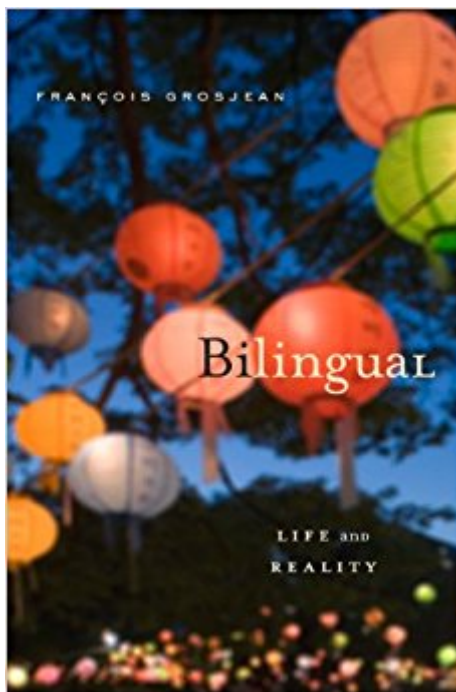


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Bilingual



Synopsis

Whether in family life, social interactions, or business negotiations, half the people in the world speak more than one language every day. Yet many myths persist about bilingualism and bilinguals. Does being bilingual mean you are equally fluent in two languages, or that you belong to two cultures, or even that you have multiple personalities? Can you become bilingual only as a child? Why do bilinguals switch from one language to another in mid-sentence? Will raising bilingual children confuse and delay their learning of any language? In a lively and often entertaining book, an international authority on bilingualism, son of an English mother and a French father, explores the many facets of bilingualism. In this book, François Grosjean draws on research, interviews, autobiographies, and the engaging examples of bilingual authors. He describes the various strategies "some useful, some not" used by parents raising bilingual children, explains how children easily pick up and forget languages, and considers how bilingualism affects the experience and expression of emotions, thoughts, and dreams. This book shows that speaking two or more languages is not a sign of intelligence, evasiveness, cultural alienation, or political disloyalty. For millions of people, it's simply a way of navigating the complexities of life.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

Are you raising children with two or more languages? Were you raised in a bilingual environment? Are you a second language learner who is wondering what "bilingual" really means and if you will ever get there? François Grosjean's excellent book debunks many of the myths of bilingualism and gives useful and practical suggestions for multilingual families. Grosjean's writing style is clear and engaging. The subject matter is well-organized and logical. He shares personal stories which draw in the reader while referring to current research in the field. Bilingual readers will recognize and relate to his description of real life with two or more languages. For parents trying to raise children with more than one language, this book will give them a useful guide to overcoming some of the challenges and the maximizing the blessings of the bilingual path. I have given this book as a gift to bilingual friends, recommended it enthusiastically to participants in my family language learning workshops and even persuaded my local librarian to order a copy for our town library.

I purchased this book as a Spring Break read years ago. As a Spanish teacher, and mother hoping to raise a child bilingually, I return to this book over and over to refresh my spirit and remind myself how amazing our brains are, and how different a bilingual brain is from a monolingual brain!

Loved it!! I'm a bilingual education student and my career includes a lot of readings. However this is the one book I will remember. It's such a great book and it gives you such a different perspective!

As a bilingual father of two small children, before reading this book I was wracked with fear that my children would hit a certain age and then reject their minority language. After reading this book, that fear is still there, as there are sobering accounts in the book of this very thing happening, and how the loss of a child's language has even damaged family relationships. However; even though the fear is still there, I am no longer "wracked" with it, as I am now armed with the proper attitude and techniques to deal with my children's changing attitudes towards their languages, and how to provide the "necessities" of the minority language into their lives in such a way that they will want to keep it and even enjoy being multilingual.

Much so called common knowledge about bilingualism is not based on data. Grosjean combines

research and anecdotes to make a very readable volume. Part one focuses on adult experiences, part two on children.

It's totally new and exactly what I've expected.

Book was in excellent conditions.

A great book, except that I felt I needed a bit more facts and content. Felt a bit repetitive at times. I am a picky reader, though, so I might be underestimating the book's quality.

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