

Language Activation Theory: Unlocking Bilingual Language Processing

Authors : Leorisyl D. Siarot

Abstract : It is conventional to see and hear Filipinos, in general, speak two or more languages. This phenomenon brings us to a closer look on how our minds process the input and produce an output with a specific chosen language. This study aimed to generate a theoretical model which explained the interaction of the first and the second languages in the human mind. After a careful analysis of the gathered data, a theoretical prototype called Language Activation Model was generated. For every string, there are three specialized banks: lexico-semantics, morphono-syntax, and pragmatics. These banks are interrelated to other banks of other language strings. As the bilingual learns more languages, a new string is replicated and is filled up with the information of the new language learned. The principles of the first and second languages' interaction are drawn; these are expressed in laws, namely: law of dominance, law of availability, law of usuality and law of preference. Furthermore, difficulties encountered in the learning of second languages were also determined.

Keywords : bilingualism, psycholinguistics, second language learning, languages

Conference Title : ICELLL 2014 : International Conference on English Language, Literature and Linguistics

Conference Location : Singapore, Singapore

Conference Dates : September 11-12, 2014