Cognition, Memory, and Emotion: Their Influence on Human Behavior

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Words that label emotion (e.g., love, anger, joy) are used in many different contexts to express one's feelings, desires, and state of being. These words are often learned and remembered more vividly in a bilingual's first language, as compared to their second language. But just what makes an emotion word so powerful and so meaningful? What are some ways in which the power of emotion can be measured and compared across languages? In this presentation, cognitive, experimental techniques will be discussed that uncover the richness of the representation of emotion words in monolingual and bilingual speakers. We will explore the ways in which humans express emotions using words and symbols and discuss the ways in which applied researchers are investigating emotion in a variety of settings and contexts. Theoretical and methodological issues surrounding the investigation of bilingualism will be explored, within this presentation.