

La educación es el arma más poderosa que podemos usar para cambiar al mundo.
~Nelson Mandela



BILINGUALISM IN THE EDUCATION OF ADOLESCENTS

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~Nelson Mandela



Introduction

The purpose of this research is to inform the public about the drawbacks and benefits of being bilingual, so we can better understand how this impacts an adolescent's education.

- I hypothesize that the impact bilingualism has on an adolescent's education depends on his or her own experience and that it is not as simple as just analyzing statistical data.
- The outcome depends on each individual's experience. Some people can have very similar experiences while others' are very different.
- Some factors that can influence this are their environment, teachers, parents, etc.

I aim to expose some barriers and advantages that come along with being bilingual.

bilingual education



Research Questions

The primary question that my research aims to address is the following:

- What impact does bilingualism have on the education of adolescents?

Along with this there are additional questions that must be addressed, such as:

- What is bilingualism?
- What is code-switching and how does it affect communication skills?
- What are some barriers?
- What are some benefits?

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

"Un idioma te pone en un pasillo para toda la vida. Dos idiomas abren todas las puertas a lo largo del camino"
-Frank Smith

Background

Bilingualism is the ability to speak two languages or the frequent use of two languages-

Benefits

Bilingualism has an impact on cognitive thinking

- The experience of acquiring two languages allows an individual to develop an explicit and articulated understanding of language.

Bilingual speakers have a larger vocabulary because in translation they acquire two or more words for everything.

The process of learning the vocabulary, syntax, phonology, and morphology of more than one language provides bilingual speakers special insight into their own cognitive processes and learning.

Bilinguals show evidence of enhanced problem-solving skills.

Barriers

One of the most difficult tasks for an individual is acquiring an additional language. There are some issues that come along learning a second language, such as:

- *Code-switching; all bilinguals engage in insertion and alternation of the native language and a second language.*

Using code-switching without control can hinder a person's ability to read, write, and speak. An example of this can be Spanglish, the mixture of Spanish and English vocabulary.

Anticipated Outcomes

I predict that my findings will reveal that bilingualism has both positive and negative consequences on an adolescent's education.

- If my findings favorably incline more towards positive effects in education, I plan on sharing this with school districts in Stanislaus and Kern counties in order to make them aware of the benefits, and hopefully come up with a plan to incorporate the learning of a second language in the early learning stage of a child.

Significance

The primary purpose of this research is to inform the public and addressing the questions listed earlier will be beneficial to those who are currently confused about this topic and to parents who seek more knowledge on the impact bilingualism can have in their children's education.

Definitions

- Code/ Language switching: switching from the linguistic system of one language or dialect to that of another.
- Phonology: a system of relationships among the speech sounds that constitute the fundamental components of a language.
- Morphology: a study and description of words formation in language.
- Language insertion: to put or introduce a piece of vocabulary from one language into the body of another language.
- Language alternation: taking turns between one language or another.

References

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Methods

In an attempt to answer the proposed questions I will make use of the following methods:

- For the first stage I have analyzed library resources and scholarly articles
- For the next stage, I will conduct approximately 60 semi-structured surveys, interviews, and questionnaires on children and parents

I intend to test my hypothesis in both rural and urban areas. My surveys, interviews, and questionnaires will be based on the personal opinion each child and parent has on this issue.



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