# Module 6: Multilingualism and Globalization

## Introduction

This week, we will study **multilingualism**, or the ability to speak several languages. We will consider the ways in which people who speak more than one language **switch**, **mix**, and **separate** languages according to different social settings, values, and norms. We will also consider the differences between **languages** and **dialects**, and the role **language ideologies** in creating structures of power that are linked to and mediated by language. Finally, we will consider the ways in which globalization has created a whole new set of linguistic practices that are heavily laden with cultural meaning that extends over vast distances. In this module, we will also be talking about why multilingualism in certain settings (particularly the United States) can be **controversial**. Finally, in our f2f meeting we will be watching the pbs documentary *Speaking in Tongues* about alternative language immersion programs in the United States.

## Objectives

After completing this module, you should be able to:

* Explain the benefits of multilingualism studied by Claudia Dreyfus (see reading below).
* Define and explain the differences between **code-switching**, **code-mixing**, and **diglossia**.
* Present specific examples of multilingualism and how they have been analyzed ethnographically.
* Analyze the role of **language ideologies** in forming national opinions about multilingualism.

## Time Management

This course is designed to maximize benefits gained from our weekly f2f meeting. In order for our class meeting to enhance and further deepen your understanding of course materials and help you achieve our module objectives, I suggest you manage your time wisely. An efficient example of how you can best utilize your time for this course is as follows:

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| --- | --- |
| **Day** | **Suggested Action** |
| Monday | Read assigned reading and module content |
| Tuesday | Finish assigned reading and module content |
| Wednesday | Original post due in the weekly graded discussion |
| Thursday | F2F Meeting |
| Friday | Response to another’s original post due by midnight tonight |

## Assigned Reading

This week, you will complete the following readings. Please do the reading as you complete the module content. You must have the required reading done prior to our f2f class meeting on Thursday.

Ahearn, Laura. *Living Language*. Ch. 6.

Dreifus, Claudia. [“The Bilingual Advantage.”](http://www.nytimes.com/2011/05/31/science/31conversation.html?_r=1) *The New York Times*.