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Archives Jean Piaget | Séminaire interdisciplinaire | 2012

Langage et pensée

Mardi 8 mai

Lifelong Bilingualism, Linguistic Cost, Cognitive Benefits, and Long-term Consequences

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Ellen Bialystok is a Distinguished Research Professor of Psychology at York University and Associate Scientist at the Rotman Research Institute of the Baycrest Centre for Geriatric Care. She received her Ph.D. from the University of Toronto in 1976 studying the relation between children's conceptual and linguistic development, especially as it applied to spatial cognition. Her subsequent research investigated issues in second language acquisition, metalinguistic awareness, and literacy acquisition in young children. Much of her research in the past 20 years has focused on the effect of bilingualism on children's language and cognitive development, showing accelerated mastery of specific cognitive processes for bilingual children. This research was then extended to investigations of adult processing and cognitive aging, showing the continuity of these bilingual advantages into adulthood and the protection against cognitive decline in healthy aging for bilingual older adults. She is the author or editor of 7 books and over 100 scientific papers in journals and books. She is a fellow of the Royal Society of Canada and among her awards are a Killam Research Fellowship, Walter Gordon Research Fellowship, Dean's Award for Outstanding Research, the Donald T. Stuss Award for Research Excellence at the Baycrest Geriatric Centre, the President's Research Award of Merit at York University, the Donald Hebb Award for Outstanding Contribution to Psychology, and the Killam Prize for the Social Sciences.

Résumé de la conférence

A growing body of research points to the importance of bilingualism in modifying cognitive outcomes. The most dramatic effect is in the role of bilingualism in the enhancement of executive control across the lifespan. However, a more complex picture emerges when these cognitive advantages are considered together with the costs to linguistic processing. I will review evidence for both these outcomes and propose a framework for understanding the mechanism that leads to these observed consequences of bilingualism.

Lecture proposée

Bialystok, E. (2011) *Reshaping the Mind: The Benefits of Bilingualism*. Canadian Journal of Experimental Psychology, Vol. 65, No. 4, 229–235

