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**” 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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► **To cite this version:**

Sebastien Lucas. ” It’s like the Rosetta stone!”. A Sociocognitive Cross-sectional study of Meta-  
syntactic Awareness and Cross- linguistic Influence in French-Norwegian Bilingual Children in Oslo.  
International Symposium on Biligualism.The next generation. ISB12, Jun 2019, Edmonton, Canada.  
. hal-02369224

**HAL Id: hal-02369224**

**<https://normandie-univ.hal.science/hal-02369224>**

Submitted on 18 Nov 2019

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# "It's like the Rosetta stone"

## A SOCIOCOGNITIVE CROSS-SECTIONAL STUDY OF METASYNTACTIC AWARENESS AND CROSS-LINGUISTIC INFLUENCE IN FRENCH-NORWEGIAN BILINGUAL CHILDREN

### Purpose of the research

This research aims to study metalinguistic strategies and crosslinguistic awareness on **Bilingual First Language Acquisition French Norwegian children** (n=33, age 10) from families claiming to use the **One Person One Language strategy**.

In a socio-cognitive and interactionist theoretical framework, the study assess the following question research :

1. Are there (conscious) **crosslinguistic transfers** ?
2. Are there impacts from parental **attitudes** and **correction practices** on **metasyntactic 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**?

### Interdisciplinary theoretical Framework for a better understanding of syntactic transfers and metasyntactic skills of a bilingual reader

#### SOCIOLINGUISTICS

Parents' **ideology** towards language contact and bilingualism.  
Parent **corrective feedback practices** of children's code-mixed utterances.

#### Syntactic transfers and metasyntactic skills of a bilingual reader

**PSYCHOLINGUISTICS**  
Language activation.  
Crosslinguistic transfers.  
Metalinguistic strategy.

**LINGUISTICS**  
Metalinguistic discourse.  
Metalanguage.  
Discourse analysis.

### Collecting data: A mixed method approach

#### QUALITATIVE

**SEMI-DIRECTIVE INTERVIEWS WITH CHILDREN IN FRENCH**  
With French-Norwegian children conducted in the family home

#### QUANTITATIVE

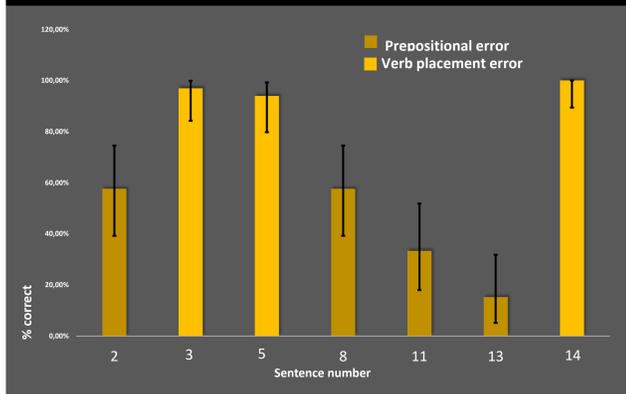
**GRAMMATICALITY JUDGMENT TASK IN FRENCH**  
With French children (n=30) and French-Norwegian children (n=33)

**SELF-ADMINISTRATED SOCIOLINGUISTIC QUESTIONNAIRE**  
With both parents

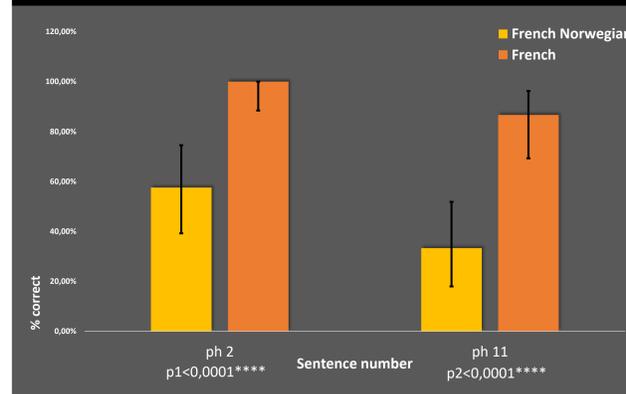
### Results and conclusions

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

#### Ungrammatical sentence judgment task results

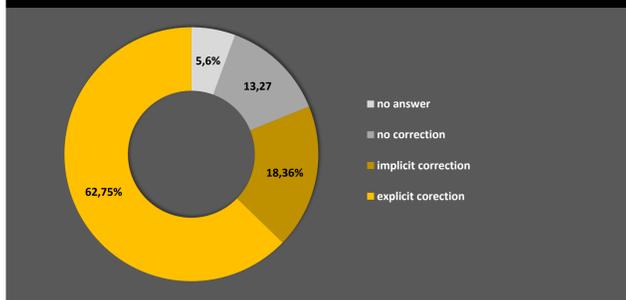


#### Ungrammatical sentence judgment task involving preposition

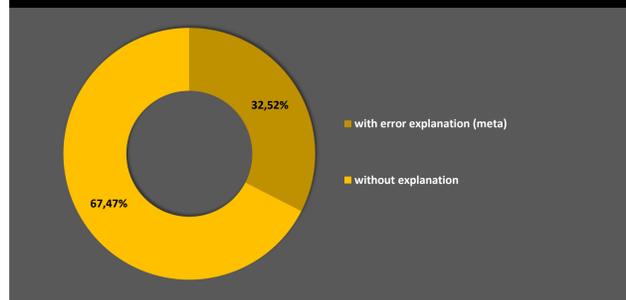


- ✓ **Parents use an explicit corrective feedback without using metalanguage.**

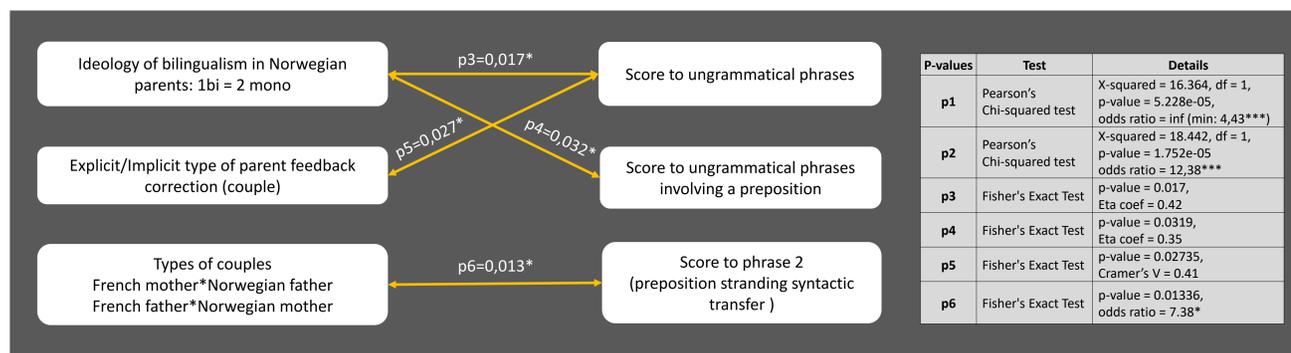
#### Type of parent corrective feedback



#### Metalanguage use in explicit correction



- ✓ **Ideology 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.**



#### Phrase 2, ungrammatical because of preposition stranding

	1	2	3	4	5	6
Fr	Il	ne sait pas	avec	qui	il	joue
No	Han	vet ikke	hvem	han	leker	med
(*Fr)/No	Il	ne sait pas	qui	il	joue	avec
En	He	doesn't know	who	he	plays	with

### Qualitative analysis 2 types of children (age 10)

#### TYPE I (LESS FREQUENT)

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

#### TYPE II (MOST FREQUENT)

Metalinguistic discourse show conscious manipulation of syntax, metasyntactic skills and awareness.

#### Usage of metaphors showing crosslinguistic awareness:

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

SEB: Do you think it can help to know several languages to understand what's written in French ?

IN4: Hm 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 in my brain. It's all like in the same park but with different paths.

IN7: I create paths between paths as if I had a device which could detect if things between languages were different. You create them automatically; you don't think of doing it.

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