

Micro-Paper 24: *Multi- and Plurilingualism*

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Defining the Term

Multilingualism and Plurilingualism show how people use the language in different ways dependent on diverse social and cultural contexts. However, both terms focus on specific features of language use and particular aspects of language users' identity.

Multilingualism is a divergent concept defined in two ways. The first one focuses on how either communities or people use various languages, according to their necessities, economic, socio-cultural, and ideology arrangements. The second one makes a difference among backgrounds, ideologies and purposes of languages. Both definitions are connected in their social aspects, but are separated in order to recognize the different language practices.

Plurilingualism refers to people who, while not fully immersed in the speech community of the target language, rely on their language knowledge for communication. They do not have to know the language in-depth, yet they use it as a communicative resource. Hence, Plurilingualism is about not only people's proficiency or academic language level, but also their ability to use it in any communicative situation to express an idea or transmit a message.

Multilingualism involves the coexistence of different languages, in the mind of an individual or a society, and represents a variation of languages available. On the other hand, Plurilingualism emphasizes the interrelationship of the different languages and cultures in the speaker's mind rather than treating them as separate entities. However, all languages in one's head interrelate and interact to help to the growth of communication skills as a whole.

Connecting it to LSLP

At LSLP, the concepts of Multilingualism and Plurilingualism allow us to understand how people are playing with the language and how they could use them to communicate in a simple or deeper way. In this sense, in our research we are trying to comprehend how the constructions of language users' identities and the emerging of new contexts could feature moments of Multilingualism and Plurilingualism. The different second language literacy practices in the city could be understood from Multilingualism and Plurilingualism due to social and cultural issues. Thus, these concepts help the research team to go beyond language practices.

Expanding Second Language Research

Multilingualism and Plurilingualism are concepts with a potential to comprehend the dynamics in which languages are moving nowadays, since they have a close relationship with the uses of second languages. Also, they allow researchers to understand the role we play as language users and the purposes for which we use it. They can help to understand how language users develop and construct messages to communicate their ideas, express feelings and thoughts; how people are creating texts and being texts.

References

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