Socio-psychological perspective of multilingualism and bilingualism

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Abstract

The majority of the people in the world are multilingual. They use more than one language every day. Knowing more than one language or being bilingual has now become the necessity of the world. It also symbolizes many aspects of human emotions. Bilingualism and multilingualism are linguistic, psychological, and social behaviours, very complex and multidimensional. This paper focuses on the main challenges at the crossroads of bilingualism, multilingualism, and the acquisition of second languages. The development of personality may depend on the language a person speaks. It is also associated with some of the abilities of the human mind. Earlier researchers have concluded that a multilingual person has better reasoning and cognitive abilities than a normal person. A multilingual person is also a better decision-maker, and also there is less probability of being biased while making decisions. It has been also observed that control of attention and metalinguistic awareness also depend to some extent on the linguistic nature of a person. To verify those conclusions drawn from the theory or research work by some of the European researchers, primitive research work was done. A survey was done through a form to know what people think about this particular topic and whether they agree with those viewpoints or not. From the results, it can be concluded that the conclusions drawn by them are true to some extent and people also agree with those results.

Keyword: *multilingual, linguistic, cognitive, bilingual, metalinguistic.*

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Background

Majority of the people in the world are multilingual. They use more than one language and each language have their own position and status in the world. Being bilingual or multilingual had now become the necessity for the world. It is necessary for being competent in effective communication. Multilingualism or bilingualism symbolises a well-educated person. Multilingualism and bilingualism are different in some parameters. Multilingualism and bilingualism are associated with knowing more than one language, but multilingualism is associated with high ambition. Bilingualism can be considered as a special case of multilingualism. Literacy abilities can be considered as an additional dimension of bilingualism. The order in which a person learns the languages had resulted in forming different varieties of multilingualism. In most of the literatures, mother tongue is considered as the first language, and the possibility of knowing more than one native language is ignored. This kind of people are known as simultaneous bilingual. And those persons who learn second language after the first language are known as sequential bilingual. Majority of the children grow up in a multilingual or bilingual environment and gain competence in more than one language. Approximately, one third of the world's population speak more than language regularly. Even many people use language except their mother tongue on some special occasion. The term multilingualism refers to the subject which includes debate in the same manner as that of fluency in languages. Multilingualism can be defined as total competence and mastery in more than one language on one side of a linguistic continuum. The orator can have the complete knowledge of the language and have a good control over the languages he speaks and may sound that he belongs to that native. The other side of the stage would consisting of those people who have sufficient knowledge of the language to live as a visitor using the alternative language.

Rationale

Interesting facts can be found in the relation between cognition and multilingualism. Once, bilingualism and multilingualism were seen as a disadvantage, since those children might get a lower score on verbal tests of cognitive skills. Multilingualism offers both opportunities and challenges for the education systems, so it becomes important in the field of literature to throw some light on it. So, there is a need to verify the results or the conclusion drawn from the research works done earlier.

A research should be done to allow practitioners or researchers to face the challenges and grab the opportunities of the societies which is diversed in respect of lingualism. Still, this field of research remains uneven to some extent. While much is known about effective language teaching models in general, the demands on language education in light of rising diversity are less widely addressed. There is a need to tackle various layers, from the individual through teacher preparation, policy, and curriculum, to thoroughly address both challenges pertaining to diversity in language education and education systems as a whole.

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Literature review

Studies have shown that there are some advantages of being multilingual or bilingual. It has been observed that people who are bilingual or multilingual come out with extra cognitive ability. It also includes control of attention, metalinguistic awareness, problem solving abilities. Researchers may not agree with the advantages of bilingualism and no remarkable difference has been found in the studies related to the cognitive abilities, metalinguistic awareness, problem solving abilities etc. it has been investigated that how languages are acquired in the mind. It has also been examined from the perspective of the policy of languages. In 2012, it has been observed in a study that when someone use a overseas language, it reduces the possibility of being biased in the process of decision-making. It has been discovered that the framing impact receives disappeared whilst the alternatives or alternatives are given in a few different languages. The reasoning ability of a person is modified by two distinct modes of thinking process: cognition-intensive, analytical, systematics. It was believed that another language can provide a useful distance of cognition automatically, and can promote analytical thinking and can also reduce unthinkingness. This is fast, emotionally charging and unconscious. So, individuals who can communicate through multiple language are observed to be relatively higher in essential questioning and feature higher decision-making abilities.

It may be tough to analyse a few of the high-degree language semantic elements of a language without initially understanding approximately the lifestyle and the records of the region from wherein that language has evolved, almost an in-intensity relation with many cultures is a need for high- degree multilingualism. The know-how of such a lot of cultures in a few ways, or the truth that someone is having know-how approximately it, every now and then play a critical function in each what someone considers himself to be and what others considers him to be. It has been observed that a number of the multilingual people can get better marks on a median in a number of the sector for a number of his persona like social initiative, cultural-empathy and open mindedness. The concept of linguistical relation, which claims that the languages spoken with the aid of using human beings can have an effect on the angle of ways they see the world. It may be interpreted to mention that the ones folks that communicate a couple of language have a wider, greater varied view of the world, even if handiest one language is spoken with the aid of using them at a time. Some of the bilingual will have the sensation that their persona is converting in accordance on which language they're the usage of to communicate. In this way, multilingualism may be stated to have a couple of personae. However, it's been stated that it's far tough to give "persona" a definition on this theory.

Methodologies

Earlier a research work was done to determine some ideas to be researched in the field of linguistic education in language, as seen by some research experts. For executing this research work, Delphi method was used. There is a reflective and iterative method called Delphi method, used in analysis of the surveys done, to get a perspective to a group among a panel of expert participants. An online study

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was taken place in two stages of enquiry using a computer software. In this stage of enquiry, the research topic which to be researched are collected. The data collected in the first level is analysed. Then some parts of those data were turned into some research topics and assigned to the participants of first stage. Inspired by this method, we will be using a bit different method to proceed. We will be doing a survey about what a person thinks about multilingualism. It will also help us to know that whether people agree with the conclusion drawn from earlier research or not.
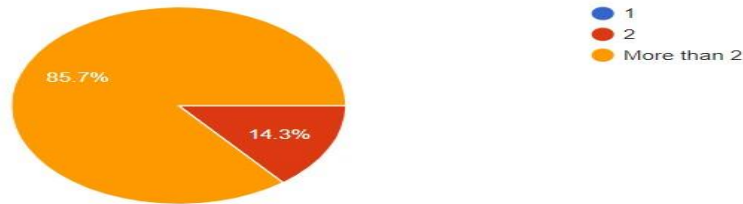
Data collection

Online collection of data was carried out in this regard. In the second semester of the 2020-2021 academic year, a questionnaire utilizing the free Google Form tool. The study participants received information and consent for the survey at the beginning of the questionnaire. A non-standardized questionnaire has been utilized for the gathering of data. The following things were utilized for the first investigation question: have they heard of the term "multilingualism". How many languages they can speak? Whether they agree with the statement that personality of a person can depend upon the language they speak. Do they think that a multilingual person can adapt faster according to the foreign culture and language? Do they agree that a multilingual person can have better reasoning and cognitive skills? Do they think that multilinguals have a knowledge of different culture and a wider view of world? Do they think that multilinguals are better in decision-making process? Do they think that multilinguals have less probability of being biased? Do they think that multilinguals are seen as more well-educated in our societies than those who are not multilingual? There was a section also to give their opinions on the advantages and disadvantages of multilingualism.

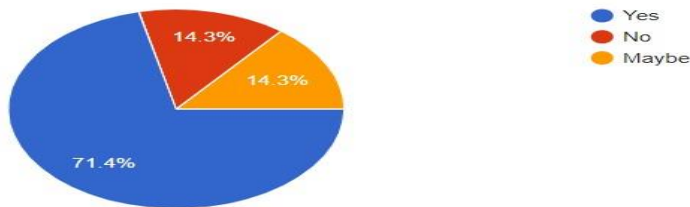The following results was obtained from the survey:

1. Have you heard the term multilingual or bilingual?

21 responses

Yes
No
Maybe

100%
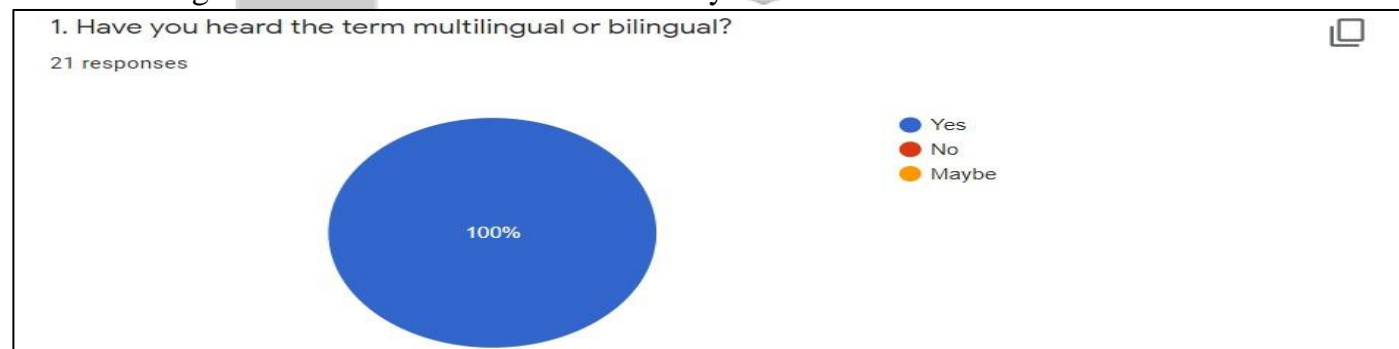
2. In how many languages can you speak?

21 responses

- 1
- 2
- More than 2

85.7%

14.3%

3. Do you think that languages have some effect on the personality of a person speaking it?
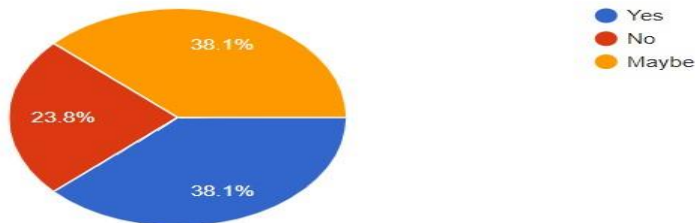
21 responses

- Yes
- No
- Maybe

14.3%

14.3%

71.4%

4. Do you think that multinguals person can adapt faster in foreign places with respect to language and culture?
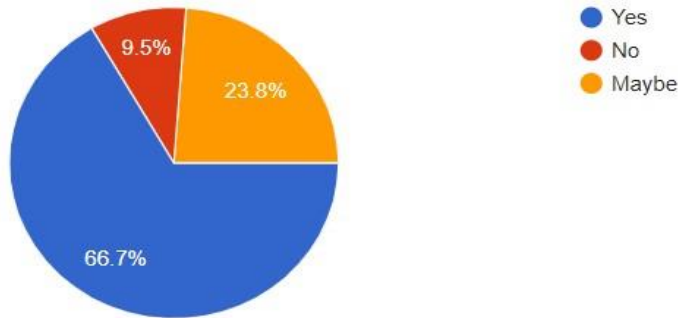
21 responses

- Yes
- No
- Maybe

9.5%

14.3%

76.2%
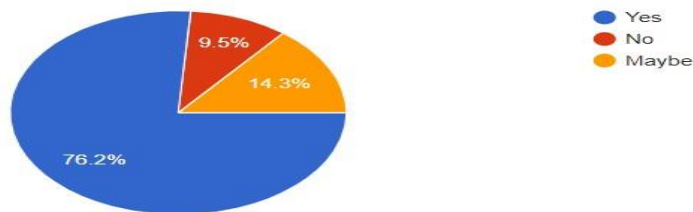
5. Do you think that multilinguals have better reasoning and cognitive skills?
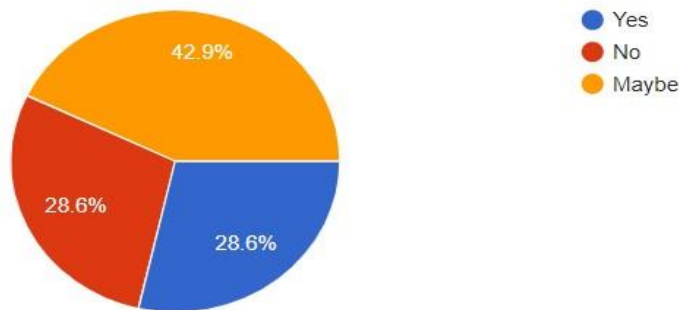
21 responses

- Yes
- No
- Maybe

38.1%

23.8%

38.1%

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6. Do you think that multilinguals have a knowledge of different culture and a wider view of world?

21 responses

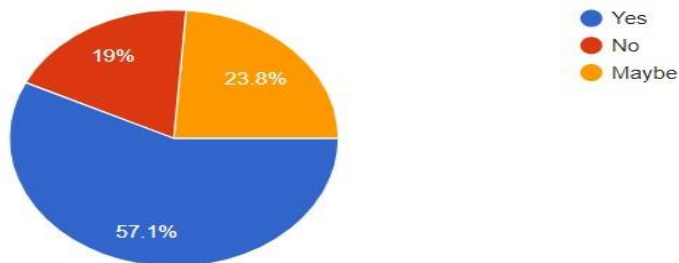Legend: Yes (blue), No (red), Maybe (orange)
- Yes: 66.7%
- No: 9.5%
- Maybe: 23.8%

7. Do you think that multilinguals are better in decision-making process?

21 responses

Legend: Yes (blue), No (red), Maybe (orange)
- Yes: 28.6%
- No: 28.6%
- Maybe: 42.9%
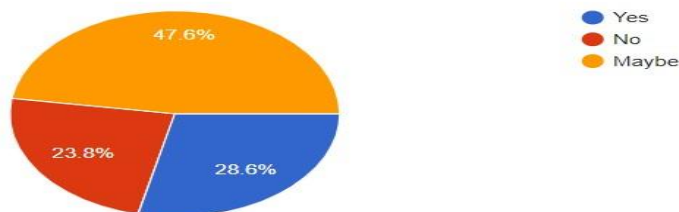
9. Do you think that multilinguals are seen as more well-educated in our societies than those who are not multilingual?

21 responses

Legend: Yes (blue), No (red), Maybe (orange)
- Yes: 57.1%
- No: 19%
- Maybe: 23.8%

8. Do you think that multilinguals have less probability of being biased?

21 responses

Legend: Yes (blue), No (red), Maybe (orange)
- Yes: 28.6%
- No: 23.8%
- Maybe: 47.6%

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10. Please give your opinion about the advantages or disadvantages of multingualism.

3 responses

Advantages:-

*We can learn different languages, and it gives insights about different cultures.

* Creats job opportunity.
Like being a tourist guide.

*Improves personal skills.

* Polyglot better functions.
_____

Disadvantages:-

* If a child have language disorder, then he might be facing trouble in understanding the others language.

* limited vocabulary.

*If the parents make faculty pronounciation, child might copy the mistake.

Considering our state every people can speak basic 3 language hindi bengali English.....

Now to take more advantage of multilingual anyone has to learn another more language

It only helps in communicating better with people of other countries.

Data analysis

Descriptive statistics have been produced for data analysis, pie charts and bar graphs. Comparisons were done according to the age group. From the results of survey, we get that almost every one is familiar with the term "multilingual". According to the survey, 14.3% were bilingual and rest 85.7% are multilingual. 71.4% people believe that personality of a person can depend on the language spoken by them and 14.3% are not sure. 76.2% people agree with the statement that multilingual people can adapt faster in foreign places. 38.1% people says that multilingual people have better reasoning and cognitive skills. 38.1% people are not sure about that. 66.7% people says that multilingual people have better knowledge of culture and have a wider view of the world. 42.9% people agree with the statement

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that multilingual people are better decision maker, and also 47.6% people believe that they have less tendency to be biased. 57.1% people also believe that society consider multilingual persons as more educated, but 19% of the people do not agree with this statement.

Ethical consideration

All ideas, quotes, literature reviews collected from various online sources, research papers, journals, and magazines have been used for fair purposes throughout this paper. Vigorous checks for indexing and referencing have been carried out throughout this paper to prevent any form of copyright claims.

Outcome

In earlier research, it was observed that the improvement of competence withinside the local language serves as a basis of skill-ability that may be transposed to the second one language — the not unusual place underlying skill-ability hypothesis. The perception became that the two languages have been at the same time distinctive and that getting to know a second required unlearning factors and dynamics of the primary to deal with the second one. The proof for this attitude is depended on the reality that a few mistakes in obtaining the second one language have been associated with the regulations of the primary language.

From this research, which consist of a survey shows what people think about multilingualism and bilingualism. It shows that people are aware of the concepts of multilingualism and bilingualism and believe in the conclusion that has been drawn in the earlier research works.

Discussion

The quantity of languages seems to differentiate multilingualism from bilingualism, even though in sociolinguistics as a minimum the latter time period has come to embody the former. Another assumption underlying many definitions is the concept that the languages concerned proportion the equal area: public area in a formally multilingual U.S.A. consisting of Switzerland, web page area in a book, mind area in multilingual individuals. The goal texts created through and via translations are supposed to be autonomous, to steer their very own lives, cut loose their supply texts. Translations are commonly study on their very own, now no longer along authentic versions, besides in particular settings consisting of overseas-language classes. In TV collection and movies, the overseas language is regularly restrained to dialogue, or to written fabric consisting of road symptoms and symptoms and billboards. Romantic discourse approximately language has profoundly affected the approaches wherein languages are viewed, found out and as a result utilized in literature, drama and film.

Conclusion

Multilingual orators have obtained and maintained at the least one language throughout childhood, the so-known as first language. The first language is obtained without formal education, through mechanisms closely disputed. Children obtaining languages on this manner are known as simultaneous bilinguals. Even withinside the case of simultaneous bilinguals, one language commonly dominates over the other. In linguistics, first language acquisition is intently associated with the idea of a "local orator". According to a view broadly held through linguists, a local orator of a given language has in a few respects a stage of talent that a 2d language learner can't without difficulty accomplish. Consequently, descriptive empirical research of languages is commonly finished the use of simplest local orators. This view is, however, barely problematic, especially as many non-local orators demonstrably now no longer simplest effectively interact with and of their non-local

language societies, however in fact, can also additionally grow to be culturally or even linguistically essential individuals of their non-local language. In current years, linguistic studies have centered interest on the usage of widely recognized international languages, including English, as a lingua franca or a shared not unusual place language of expert and business communities. In lingua franca situations, maximum orators of the not unusual place language are functionally multilingual. The opposite phenomenon, in which those who recognise multiple language become dropping command of a few or all in their extra languages, is known as language attrition.

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