

Bilingual Upbringing of Children

Author: Daniela Kulíková

Ms. Kulíková's thesis points out various systems that can be used for bringing up children bilingually and her case studies focus on families in the Czech Republic, and abroad, when one partner is English-speaking and the other partner is Czech-speaking.

The conclusion of her research as stated in her summary is: "parents do not necessarily plan the bilingual upbringing of their children thoroughly, they mainly use the one parent-one language strategy, they do not change the strategy throughout the process of upbringing and finally, that they are likely to fail in the way that their offspring will not develop toward being bilingual in both languages, unless they are motivated and persistent".

Overall, there is not too much to write about this thesis, but that is not necessarily a bad thing, as it is very clear in its language and its aims, and the research is sound.

Just two comments:

1. Kulíková uses friends and acquaintances as her case studies (more objectivity might be better) and the age range of the children is quite vast. She writes: "The age of the parents as well as children vary greatly, which I believe gives a broader insight into the topic". Well, it *could* – but the number of cases studies would have to go up and the research would have to be more thoroughly organized. Kulíková also writes "the value of the research is in the qualitative, not quantitative outcome..."... Why? Both (qualitative *and* quantitative) would, of course, be better, if impractical, for a short Bc. thesis.

2. A possible idea for future study/cooperation: This thesis was written in English and for the Faculty of Education's Department of English – so it is understandable that the focus is on English (and Czech) speakers. However, the reality is that current immigration to the Czech Republic is overwhelmingly from the East. In Prague, for example, every ninth (legal) resident of Prague is a foreigner (classified as *non-EU*) and ninety percent of these foreigners are from the countries of the former Soviet Union. It might be interesting to somehow incorporate this group for further research – as they seem to be a more practical target area.

Recommended Grade: 1 Výborně

Mark Farrell, May 2010