

# TOPICS IN BILINGUALISM

---

Class 1: roadmap

# What is the course about?

- Topics in Bilingualism is about, well, bilingualism. Bilingualism is more of a norm in today's world than it was previously.
- Myriad factors are responsible for this reality
- Even the erstwhile monolingual countries are fast accepting bilingualism as an unavoidable reality of the global village and incorporating more languages into their 'official language' list.
- The latest in this is incorporation of Hindi as an official language in UAE.

- Research in bilingualism has also been keeping pace with the changing linguistic demographics of the world.
- In the initial years, the focus of such research was to find out how bilingualism is deficient as compared to monolingualism.
- gradually, such shackles were broken and bilingualism research established itself as an independent and objective field of research.

- This is an intensely nuanced and rich domain of scientific endeavor and one can only mention the key points in a course spanning one semester.
- Keeping the complexity of the domain in mind, this course attempts to have the following modules through which to explain the phenomena.

# The socio-historical perspective

this will include the social factors responsible for creating bilingualism, starting with the reasons for language to come into contact in the first place; various types of outcomes of language contact; bilingualism as a social phenomena: code mixing and code switching.

# Relativity (cognitive linguistics)

linguistic relativity and bilingualism; languages deciding the world view and how bilingualism is a factor in this domain; languages coding habitual thought process and categorization are main issues in this domain; research involving bilinguals' performance on various non-linguistic tasks will be discussed.

# Psycholinguistic research

- ✓ Processing: this domain will look into the language processing by bilinguals; parallel activation of a bilinguals' two language will be discussed in various domains of language like phonology, orthography, semantics etc.
- ✓ Effect of bilingualism: executive control, attention, ageing; controversy.

# Language and brain

history of brain research with respect to language; bilingual brain; behavioral laterality.



# Second Language acquisition

- child and adult language acquisition. Various factors responsible and so on.