

Bilingual knowledge and interlingual capacity - a report on work in progress

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There is an undisputed interdependency of bilingual knowledge and interlingual capacity since both are essential to mediate meaning across language barriers. There is also a lot of misunderstanding about what is needed to translate. Common opinions that anybody who knows two languages can translate clash with the expert view that the knowledge of two languages is necessary but not sufficient to translate professionally.

In my presentation I want to briefly report on my post-doctoral research project which aims to investigate how competent bilinguals learn to use their bilingual knowledge for the purpose of translating. In the second half of my presentation I would like to argue that the relationship between one's bilingual knowledge and interlingual capacity is, in fact, that of mutual benefit. I will support my points by the results of a questionnaire study which I conducted among students of English as a foreign language in the English Department at Adam Mickiewicz University in Poznań.