Bilingualism in light of understanding a third language: Access to the Spanish language by Russian-Romanian bilinguals

Antonchuk D.

*Autonomous University of Barcelona, Barcelona, Spain*

daniela.a@speaking-languages.com

Bilingualism is a complex process involving a variety of characteristics, among which we can distinguish a particular system of a language as well as the ability to use it in communication. Apart from the mere fact of acquiring the knowledge of a second language, bilingualism also implies the development of specific linguistic structuring and brain functioning different from those of a monolingual individual. This fact is crucial at the time of access to a third language and it has been studied by analysing the comprehension ability of bilingual informants to refer to a third language without its prior learning and by comparing the acquired results with those obtained by monolingual individuals. Being an experimental research, it was based on the creation of corpuses with their subsequent transformation into questionnaires for our hypothesis assessment. Thus, the involved hypothesis considered bilingualism between two different language families (e.g. Russian-Romanian, i.e. Slavic and Romance) manifesting higher understanding results in a language from one of the language families involved (e.g. Spanish) in comparison with monolinguals presenting one of the languages considered in bilingual informants (i.e. Russian and Romanian monolinguals). This particularity in understanding involves the difference in the way of thinking and analysing the acquired linguistic data resulting in a more effective capacity for understanding even in comparison with the monolingual individual presenting the same language family as the target language. The specification of brain organization and the analysis of linguistic data are due to the creation of specific psycholinguistic strategies by the bilingual individual.

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