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Information about the journal



"K L A D" IS A STUDENT JOURNAL FIRST PUBLISHED AT M. NARIKBAYEV KAZGUU UNIVERSITY SCHOOL OF LIBERAL ARTS. THIS JOURNAL IS AIMED AT ENHANCING STUDENTS' INVOLVEMENT INTO SCIENCE AND RESEARCH.

"K L A D" JOURNAL ADMITS FOR PUBLICATION VARIOUS TYPES OF ARTICLES: ORIGINAL RESEARCH, REVIEW ARTICLES, SHORT REPORTS OR ESSAYS, REFLECTIONS, CASE STUDIES, METHODOLOGIES AND CASES IN ENGLISH; CONTAINING THE RESULTS OF FUNDAMENTAL AND APPLIED RESEARCH IN THE FIELD OF PHILOSOPHY AND IDENTITY, HISTORY OF KAZAKHSTAN, PEDAGOGY, LINGUISTICS AND METHODS OF TEACHING LANGUAGES, TRANSLATION, AND TOURISM.

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Research Articles

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DO BILINGUAL PEOPLE THINK IN TWO LANGUAGES?*Malika Zhandarbek***Introduction**

This small-scale research is about the way how the bilinguals tend to think. It is well known that bilinguals are people who can speak two languages equally fluent. Moreover, there is a question which is rose due to the curiosity and the passion of the scientists and other people. More and more people are interested to know which languages are used by bilingual people when they think. Consequently, the number of researches dedicated to this problem is significantly increased. So, this research paper is devoted to the answer to this research problem and help to other scientists with this solution.

Problem Statement

Since the number of bilingual people is rising nowadays, accordingly the interest in them is increasing. To gain information about the bilinguals' thinking ability and to understand how their brain works, qualitative research which explores everything in - depth is required. Setting focus on the languages spoken by bilingual people may have an effect on the results of the research. Therefore, by doing qualitative research most questions related to bilingualism may have been solved with the help of this research paper.

Purpose of the Study

Since the research topic is set aside to the bilinguals and their languages which they tend to think in. The aim of this research paper is to determine the way how the bilinguals think and which language they choose to think in.

Research question

As it was mentioned above, the research is conducted to find out the languages which is chosen by bilinguals to think in. The main research question is set and sounds as:
Do bilingual people think in two languages?

Then, there are other questions which helps to find out the answer to the main question (See the Appendix 1).

Methods Section

This study was designed to find out the answer to the main research question such as “Do bilingual people think in two languages?”. According to Britannica (2019), bilingualism means the ability to speak two languages, so the main outcome measure was being bilingual. The other primary criteria were the reasons of being bilingual, the period of time of becoming bilingual, and the advantages of being able to speak two languages. The secondary outcome measures were the languages of the participants, the frequency of speaking a certain language, and others which would be find due to the interviews.

Participants

In this study three participants were asked to take part in interviews. The participants were two women and one man, all of them were students of the second year in the university. The members of research were recruited from the Academic Writing C2 course with the permission from the course professor.

According to the ethical approval, the names of attendants were kept anonymously. Before the start of conducting interview, participants were informed about the purpose of the study, the procedure of interview, and the right to refuse from the interview. Additionally, the author asked the permission to record the interview. All the participants agreed to take part in the recorded interviews via online platforms such as Skype and ZOOM meetings. All data and interviews were saved on the personal belongings of the author.

Research design

The design of this research paper is qualitative research since the data collection tool is an interview which was conducted among the participants. Moreover, the topic and the research questions were related to the qualitative research topic. This type of the research is more relevant to collect such kind of the information according to the criteria of the study design.

Materials

This research paper was carried out to identify the answer to the research question. As it was mentioned, the bilingual is the person who is able to speak two languages. The main principle of the study was the period of time of starting being bilingual, the proof of being bilingual. The trivial criteria were the frequency of certain spoken languages, the spoken languages of bilingual, and so on.

Procedures

The procedures of the interview will be described in this section of methodology. Before starting the interviews, I gained a permission from Academic Writing C2 course trainer to recruit students for the interview. As it was mentioned in the first section, three participants took part in the interviews. All three participants were informed about the right to refuse from the interview. Moreover, they were enlightened that the interview is going to be recorded, and that the names will be kept anonymously according to the ethical approval.

After the approval from the course professor of the interview questions, I contacted to course students to inform about the interview. The first three students whom I texted were ready to take part in the interviews and were corresponding to the main outcome measure of the study. All participants were informed about the details of the interview which were written above. Next, I asked the time of the interview which is comfortable for the participants, then I met the interviewers at the arranged time in Skype or ZOOM meetings.

During the interview the participants were relaxed, and answered all questions briefly. They were asked to answer 10 main questions which are connected with the study. There is a list of the questions.

Are you bilingual?

How many languages do you speak?

Which languages do you speak? Why?

Why did you start speaking in two languages?

Where did you start learning languages?

What are the advantages and disadvantages of bilingualism?

How many languages do you think in?

Which language do you think in?

Do you switch between languages when you speak?

Have you experienced any moments when you accidentally switched languages and people cannot understand you?

Beyond these questions the interviewers were asked other questions. All the interviews were recorded and saved on the personal belongings of the author. Moreover, the interviews were transcribed and saved for the data analysis. Besides, there were several limitations during the data collection. The first one was the lack of time, since the process of writing the paper was during the semester. The second one was the number of the students. If there were more participants, then probably the results may be divergent. The analysis of the interviews will be discussed in the Findings section.

Results section

In this part of research paper, the results of interviews will be provided the answers of the participants. Three students were interviewed with their agreement. The interviews consisted of about 10 open - ended questions. The number of questions was changeable due to the semi - structured interviews. Since this research paper is concerned on the language which is chosen by bilinguals to think on, the questions of the interview were related to the topic.

Before starting the interview, all participants were informed that the interview is going to be anonymously and their personalities would be kept secretly. The first question was to make sure of the participants being bilingual. All of them answered positively, so all of them match the criteria which are required from interviewees to be bilingual.

The next three questions were dedicated to find out the reason of bilingualism and the number and name of languages they spoke. The answers of the participants were similar due to the causes of bilingualism. The participants mostly mentioned as the reason their families and environment.

Participant 1: I speak Kazakh and Russian, ... My family members speak these languages and I forced to speak both of them.

Participant 2: My mother tongues are Russian and Kazakh, ... My parents are Kazakh, and I grew up in Kazakhstan where both Kazakh and Russian are spoken languages.

Participant 3: *Kazakh and Russian... I learned them since the childhood, because my environment speaks these languages and I forced to learn it to survive in the life.*

So, according to the first part of the answers the participants became bilingual due to the environment since all three participants mentioned the fact that they started being bilingual from the childhood period.

After these questions, three participants were asked to identify the languages which they tend to think in. Fluent bilinguals seem to have both languages active at all times, whether both languages are consciously being used or not, the researchers report in a recent issue of *Frontiers in Psychology* (as cited in Frot, 2021). Moreover, all interviewees responded individually and there are three contrasting answers concerned in this question. For instance, Participant 1 answered that the language which is used to think depends on the situation. However, they mentioned that the used language might be either Kazakh or Russian. Whereas Participant 2 could not identify the language they use and said “*mostly in Russian maybe*”. Participant 3 *replied* to this question in this way: “It’s definitely Russian because I’m into Russian literature rather than Kazakh. So, *Russian is used more in my mind and everyday speech*”. Since every person is unique, the answers consequently are different.

To sum up, during the interviews of the participants, different answers were found to the questions that were asked to find out the answers to the main question of the study. Due to the fact that there were few participants and little time there were obstacles such as lack of time, lack of information, and a few participants. However, despite this, it was possible to highlight the necessary information that helped in the study. Thus, it turned out that bilinguals think differently because they have different abilities and thinking.

Conclusion

To sum up everything that has been stated so far, the bilingual people seem to think unique since everyone has different thinking ability and logic. The aim of the research paper is not fulfilled, since there were several limitations such as a little time and a small number of the participants. However, the gained information from the semi - structured interviews is enough to summarize and make assumptions for a larger sample of bilingual people. So, divergent answers from the participants was made to understand that every bilingual person is non - identical and has an opposed opinion on the languages they speak.

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