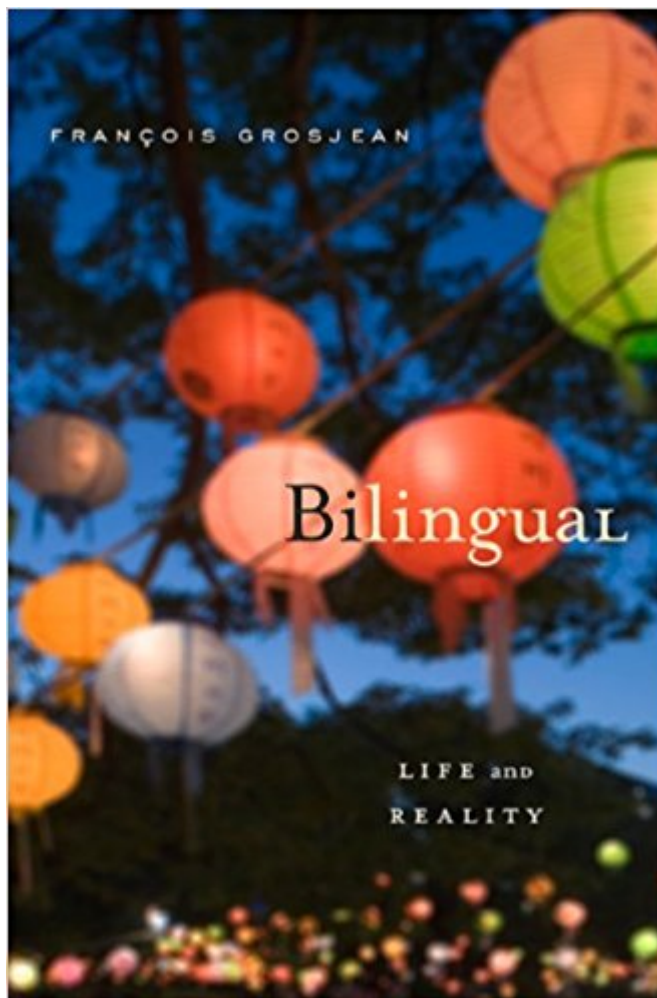


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Bilingual: Life And Reality



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. In a lively and entertaining book, an international authority on bilingualism explores the many facets of life with two or more languages.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

Grosjean (*Life with Two Languages*) breaks little new ground in his study of bilingualism, but he does succeed in his stated aim to demystify who bilinguals are and the psychological ramifications of possessing more than one language with which to process and articulate experience. His discussion zeros in on such behaviors as suppressing the knowledge of one language in order to communicate in another or the choice to resist using a language because of a trauma or, conversely, lack of emotional connection to it. He distinguishes between bilinguals and biculturals and the situations that arise in the case of their coincidence. While not quite a revelation on the ability or aptitude for bilingualism, the book is a clear and readable primer covering various linguistic idiosyncrasies, state attitudes toward bilingualism, how to encourage equal aptitude in both languages, and the challenges in raising bilingual children. Enlivening the text are Grosjean's anecdotes about growing up bilingual (he is the son of an English mother and French father) and studies on the intersection of language and politics—especially when bilingualism is explicitly nurtured, as in Navajo revival classes on reservations. (Apr.) Copyright © Reed Business Information, a division of Reed Elsevier Inc. All rights reserved. --This text refers to the Hardcover

edition.

What may not be apparent to the non-specialist is the extent to which Grosjean masters the entire body of scholarly literature on bilingualism produced during the past 100 yearsâ | It is worth having at one's fingertips the unpretentiously presented, solidly researched facts and figures in this gentle, humorous, civilized book. (Mela Sarkar Montreal Gazette 2010-06-04)The personal dimension of the book contributes to its readability and vitality. Grosjean succeeds in impressing on his readers the need to demystify bilingualism and seek ways in which to encourage linguistic diversity. (Kerstin Hoge Times Literary Supplement 2010-07-16)Bilingual: Life and Realityâ | is a readable, informative, and emotionally satisfying workâ | The book is a gift. (Barbara Zurer Pearson Language)

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 prospective!

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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