

ELN101: Introduction to Bilingualism Research Paper 1: Case Study an Urban Bilingual

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Interview a functional bilingual to get a “first-hand” perspective on the issues you are learning about in this class.

Your task: In this research paper, respond to the prompt below:

Based on the personal perspective shared by the person you interviewed, (1) identify their bilingual type based on Wei’s article (Wei, 2007) and (2) discuss their personal perspectives toward bilingualism.

 Topic


- Begin by introducing your participant, his/her language background, and patterns of language use.
- Then, identify their bilingual type according to the bilingual types proposed by Wei (2007). In your paper, you should define the following dimensions at least.
 - Proficiency & fluency
 - Process of acquisition
 - Timing of acquisition
 - Relationship of the two languages

Make sure to present *evidence* (such as a quote from the interview) for bilingual classification that you propose in your paper.

- Finally, discuss at least one unique perspective that the interviewee shared during the interview. Discuss and analyze their perspective.

Process stages for this assignment

- (1) Select the person to be interviewed (if possible, avoid your classmate in ELN101). Note that **you should select a speaker of language that you are not familiar with.**
- (2) Develop your interview questions.
- (3) Schedule and conduct the interview. Make sure to discuss confidentiality of the interviewee first. Ask the interviewee’s permission to record the interview. For virtual interviews, use Zoom’s recording function (free up to 40 min) or use another device to record the audio of the interview. The length of the interview should be between 15min - 30min.
- (4) Transcribe the interview. Consider using the automatic transcription service such as Rev.ai (<https://www.rev.ai>; 3.5c per min), temi.com (<https://www.temi.com>; 25c per min), and otter.ai (<https://otter.ai>; \$20 per month but first 600min is free).
- (5) Identify bilingual type of the interviewee and select appropriate quotes to support your bilingual classification.
- (6) Identify one unique perspective toward bilingualism that your interviewee shared during the interview.
- (7) Write the first draft of your paper; revisit it in a day or two and revise it; be ready to discuss your interview and the issues you selected for your discussion in class.
- (8) Submit the paper (See the website for the due date); expect feedback.
- (9) Discuss revision strategies with me; revise and be ready to post the final version on e-Portfolio.

 Interview length

 Transcription

Your role and audience: Give your reader necessary context or background information throughout the essay to help him/her follow your discussion. If you use any terms that are unfamiliar to the general public, make sure to define them.

 Length

Format: This essay should be 4-5 pages long (without the interview transcript) and should have a title. Check the syllabus for how to format this assignment. Append the interview transcript.

Grading system: The essay will be evaluated according to the following criteria:

- Accurate understanding of the concepts and fulfillment of the assignment
- Analysis and development
- Organization and coherence
- Awareness of audience and use of appropriate tone
- Overall clarity of language.

Suggestions on how to focus, develop and organize your paper

- (1) Write a brief (one-paragraph) “Introduction” section.
- (2) Have a section titled “Instrument” in which you describe your questionnaire (include information on the number of questions you included; place, time, and length of the interview; and/or possible follow-up).
- (3) Next, present your “Participant/Interviewee” section. Discuss the interviewee’s patterns of language use (e.g., when and why they switch their languages). Cite Wei (2007) to describe your participant’s bilingualism (e.g., balanced bilingual, sequential bilingual, additive bilingual, etc.) This section should focus on bilingual type of your interview participant. You should discuss at least the following dimensions of bilingual types:
 - Proficiency & fluency: balanced, dominant, receptive etc.
 - Process of acquisition: additive, subtractive, etc.
 - Timing of acquisition: early, late, simultaneous, successive etc.
 - Relationship of the two languages: horizontal, vertical etc.
- (4) Then, present your “Perspective toward Bilingualism” section. You should develop your own heading for this section. For example, if your participant raises the question of code-switching in how s/he uses her/his languages and you want to discuss it in your paper, use the title “Code-switching.” If your participant has something to say about the issue of unequal literacy in the two languages that s/he uses, you can discuss it in a section called “Biliteracy Issues.” If you want to include a paragraph on how the participant deals with the vocabulary problem, create a subsection called “Bilingual Vocabulary.” These are just a few options.
- (5) Your paper should end with a section titled “Conclusion,” in which you synthesize and summarize the bilingual experience of your participant (avoid repetition!) and briefly reflect on your experience conducting this case study.
- (6) Last but not least, include a “References” section, if you cite any literature you used. Your citation must include Wei (2007).
 - Wei, L. (2007). *Dimensions of bilingualism*. In L. Wei (Ed.), *The Bilingualism Reader*. (pp. 3-25). New York, NY: Routledge.
- (7) Finally, append your interview transcript.
- (8) Note. If the worst happens and you absolutely cannot see any issues in your interview, see me during office hours. We will discuss your transcripts in class. Have it ready.

 Citation

Have fun with this project!

1 Grading Rubrics

Name: _____

Date: _____

<p>Accurate understanding of the concepts and fulfillment of the assignment: The paper is a thoughtful and insightful response to the task. It effectively integrates a critical discussion of ideas in the course and relevant elements of the writer's reading and experience. The paper demonstrates an understanding of the main concepts in the field of bilingualism and bilingual education.</p>	<p>Excellent (30) _____ Good (25) _____ Adequate (20) _____ Fair (15) _____ Acceptable (10) _____ Fail (5) _____ No submission (0) _____</p>
<p>Analysis and development: Statements and opinions are supported by relevant evidence. The scope of ideas, arguments, and guiding questions demonstrates both intellectual involvement and a recognition that the topic extends beyond one individual's personal experience.</p>	<p>Excellent (30) _____ Good (25) _____ Adequate (20) _____ Fair (15) _____ Acceptable (10) _____ Fail (5) _____ No submission (0) _____</p>
<p>Organization and coherence: The principles of organization, such as introduction, conclusion, transitions, topic sentences, are incorporated effectively. There is an easy-to-follow progression of thought from sentence to sentence, idea to idea and paragraph to paragraph, with no gaps in logic or needed information. Paragraphs have appropriate length.</p>	<p>Excellent (30) _____ Good (25) _____ Adequate (20) _____ Fair (15) _____ Acceptable (10) _____ Fail (5) _____ No submission (0) _____</p>
<p>Awareness of audience and use of appropriate tone: The paper gives the reader necessary context or background information to help him/her follow the ideas and the discussion.</p>	<p>Excellent (30) _____ Good (25) _____ Adequate (20) _____ Fair (15) _____ Acceptable (10) _____ Fail (5) _____ No submission (0) _____</p>
<p>Overall clarity of language: The paper demonstrates competence in sentence construction, sentence variety, and word choice as well as correct usage, grammar, and mechanics. The essay has been proofread carefully so that errors do not interfere with the essay's clarity.</p>	<p>Excellent (30) _____ Good (25) _____ Adequate (20) _____ Fair (15) _____ Acceptable (10) _____ Fail (5) _____ No submission (0) _____</p>
<p>General Comments</p>	<p>Grade _____ (Note: this grade can be changed upon revision and resubmission)</p>