

Multilingualism

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Abstract

In these five sessions I will talk firstly about the history of the field, current concepts and debates (Schwieter & Dewaele, 2025). I will focus on the acquisition of multiple languages from birth, the cognitive and psychological consequences of multilingualism and the challenges multilingual language users face when switching between their various languages to communicate emotions because of variation in emotional resonance and cultural norms (Dewaele, 2013, 2025; Dewaele & Botes, 2020), which has implications for psychotherapy (Cook & Dewaele, 2021).

1. Multilingualism: an overview
2. A case study of trilingual first language acquisition
3. Do multilinguals have a superior brain?
4. Does multilingualism shape personality?
5. Why do swearwords feel less powerful in a foreign language and what consequences does this have for psychotherapy?

References

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