ESOL in Higher Ed

Teaching English Learners in the P - 12 Classroom

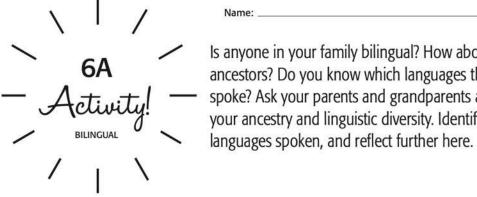


CHAPTER SIX

Bilingualism in the Classroom



Activity



Is anyone in your family bilingual? How about your ancestors? Do you know which languages they spoke? Ask your parents and grandparents about your ancestry and linguistic diversity. Identify the

Languages spoken on my mother's side:

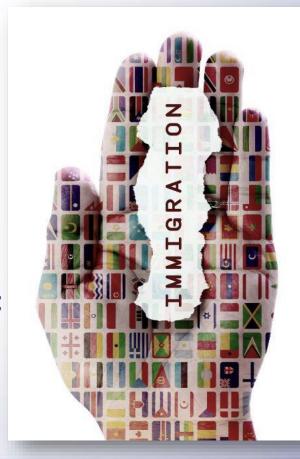


Languages spoken on my father's side:



Historical Perspective

- Early U.S. languages:
 Dutch, French, Spanish, English
- Early immigrant languages:
 Italian, Yiddish, Polish, Greek
- Melting Pot/Sink or Swim
- 1968 Bilingual Education Act (BEA)
- Top 5 languages other than English in the U.S.:
 Spanish, Chinese, Tagalog, Vietnamese, Arabic



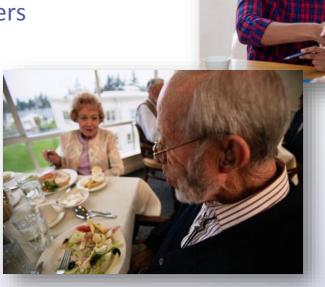
Examples of Benefits of Bilingualism

- Personal/Social
 - Traveling
 - Cultural relationships



- Greater earning potential
- High demand for bilingual workers
- Cognitive
 - Promotes creative thinking
 - Improves memory





Concepts for Teachers

- Bilingualism: Some degree of proficiency in two (or more) languages
- Simultaneous bilingualism: When children learn two (or more) languages from birth
- Sequential bilingualism: When an L2 is added after L1 is acquired
- Additive bilingualism: When individual maintains development of L1 while acquiring L2
- **Subtractive bilingualism**: When L2 weakens or replaces L1



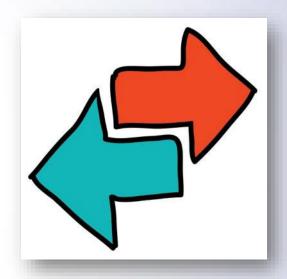
Concepts for Teachers (cont.)

- Balanced bilingualism: Individual with near equal proficiency in two (or more) languages
- Dominant bilingualism: Shows preference for one language over another
- elements/words from two different languages within the same conversation or sentence
- Translanguaging: The process when multilingual speakers use their languages as an integrated communication system



7 Principles of Skill Transfer

- 1. Meaningful learning experiences are necessary as opposed to rote memorization.
- 2. Thorough knowledge leads more likely to transfer.
- 3. Similarity between the two situations fosters probability of transfer.
- 4. General principles and rules are more easily transferred than specific facts and information.
- 5. The number and types of examples and opportunities to practice increase the likelihood that knowledge and skills will be applied in new situations.
- 6. The longer the time interval between old and new learning decreases the likelihood of transfer.
- 7. Transfer of learning increases when the circumstances promote and expect transfer. (Ormod, 2012)



Teaching for Transfer

Teachers can support L1 to L2 transfer through reading, spelling, vocabulary with cognates, reading strategies, and writing.

- ELs who have a chance to learn and become fluent in two languages progress better than ELs who are in English-only classrooms.
- This is true for ELs who move to English instruction before they are fully developed in their first language oral skills.
- Teachers should encourage ELs to speak their L1.
- Teachers should inform parents that full development of L1 supports learning of L2.



Teaching for Transfer (cont.)

- Teachers should demonstrate interest and learn about ELs' cultures.
- Teachers should label classroom items in ELs languages; classroom rules should be posted in multiple languages.
- Books and resources should be multilingual.



"One language sets
you in a corridor
for life. Two
languages open
every door along
the way."
-Frank Smith





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