"It’s like the Rosetta stone!". A Sociocognitive Cross-sectional study of Metasyntactic Awareness and Cross-linguistic Influence in French-Norwegian Bilingual Children in Oslo

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**Purpose of the research**

This research aims to study metalinguistic strategies and crosslinguistic awareness in bilingual children. In a socio-cognitive and interactionist theoretical framework, the study assesses the following questions:

1. Are there (conscious) crosslinguistic transfers?
2. Are there impacts from parental attitudes and correction practices on metalinguistic skills and transfers, and crosslinguistic awareness in bilinguals?
3. To what extent does metalinguistic discourse of bilingual children inform about transfer organization and indicates metalinguistic reflection?

**Results and conclusions**

- **Bilingual children show metasyntactic skills but weakened when preposition involved.**
- **Syntactic transfers occur when prepositional constructions are involved.**

**Parents use an explicit corrective feedback without using metalanguage.**

**Idea of bilingualism (1 bilingual = 2 monolinguals) from Norwegian parent correlated with score to ungrammatical phrases judgment.**

**Type of parent feedback correction correlated with score to ungrammatical phrases judgment.**

**Bilingual children from Norwegian father/French mother couples show better syntactic awareness about preposition stranding.**

**Qualitative analysis**

2 types of children (age 10)

**TYPE I (LESS FREQUENT)**

Metalinguistic discourse show epilingual skills (perception, meaning, difficulties to explain)

**THE ROSETTA STONE: Crosslinguistic awareness and strategies**

- SEB: Do you think it will help to know several languages to understand what’s written in French?
- IN4: He’s it’s like the Rosetta stone so he can understand the hieroglyphs, so he used the languages he knew to understand another one.

**THE PARK: Conscious crosslinguistic interactions and transfers**

- IN7: French, Norwegian, it’s at the same place but with different paths.
- IN7: I can cross paths between paths so I feel a device which could direct if things between languages were different. You create them automatically, you don’t think of doing it.

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