**RESEARCH PROPOSAL**

**The Advantage and Disadvantage of Being Bilingual and a Second Language Learner**

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**Submitted to:**

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**Second Language Learner**

**Abstract:**

What would you choose, if you had to choose between being a bilingual and second language learner? What would you prefer to be? Before you choose, you should know that both of these terms are really significant for language. Because people communicate with language, we depend on the language, what would we do without language? Could you image a world without language? No, because to explain what we mean with gestures or drawing images of what we mean would take a lot of time and can annoy people. We see that language takes an important part in our life. But it is not enough to know just one language, the expectations from the people changed. They want people to learn more languages but there are people who don’t have to learn a second language like the second language learner. These people grow up with two languages and speak both of the languages as his or her native language. We call these people as “bilingual”. Because most of people have a second language but growing up with two different languages can have advantages and disadvantages. If we come back to my first question, I’m sure you are asking yourself which one is better. Therefore, I decided to make a survey about this area. My aim is to show through this survey the advantages and disadvantages with the opinions from bilingual students and opinions from second language learners.

**Key words**: bilingualism, second language learner, bilingual, benefits of bilingualism

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**1. Introduction (do not use a colon after titles)**

Nowadays, a lot of people know that is not enough to know just one foreign language. Language is the first and direct way to communicate with other people. M most people have learned in addition to their native language a foreign language. We call them “Second Language Learner”. There are seven billion people who live on the world and we know that English is the world language. A lot of people think that you can communicate with English all over the world. But this is totally wrong because only 1 billion people speak English in the world. What about the other 6 billion people? How will we communicate with these people if these people don’t speak English? So, we can see that to speak just one language even it is the most spoken language in the world cannot help us in such a situation. We understand that there is a need for another foreign language. Especially, the companies are putting a great value of language skills. If you study the job advertisements in the newspapers or on the Internet, you will see that they are preferring people who can speak more than one language. Another example is that you shouldn’t be surprised if you get in a job interview a question like this “How many languages can you speak?” Languages have become an important part of our lives and it is impossible to think a life without them. There is a saying in Turkish, “A person who speaks a language is a person, a person who speaks two languages is worth two people, a person who speaks three is worth three people.” This idiom shows us that through peaking more languages, you can talk with different people and you can understand them. If you know a language it is easier to understand the culture from the country and you can enjoy the cultural events. But there are people who grow up from their birth with two languages and in Linguistics; this phenomenon is called “Bilingualism”.

What is Bilingualism?

Bloomfield (1933) suggested that bilingualism resulted from the addition of a perfectly learned foreign language to one’s own, undiminished native tongue. The researcher want to say that a person have a good control about her or his mother language and he or she have to learn the foreign language that it must be very thorough spoken. This is the way of being bilingualism according to Bloomfield.

* Weinrich (1953) simply defined bilingualism as the alternative use of two languages.

Weinrich, the researcher too, is trying to say that a person can use the two languages who he or she can speak. It is up to him or her to use the languages, she or he can prefer to speak which language she or he can because she or he is ability to speak these languages.

* Haugen (1953) argued that bilingualism began with the ability to produce complete and meaningful utterances in the second language.

According to Haugen is bilingualism, a person should be ability to communicate and to talk in the second language and should have the ability to understand what the other person is talking and saying.

*What is Second language?*

* Oxford University define second language as a language that somebody learns to speak well and that they use for work or at school, but that is not the language they learned first

*Bilingualism in education*

* According to May (2008), bilingual education programs can be divided into one of two categories, either additive or subtractive. A subtractive program promotes monolingual learning in the dominant language and in that sense is only bilingual during the programs transitional stage from one language to another. In contrast, an additive program aims to help students achieve bilingualism over the long term.
* Bilingual education program philosophies and goals are largely influenced by the sociohistorical, cultural, and political contexts from which they emerge. These philosophies may be categorized into two schools of thought; one sees minority language as a problem to be solved and the other views it as a resource to be tapped (Freeman 1996; Hornberger 1991).
* Rossell and Baker (1996) concluded that transitional bilingual education is no better than structure immersion programs in developing English language skills.

So, we can see that each researcher has his own opinion about bilingualism in education. Some researchers like May suggest that there are two education programs for bilingualism. One of them is subtractive program the other one is additive program. Other researchers like Freeman and Hornberger argued that philpsophies and goals of bilingual education are affected by sociohistorical, cultural, and political themes. Researchers like Rossel and Baker suggested that transitional education is the same program as improving English skills.

The aim of this paper will be to find out the advantages and disadvantages of being bilingualism and second language learner. A lot of people believe that is sufficient to know as foreign language English. These people would be right if we would live 5 or 6 years ago. But know the world is changing and language gets an important part of the world and the life from the people. People who are rounded with languages like people who are bilingual has a great advantages and of course people who are studying languages has advantages too. But I want to know are these people understand their advantages or does it them care or doesn’t she or he it? The thinking of the students who are bilingual and students who are second language learner is important because each of this group has different opinions about languages and for understanding which group has more benefits I’m doing this study.

**2. Literature Review**

Moreover, bilingualism gives children advantages that go well beyond languages. These advantages are particularly evident in tasks that involve cognitive flexibility and the control of attention: bilinguals seem to be better at selectively paying attention, at inhibiting irrelevant information, and at switching between alternative solution to a problem (cited in Bialystok & Martin 2004; Bialystok et al 2009).

Bialystok & Martin want to show us that bilingualism helps this people to think more and intensive about the missions that they have to do. They argued that people who are bilingual give more attention and that they think about the problem and try to find a way for the problem. Bilingual children may have some developmental advantages in word learning

because they are less constrained by principles such a Mutual Exclusivity (cited in Byers-Heinlein & Werker 2009)

Byers-Heinlein & Werker argued that bilingual child has a benefit like learning a lot

of words in both languages and so is this child improving her languages. Children who know more than one language have a spontaneous understanding of language structure and therefore an enhanced ability to learn new languages. They also tend to have an earlier grasp of some essential background components of literacy, such as the invariance of print meaning and its symbolic function (cited in Bialystok 2002). Bialystok wants to tell us that bilingual child have a different way to learn languages across the other learners and that they have a different methods of to keep them in mind.

Although they often have smaller vocabularies in each language than their monolingual peers, initial vocabulary size differences are not detrimental to academic achievement (cited in Barac & Bialystok 2011). Barac & Bialystok argued that the person who is bilingual when they learn the first time that the words not like people who were academic but later they have in both languages vocabularies.

Speaking more than one language is more complex than we first thought. Bilingualism requires a fundamental reorganization of the entire language system in the brain. Having more than one language housed in the brain puts tremendous pressure on the pre-frontal cortex, that area of our brain that deals with working memory and executive function. For this reason, brains of persons who are bilingual have a constant mental workout in this particular brain region, (cited in Penn, 2010). Pen suggested that bilingual people have a complete different brain and that in the brain is a different organization with the words as by the other people.

**3. Method**

*3.1 Participants*

The participants are composed of the students from English Language and Literature Department, Karadeniz Technical University in Trabzon, Turkey. The students who were selected for this study are students who grow up with two languages and Students who grow up with one language. The number of the participants who took part on this study was 14. 7 participants were students from Germany who are raised up with the languages Turkish and German. The other 7 participants were students who grow up with Turkish and learn as second language English.

3.2 *Instruments*

The investigation to the students is composed of interview question and with a reading part. The students have to answer to 10 questions in the interview and the questions are asked to get the opinions from the participants how bilingualism or second language is influencing these students grades, speaking, writing and learning In addition, each student has to read after the interview a short text because I will look on their pronunciation and make again a comparison between bilingual students and second language learner.

*3.3. Procedure*

The study is conducted for the bilingual students and second language learner students. The participants who are bilingual students will be taken from each class and the participants who are second language learner will be taken from the fourth students. These groups are selected for making a comparison between them. I will take notice during the interview and I will record the reading part with a sound recorder from the studies. The results will be taken from the interview questions and from the pronunciation of the students, these all will be given in the Data Analysis.

**4. Research question**

Through my survey, I aim to find answers to these following questions:

1. Are there advantages or disadvantages of being bilingualism or second language learner?

2. Does second language learner feel that they have to learn another language?

3. Does bilingualism have an influence on pronunciation?

4. What would students prefer as a teacher; a bilingual teacher or a second language teacher?

**5. Results**

We know that language take an important part in our life and society. Almost everything depends on language and this shows us again the importance of being bilingual or of being second language learner. Through this study I want to find the answers for my questions and also I want to find out what students think who are studying foreign languages about the terms bilingualism and second language learner. The opinions especially from these students are important because some of them are getting teachers. Teachers’ mean children, and children mean education, and education means society, and society means country. And each country is representing with the language itself in the world. It is like in a circle. Furthermore, I want to find out whether bilingualism an influential has on pronunciation. The results will be used to make suggestion about the advantages and disadvantages of being bilingual or second language learners and the influence in education from bilingual students and second language learners. The interview and the reading part are helping me to show that. Through my observations that I make from the students and the notices that I will be took during the interview. Also I want to add my comments about their opinions and will show the results. As a new researcher, I know of the limitations and shortcomings of the research. Because the research is a small research; it isn’t a research that we can generalize. For generalization the findings, we have to make also surveys in each language departments from the universities in Turkey.

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