. However, in informal situations in many areas, Scots is the preferred language of choice. A similar phenomenon is also observed in Arabic-speaking regions. The effects of diglossia could be seen in the difference between written Arabic Modern Standard Arabic and colloquial Arabic. However, as time goes, the Arabic language somewhere between the two have been created what some have deemed "Middle Arabic" or "Common Arabic". Because of this diversification of the language, the concept of spectroglossia [41] has been suggested. In a typical ambilingual area it is nearly impossible to predict which language will be used in a given setting. True ambilingualism is rare. Ambilingualism also can manifest in specific regions of larger states that have both a clearly dominant state language be it de jure or de facto and a protected minority language that is limited in terms of distribution of speakers within the country. This tendency is especially pronounced when, even though the local language is widely spoken, there is a reasonable assumption that all citizens speak the predominant state tongue e. Canada; Spanish in Catalonia vs. This phenomenon can also occur in border regions with many cross-border contacts. An example of this is the Balkans. In cases of an unspecified number of languages, the terms polyglossia, omnilingualism, and multipart-lingualism are more appropriate. Multilingualism between different language speakers[edit] Whenever two people meet, negotiations take place. If they want to express solidarity and sympathy, they tend to seek common features in their behavior. If speakers wish to express distance towards or even dislike of the person they are speaking to, the reverse is true, and differences are sought. This mechanism also extends to language, as described in the Communication Accommodation Theory. In many cases, code-switching is motivated by the wish to express loyalty to more than one cultural group,[citation needed] as holds for many immigrant communities in the New World. Code-switching may also function as a strategy where proficiency is lacking. Such strategies are common if the vocabulary of one of the languages is not very elaborated for certain fields, or if the speakers have not developed proficiency in certain lexical domains, as in the case of immigrant languages. This code-switching

appears in many forms. If a speaker has a positive attitude towards both languages and towards code-switching, many switches can be found, even within the same sentence. This results in speakers using words like *courrier noir* literally mail that is black in French, instead of the proper word for blackmail, *chantage*. Sometimes a pidgin language may develop. A pidgin language is a fusion of two languages that is mutually understandable for both speakers. For example, many linguists believe that the Occitan language and the Catalan language were formed because a population speaking a single Occitano-Romance language was divided into political spheres of influence of France and Spain, respectively. Bilingual interaction can even take place without the speakers switching. In certain areas, it is not uncommon for speakers each to use a different language within the same conversation. This phenomenon is found, amongst other places, in Scandinavia. Most speakers of Swedish, Norwegian and Danish can communicate with each other speaking their respective languages, while few can speak both people used to these situations often adjust their language, avoiding words that are not found in the other language or that can be misunderstood. Using different languages is usually called non-convergent discourse, a term introduced by the Dutch linguist Reitze Jonkman. Another example is the former state of Czechoslovakia, where two closely related and mutually intelligible languages Czech and Slovak were in common use. Most Czechs and Slovaks understand both languages, although they would use only one of them their respective mother tongue when speaking. For example, in Czechoslovakia it was common to hear two people talking on television each speaking a different language without any difficulty understanding each other. This bilinguality still exists nowadays, although it has started to deteriorate after Czechoslovakia split up. English, Chinese, Tamil and Malay Urdu, Hindi and English on a road sign in India

Multilingualism at the linguistic level[edit] Models for native language literacy programs[edit] Sociopolitical as well as socio-cultural identity arguments may influence native language literacy. While these two camps may occupy much of the debate about which languages children will learn to read, a greater emphasis on the linguistic aspects of the argument is appropriate. In spite of the political turmoil precipitated by this debate, researchers continue to espouse a linguistic basis for it. This rationale is based upon the work of Jim Cummins

Sequential bilingualism In this model, learners receive literacy instruction in their native language until they acquire a "threshold" literacy proficiency. Some researchers use age 3 as the age when a child has basic communicative competence in their first language Kessler, The phases children go through during sequential acquisition are less linear than for simultaneous acquisition and can vary greatly among children. Sequential acquisition is a more complex and lengthier process, although there is no indication that non-language-delayed children end up less proficient than simultaneous bilinguals, so long as they receive adequate input in both languages. Simultaneous bilingualism In this model, the native language and the community language are simultaneously taught. The advantage is literacy in two languages as the outcome. However, the teacher must be well-versed in both languages and also in techniques for teaching a second language. Coordinate model[edit] This model posits that equal time should be spent in separate instruction of the native language and of the community language. The native language class, however, focuses on basic literacy while the community language class focuses on listening and speaking skills. Being a bilingual does not necessarily mean that one can speak, for example, English and French. Outcomes[edit] This section has an unclear citation style. The references used may be made clearer with a different or consistent style of citation and footnoting. His work sought to overcome the perception propagated in the s that learning two languages made for two competing aims. The belief was that the two languages were mutually exclusive and that learning a second required unlearning elements and dynamics of the first in order to accommodate the second Hakuta, The evidence for this perspective relied on the fact that some errors in acquiring the second language were related to the rules of the first language Hakuta, How this hypothesis holds under different types of languages such as Romance versus non-Western languages has yet to undergo research. Another new development that has influenced the linguistic argument for bilingual literacy is the length of time necessary to acquire the second language. While previously children were believed to have the ability to learn a language within a year, today researchers believe that within and across academic settings, the time span is nearer to five years Collier, ; Ramirez, An interesting outcome of studies during the early s however confirmed that students who do successfully complete complete bilingual instruction perform better

academically Collier, ; Ramirez, These students exhibit more cognitive elasticity including a better ability to analyse abstract visual patterns. Students who receive bidirectional bilingual instruction where equal proficiency in both languages is required perform at an even higher level. Examples of such programs include international and multi-national education schools. Multilingualism in computing[edit] Dual language Hebrew and English keyboard With emerging markets and expanding international cooperation, business users expect to be able to use software and applications in their own language. Multilingualised software supports multiple languages for display and input simultaneously, but generally has a single user interface language. Support for other locale features like time, date, number and currency formats may vary as the system tends towards full internationalisation. Generally a multilingualised system is intended for use in a specific locale, whilst allowing for multilingual content. An internationalised system is equipped for use in a range of locales, allowing for the co-existence of several languages and character sets in user interfaces and displays. In particular, a system may not be considered internationalised in the fullest sense unless the interface language is selectable by the user at runtime. Translating the user interface is usually part of the software localization process, which also includes adaptations such as units and date conversion. Many software applications are available in several languages, ranging from a handful the most spoken languages to dozens for the most popular applications such as office suites , web browsers , etc. Due to the status of English in computing , software development nearly always uses it but see also Non-English-based programming languages , so almost all commercial software is initially available in an English version, and multilingual versions, if any, may be produced as alternative options based on the English original. Nelson and Camerum Lerum have continued to drive development of the tools, working with third parties and standards bodies to assure broad availability of multilingual app development is provided. Languages used on the Internet Multilingualism in the workplace[edit] Globalization has led the world to be more deeply interconnected. English has become an important working knowledge mainly in multinational companies, but also in smaller companies. NGO workers are also faced with multilingualism when intervening on the field and use both linguistic and non-verbal strategies to communicate [48]. Multilingualism in English speaking countries[edit] According to Hewitt entrepreneurs in London from Poland, China or Turkey use English mainly for communication with customers, suppliers and banks, but their own native languages for work tasks and social purposes. Even in English speaking countries immigrants are still able to use their own mother tongue in the workplace thanks to other immigrants from the same place.

2: Societal Multilingualism Pdf

It approaches the study of language in society in its broadest sense, as a truly international and interdisciplinary field in which various approaches, theoretical and empirical, supplement and complement each other.

To achieve this, they outline historical ways that multilingualism has changed qualitatively as well as identify the perspectives that have contributed to research in the field. Aronin and Singleton give an admirable compilation of the relevant issues, leaving the reader with an overall picture of the research that has contributed to the debates. Organizationally, the advance from one chapter topic to the next does not clearly build upon the previous but instead each is largely independent of the other. An instructor would need to consider how to address such issues if using this as a course book or reference. Aronin and Singleton also address literature investigating the shifting proficiencies of languages in young multilinguals and the factors that influence one language becoming more proficient than another. Since parents, teachers, and school administrators in various modern cultures assume or question whether learning multiple languages in early childhood is harmful for a child, this chapter indicates that children can gain much by early multilingualism. Aronin and Singleton acknowledge that some research is still inconclusive in determining if childhood multilingual acquisition is slower than that of monolinguals. Within each of these, they review each of the classifications and topologies of researchers such as Cenoz, who have already similarly attempted to classify multilinguals or bilinguals. Their approach consolidated the classifications that have been made for bilinguals, and they how they may be inadequate for classifying multilinguals. The categories give future researchers in this area meaningful ways to capture the essence of the issue under consideration while leaving room to expand the classifications and topographies to fit the multilingual environments they wish to explore. The authors conclude with a look at language types, as divided by language families, and focusing on sociolinguistic differences. Larissa Aronin and David Singleton address multilingualism as a contemporary issue, and they do this well. Because of the historical and background research they overview for each topic, this work can be useful a reference or coursebook for researchers or instructors wanting a consolidated text that addresses the foundational research and perspectives in multilingualism. They identify some areas of multilingualism and bilingualism as important for growth and understanding in this field, such as the significance of reaching an understanding between societies and individuals. They push for a qualitative shift in studies, to looking beyond both bilingualism and monolingualism. Each topic is compiled from previous typologies or classifications with the identification that they may not be complete to represent the contexts of many multilinguals, yet they do not offer improved alternatives for most. Despite this, they make noteworthy contributions. They also offer Chapter 4 to introduce their Dominant Language Constellation DLC as a concept and framework for shifting the focus of multilingual research onto the social aspects rather than the linguistics ones. This volume can be an excellent starting place for researchers seeking an accessible way to engage the topics and classifications of multilingualism. Since the challenges and shortcomings of research topologies in the field are addressed in each chapter, future researchers will have the opportunity to address those issues themselves. Multilingualism as a research field is relatively young, so their efforts to increase awareness of the issues and research needs are commendable. The concept of Dominant Language Constellation is an important synthesis from existing schemes and certainly helps one to understand better the complex interaction of languages in multilingualism.

3: Frontmatter : Advances in the Study of Societal Multilingualism

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Despite their multilingual population nations like the USA continue to have a monolingual bias. It is generally believed that countries in the west are monolingual and the third world is riddled with languages and dialects making them multilingual. In actual fact multilingualism is the norm in the world and monolingualism an exception. Even China, which claims to be a monolingual homogenous society, is dialectally diverse where there is no mutual intelligibility across the varieties of spoken Chinese. Everyone acquires competence in Mandarin, the language of education and of literacy, through schooling. One thus becomes a bilingual speaker of Hakka and Mandarin for example. Britain and France, generally projected as monolingual, have always had languages other than English in the repertoire of their inhabitants. In Medieval England, apart from the regional dialects, Latin, French and English were spoken by various groups. A community in which interlocutors speak Cockney and Standard English can hardly be labelled a monolingual and homogeneous society. Communities across the globe have moved around as a result of economic necessities, political upheaval and persecution. Language contact as a result of migration, conquest, transplantation, slavery and refugee has in the past created a sociolinguistic environment in which individuals and communities have been exposed to one or two languages or dialects besides their mothertongue vernacular. These have often resulted in pidgin and creole languages which are taken as the amalgam of linguistic elements of two or more languages with an identity of their own. They develop a multilingual repertoire. It is hardly conceivable to think of a monolingual community, which does not have even dialect diversity. Dialect diversity alongside a standard language is a valid example of a kind of multilingualism. Multilingual nations, societies and communities Like multilingual nations, societies and communities individuals can also be multilingual. South Asia and Africa are good examples of naturally occurring multilingual continents of nations. Hindi and Panjabi in the Panjab. Among the educated it would be Hindi, Panjabi and English. Economic migration and mobility has resulted in transforming the metropolitan capitals of Mumbai, Kolkata and Delhi truly multilingual. Colonisation and globalisation have added English to the speech of the privileged elite. South American countries have a variety of indigenous languages alongside the languages of the colonisers, Spanish and Portuguese. In Europe Switzerland and Spain are good examples. In multilingual settings the shared knowledge of languages motivates the participants to code-switch as a natural strategy for the purpose of negotiating personal relationships and signalling social group membership and solidarity. The distribution of functions in multilingual societies: This creates a diglossic or triglossic or polyglossic society Fishman Languages in society could also be a source of ethnic and linguistic conflict. In multilingual societies minority groups often form language associations to safeguard or pursue the linguistic interests of their community. These language movements are sometimes symbols of nationalism and struggle for nationhood. The creation of Bangladesh as a nation and the projection of Bangla as its national language are based on the struggle of the Bangladeshis against the imposition of Urdu as the national language of Pakistan on its Bangla-speaking citizens. The restoration of Welsh as the national language of Wales and the devolution of Wales as a political entity remind one of language contact, language conflicts and language revival. This is compounded by lack of government support to or deliberate act of prejudice and discrimination against the minority languages in multilingual nation states. The survival of languages e. Despite this many governments continue to characterise multilingualism as a problem and a threat which could lead to instability and poverty. The fact is that multilingualism is a natural product of language spread and development. The curriculum responses to multilingualism have also been varied e. The key to the preservation of multilingualism has been the recognition of the first language of the child, the language that the child brings to the classroom. Triglossia and Swahili-English bilingualism in Tanzania. Advances in the Study of Societal Multilingualism. The influence of bilingualism on cognitive development and cognitive strategy. D dissertation, University of Chicago. Language processing in bilingual children. Cambridge University Press Cenoz, J. Evidence from the

Basque Country. The influence of bilingualism on cognitive growth: A synthesis of research findings and explanatory hypotheses. Working Papers on Bilingualism 9. Bilingualism and second language learning. Annual Review of Applied Linguistics The Sociolinguistics of Society. Bilingualism with and without diglossia: Journal of Social Issues Linguistic and social interaction in two communities. Policy, Possibility and Paradox: Indigenous Multilingualism and Education in Peru and Bolivia. Persistent issues in bilingualism. The Development of Second Language Proficiency. A model for polyglossia and multilingualism with special reference to Singapore and Malaysia. Language in Society 6. Referencing this article Below are the possible formats for citing Good Practice Guide articles. If you are writing for a journal, please check the author instructions for full details before submitting your article. Retrieved 7 October , from <http://>

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