

Children's Bilingualism in Kazakhstan

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Abstract

The paper reports Kazakh-Russian children's bilingualism which is a very common phenomenon in Kazakhstan. The primary school-age children have bilingual competence and use different types of code-switches. Comparing with monolingual children, who form a control group, we have found lexical, phonological, grammatical, and cultural interferences in bilingual children's speech. Some spelling and pronunciation problems are explained by influence of another language. The data were derived from the analysis of children's comments of the picture-books and records of their spontaneous monologues or dialogues. Three main groups were determined: children with dominant Kazakh, with dominant Russian, and with approximate balanced correlation of both languages.