

MERCATOR MULTILINGUALISM LECTURE 2023

Dr Sharon Unsworth (Centre for Language Studies)

What (not) to expect when raising or working with bilingual children

Children growing up bilingually acquire their two or more languages in much the same way as monolingual children. At the same time, there are clear differences. When raising or working with bilingual children, it's important to know what these differences are so that you have realistic expectations about what children should or should not do.

In this talk, Dr Sharon Unsworth presents research on some of the key features of bilingual language development and what this means for how children learn and use both the majority and minority/heritage languages. These features include the amount and type of input, the availability of genuine opportunities for language use, and the possibility that one language can influence the other.

Unsworth will discuss the role of (non-)native input and (older) siblings, which factors predict active language use in bilingual children, as well as the impact of typological differences between languages when it comes to language use and language proficiency. Furthermore, Unsworth will showcase a recent tool (Q-BEx) that is designed to document and quantify some of these key features of bilingual development.

About the speaker

Dr Sharon Unsworth is a linguist at the Centre for Language Studies (Radboud University Nijmegen). Her research focuses on figuring out which factors contribute to making bilingual language development a success, and she is passionate about all things multilingual! She is host and maker of the "Kletsheads" podcast (English/Dutch), and director of the "Kletskoppen" child language festival.



Date: TUESDAY 28 NOVEMBER 2023

Time: 16.00-17.00 CET

Location: Zoom

(attendance is free but registration is required)

Language of the lecture: English

You can register via [this link](#)
or by scanning the QR-code:

