

The aim of this research is to examine how bilingual children with the diagnoses of language impairment use the phenomena of code-switching in discourse competently, allowing them to alternate languages in a meaningful and communicative manner. The aim of this study is to analyze how bilingual children with language impairment use code-switching linguistically to demonstrate their speaking knowledge of two languages, and socially as a recognition of their setting and method of cultural inclusion. For the remainder of this paper, the term language impairment will be the term used to refer to the diagnosis that describes the inability of a child to use language in a developmentally appropriate manner.

With the purpose of expanding research on how children with language impairments use the phenomena of code-switching in conversation, this research will initially try to answer the following questions.

Main question:

- How is the phenomena of code-switching manifested in bilingual children with the diagnosis of language impairment?

Sub-questions:

- How do bilingual children with language impairment use code-switching socially to make sense of their environment?
- How do bilingual children with language impairment use code-switching as a linguistic function to develop their communicative abilities?
- What linguistic patterns are manifested through the use of code-switching by bilingual children with language impairment?

This study will expand on the current research regarding the use of code-switching in bilingual children with the diagnosis of language impairment. It will hopefully aid in the theoretical understanding of this phenomena linguistically, culturally and socially as applied to this population. It will help us conceptualize the use of conversation to improve communication in this specific population.

This research will add to the importance of collecting data based on an ethnographic approach in order to gain more insight into this phenomenon as applied to bilingual children with language impairment. It is important to view this data and to analyze it in a qualitative matter. This research proposes a different framework for in-depth studies on the phenomena of code-switching. This study will use a different method of inquiry to view and understand this phenomena in bilingual children with language impairments and hopefully provide a different outcome as to how we view code-switching in this population of children. The analysis of each instance of code-switching will hopefully assist in

obtaining a holistic and qualitative understanding of such behaviors in bilingual children with language impairment.

This research will also contribute to the limited clinical understanding of the phenomena of code-switching. With the perception that many professionals have of this phenomena as being controversial to the development of language and the function it serves, this research shall contribute to putting to rest the current misunderstandings and misguided concepts that many professionals have when working with this population of children. It will hopefully also aid professionals in special education not only to understand this phenomena better, but to gain knowledge on how to provide adequate and appropriate services to bilingual children with special needs.

This research is in progress. Results/conclusions shall be complete by early 2016.