



ELN101: Intro to Bilingualism

Week 3 Different Types of Bilingualism

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Announcements & Recap of Week02 (1)

Announcements this week

- Assignment deadlines are always on Sundays
- Please review my feedback on your assignments (PLAs) on Brightspace
- Instructions for Paper 1 are on the course website.
- Sample questions for Quiz 1 will also be on the course website next week.

Brief History of Immigration in the U.S. (1)

- The history of immigration in the U.S. is a major factor in the degree of bilingualism in the country.
 - See <https://t-nagano.link/zxvYx>



Brief History of Immigration in the U.S. (2)

A very brief history of U.S. immigration

- Late 18th century:
 - Great Britain, French, and German
- Early 1800's
 - Irish mass immigration (cf. Irish Potato Famine in 1845-1852)
- Mid 19th century:
 - Mass Chinese immigration (cf. Gold rush and Transcontinental Railroad)
 - Second German mass immigration (cf. Know Nothing (Native American Party) movement)
- 1880's - 1920's
 - Southern Europeans (Italians, Jews, Poles, Ukrainians, and South Slavs)
- 1920's - 1960's:
 - 1921 Emergency Quota Act (nationality quotas)
- 1960's -
 - The Hart-Celler Act in 1965. Hispanic and Asian/Pacific immigration

Who is a Bilingual? (Wei, 2007) (1)

- Who can be a bilingual speaker? Who should not be considered a bilingual speaker?



Who is a bilingual speaker?

- Should it be reserved for people who speak two languages like native speakers?
 - How about people who can speak two languages, but cannot write in both languages?
 - How about proficiency? Can someone who just started learning Spanish be considered a bilingual speaker?
 - What are the criteria? Is self-perception or self-categorization sufficient?
 - Are you bilingual? Why or why not?
-
- Bilingual is not a **binary** qualification (e.g., dead/alive). It is a **gradient** qualification (e.g., rich ↔ poor, new ↔ old, handsome ↔ ugly etc).

Who is a Bilingual? (Wei, 2007) (3)

- We need more precise definitions of bilingualism to capture the full spectrum of multilingual speakers.



Proficiency & Fluency

- **Balanced (Symmetrical/Maximal) bilingual**
 - Someone whose mastery of two languages is roughly equivalent.
- **Dominant bilingual**
 - Someone who has greater proficiency in one language and uses it significantly more than the other language(s).
- **Receptive (Asymmetrical/Passive) bilingual**
 - Someone who understands a second language in either its spoken or written form, or both, but does not necessarily speak or write it.

Process of Acquisition

- **Additive bilingual**
 - Someone whose two languages combine in a complementary and enriching fashion.
- **Subtractive (Dormant/Recessive) bilingual**
 - Someone whose second language is acquired at the expense of the aptitudes already acquired in the first language.

Timing of Acquisition

- **Early bilingual**
 - Someone who has acquired two languages early in childhood
- **Late bilingual**
 - Someone who became bilingual after childhood.
- **Simultaneous bilingual**
 - Someone whose two languages have been present since the onset of speech.
- **Successive bilingual**
 - Someone whose second language is added at some stage after the first language has begun to develop.

Relationship of the two languages

- **Horizontal bilingual**
 - Someone who is bilingual in two distinct languages that have similar or equal status.
- **Vertical bilingual**
 - Someone who is bilingual in a standard language and a distinct but related language or dialect

Who is a Bilingual? (Wei, 2007) (8)

- What types of bilinguals are they?
 1. Jessica was born in the Dominican Republic and came to the U.S. when she was five. She used Spanish exclusively at home, but her primary language shifted to English after a few years of schooling in the U.S. Although she still uses Spanish with her parents and grandparents, she now feels more comfortable with English.
 2. Luis was born to Hispanic parents in the U.S. and used primarily Spanish at home. His elementary school had a Spanish-English bilingual program in which he learned math, art, and language arts in Spanish and English. Now he feels comfortable in both Spanish and English.

Summary of Bilingual Types

- Proficiency: Balanced, Dominant, Receptive
- Process: Additive, Subtractive
- Timing: Early or Late & Simultaneous or Successive
- Relationship: Horizontal, Vertical

- What types of bilinguals are they?
 3. Kevin was born to Anglophone (English-speaking) parents and moved to Canada when he was ten. He attended a French-English immersion school in which all subjects were taught in French. He initially struggled with French, to which he had not been exposed before attending the immersion school, but he eventually became able to manage his schoolwork in French.
 4. Li was born in China into an upper-middle-class family. She used Mandarin Chinese at home and at school. When she was twelve, her parents decided to send her to an English lesson every week. Although her English is fairly limited, she can now manage basic tourist-level conversations in English.

Summary of Bilingual Types

- Proficiency: Balanced, Dominant, Receptive
- Process: Additive, Subtractive
- Timing: Early or Late & Simultaneous or Successive
- Relationship: Horizontal, Vertical

Who is a Bilingual? (Wei, 2007) (10)

- What types of bilinguals are they?
 5. Sophia, originally from China, moved to the U.S. for graduate study at the age of 25. She grew up speaking Mandarin but chose to study English passionately and rigorously to pursue her dream of becoming a researcher in a global academic environment. Sophia can read and write in English, but she does not feel comfortable speaking English in public.
 6. Mia, raised in a bilingual household in Miami, spoke both English and Spanish fluently from a young age. Her parents, immigrants from Colombia, used both languages interchangeably at home. This exposure helped Mia develop proficiency in Spanish, and she can seamlessly switch between English and Spanish, using them in different domains of her life. Mia thinks and expresses herself equally well in both languages without having to translate mentally from one language to the other.

Who is a Bilingual? (Wei, 2007) (11)

7. Born in the U.S. to Mexican immigrants, Carlos has navigated two cultures from an early age. At home, Spanish is the primary language, allowing him to communicate deeply with his parents and grandparents. At school and in the wider community, English dominates. Carlos did not actively choose to be bilingual; rather, bilingualism was a necessity shaped by his family's migration story. Carlos is now 14 years old and has begun to feel that his Spanish is not as good as his English.
8. Amina's parents emigrated from Senegal to the U.S. before she was born, bringing with them the Wolof language and various French phrases. In Amina's household, her parents often switch between English, Wolof, and French. While Amina understands Wolof and some French when spoken at home, she predominantly responds and communicates in English, the language she feels most comfortable with.
9. Nadia is fluent in both Russian and English, which she uses in her role as a diplomatic translator in Russia. She began professional language training in college, and her proficiency in English was honed through years of specialized education and professional experience. In her job, precise and contextually appropriate language use is crucial, embodying the intersection of skill, career, and bilingual identity.

What about you?

- Are you a bilingual speaker? If so, what type of bilingual are you, and why?



Languages in Contact (Wei, 2007)

- **Politics:**
 - Colonization, annexation, resettlement, federation, etc.
- **Natural disaster:**
 - Famine, floods, volcanic eruptions etc.
 - Irish Potato Famine in the 19th century, Hurricane Maria (2017), Haiti earthquake (2010)
- **Religion:**
 - Classic Arabic (MSA) for Islam, Liturgical Latin for Catholic, Greek for Eastern Orthodox, Sanskrit for Buddhism and Hinduism, Hebrew for Judaism etc.
- **Culture:**
 - American English in TV shows and movies, Egyptian Arabic in movies, Hindi in movies, anime in Japanese etc.
 - Historical heritage in different parts of the world (e.g., World Heritage Sites)

Cause of Bilingualism (3)

- Bollywood influence in South Asia (Dangal (2016) - <https://youtu.be/PnY8-VPh1yE>)



Languages in Contact (Wei, 2007) (cont.)

- **Economy:**
 - English is a de facto standard language in international business
 - Learning a local language to establish new business in foreign countries
- **Education:**
 - Languages employed in primary, secondary, and higher education (predominantly English in the U.S.)
 - 40% of people in the world do not receive education in home language (UNESCO, 2025)
- **Technology:**
 - Languages on the Internet: English 55%, Russian 5.9%, German 5.8%, Japanese 5.0%, Spanish 4.6%.
 - Google's No More Tofu □□□ project (Noto fonts)

Cause of Bilingualism (5)

- What is the main cause of bilingualism in the following examples?
 1. Spanish, Portuguese, and French spoken in Latin America (coexisting with various Indigenous languages)
 2. A large number of South Asians have passive knowledge of Hindi from watching Bollywood films.
 3. Irish immigrants (Irish Gaelic speakers) to the U.S. due to the Great Famine in Ireland between 1845 and 1852
 4. Many Muslims from different linguistic backgrounds share the ability to understand or read Modern Standard Arabic for liturgical purposes.
 5. Many children in North Africa speak French because it is used in public schools.
 6. Russian speakers in Israel (co-existing with Modern Hebrew and Arabic)
 7. A Chinese factory owner learning English to develop his business
 8. An Indian (Hindi-speaking) IT engineer developing an English online app
 9. Puerto Rico became a territory of the United States after the Spanish-American War in 1898

Cause of Bilingualism (6)

- What is the main cause of bilingualism in the following examples?
 10. Aiden, originally from Somalia, became bilingual out of necessity when his family resettled in the United States following a devastating famine in his homeland. His family sought better opportunities abroad for survival and stability. In the U.S., Aiden learned English, complementing his native Somali, as a means to adapt to his new environment, pursue education, and eventually aid in his family's integration into American society.
 11. Huda, growing up in a devout Muslim family in Michigan, learned Classical Arabic alongside English. Her religious practices and the desire to understand the Quran in its original language motivated this pursuit. Despite being an American by birth, Huda's ability to engage with Islamic texts and prayers in Arabic deepened her spiritual connection and understanding of her faith.
 12. Emma's story began in London, where she lived until her parents were offered jobs in Geneva, Switzerland. While Geneva is a multilingual city with French being the predominant language, Emma had never spoken anything other than English. Her parents' decision to move was sudden, and Emma found herself enrolled in a French-speaking school without any prior knowledge of French.

Cause of Bilingualism (7)

13. Kevin, an American teenager, became interested in learning Japanese after being exposed to anime and manga. The cultural exports from Japan, such as TV shows, movies, and comics, inspired him to take Japanese classes to better understand and appreciate the content without relying on subtitles.
14. Emily, an American college student, became proficient in Russian because of her passion for the country's literary classics. Inspired by the works of Dostoevsky and Tolstoy, she pursued Russian language studies to read these texts in their original language, enriching her understanding and appreciation of the literary heritage.
15. Jamal, originally from the United States, decided to expand his tech startup to Japan, recognizing the market's potential for his products. Learning Japanese became crucial for navigating local business practices, establishing partnerships, and understanding consumer needs.

16. Leo, an IT professional based in California, finds his fluency in English, Russian, and Mandarin invaluable in the tech industry. Given the prominent role these languages play on the internet, his multilingual abilities enable him to stay ahead in cybersecurity, engage with a broader community of developers, and access a wide array of resources and information that are not always available in English.

What about you?

- What caused bilingualism in your (or your parent's) life?



Ink-shedding (10 min)

1. What type of bilingual are you? If you don't speak multiple languages, choose a family member (e.g., a parent) or a close friend.
 - Proficiency: Balanced, Dominant, Receptive
 - Process: Additive, Subtractive
 - Timing: Early, Late, Simultaneous, Successive
 - Relationship: Horizontal, Vertical
2. What are the causes of your bilingual background?
 - Politics, natural disaster, religion, culture, economy, education, technology etc.
3. One question that you have about today's class.

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