

# ET324-15 Multilingualism and Culture

**24/25**

**Department**

Applied Linguistics

**Level**

Undergraduate Level 3

**Module leader**

Ellen Smith-Dennis

**Credit value**

15

**Module duration**

10 weeks

**Assessment**

50% coursework, 50% exam

**Study location**

University of Warwick main campus, Coventry

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## Description

### Introductory description

Is it an advantage or disadvantage to be brought up bilingual? Is the bilingual or multilingual mind different? How do multilingual individuals draw on culturally shaped understandings of the social world to manage their interactions? In this module you will become familiar with key terms, concepts, theories and research evidence related to linguistic, psychological, and social aspects of bi/multi-lingualism. By the end of the module, you will be able to describe and discuss evidence in bi/multi-lingualism research, analyse the use of language in bi/multi-lingual contexts and evaluate theoretical and empirical research in bi/multi-lingualism.

[Module web page](#)

### Module aims

This module aims to develop understanding of the workings of the bilingual mind, the advantages and disadvantages of being brought up bilingual, and how individuals draw on frames of understanding from diverse languages to construct meaning in social interaction and manage communication with others. You will become familiar with key terms, concepts, theories and research evidence related to linguistic, psychological, and social aspects of bi/multi-lingualism.

### Outline syllabus

This is an indicative module outline only to give an indication of the sort of topics that may be covered. Actual sessions held may differ.

Learning multiple languages in childhood  
Sequential multilingualism and the critical period  
Multilingual lexicon and multilingual processing  
Cognitive effects of multilingualism  
Code-switching  
Multilingual societies  
Language shift and endangerment  
Language policy, planning and education

## **Learning outcomes**

By the end of the module, students should be able to:

- Upon successful completion of this module, you will be able to:
  - demonstrate your understanding of key concepts, terminology, research methods and theories related to the linguistic, psychological and social aspects of multilingualism
  - demonstrate a critical understanding of issues related to multilingualism and culture
  - describe and discuss the use of language by multilinguals and in multilingual contexts
  - critically evaluate theoretical and empirical research in multilingualism

## **Indicative reading list**

Bhatia, T. K., & Ritchie, W. C. (Eds.). The handbook of bilingualism and multilingualism (2nd edn) (pp.5-25). Chichester/Malden: Wiley-Blackwell.

Wei, L. (Ed.). The bilingualism reader (pp. 3-25). London/New York: Routledge.

[View reading list on Talis Aspire](#)

## **Interdisciplinary**

This module demonstrates how the study of multilingualism is inherently interdisciplinary. We can study multilingualism from a number of different perspectives including linguistic, psycholinguistic, sociolinguistic and applied linguistics.

## **International**

In an increasingly globalised and mobilised world, speakers of different languages are interacting with one another more and more, perpetuating local and global multilingualism. It is therefore critical to understand how an individual and/or a society becomes multilingual, how multilingual individuals interact, how the multilingual mind works, and how multilingualism can be supported (or not) through policies and education.

## **Subject specific skills**

Describe and discuss theory and evidence in bilingual first language acquisition research

Demonstrate their understanding of key concepts, terminology, research methods and theories of bilingualism

Describe and discuss the use of language in bilinguals

Evaluate theoretical and empirical research in bilingualism

Be familiar with theory, research findings, research methods related to bilingualism

### **Transferable skills**

Communicate clearly in oral presentation and written work

Retrieve, evaluate critically and select relevant information to support coherent arguments

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## **Study**

### **Study time**

<b>Type</b>	<b>Required</b>
Lectures	9 sessions of 2 hours (12%)
Seminars	9 sessions of 1 hour (6%)
Other activity	4 hours (3%)
Private study	119 hours (79%)
Total	150 hours

### **Private study description**

Reading subject materials

Homework tasks

Assignments

Revision

### **Other activity description**

Revision sessions

## **Costs**

No further costs have been identified for this module.

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## **Assessment**

You do not need to pass all assessment components to pass the module.

### **Assessment group C3**

	<b>Weighting</b>	<b>Study time</b>
2000 word assignment	50%	
On campus Examination	50%	

- Answerbook Pink (12 page)

### **Feedback on assessment**

Written feedback on the assignment will be provided on the Centre's standard feedback sheets, which conform to Faculty regulations. This will include both summary and detailed feedback. Where appropriate, additional feedback may be provided via personal meetings with the tutor.

[Past exam papers for ET324](#)

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### **Availability**

#### **Courses**

This module is Optional for:

- Year 3 of UETA-Q311 in English Language and Linguistics (with Intercalated year)