Bilingual, Multilingual, Plurilingual....Which one are you?

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Your competence in the language you are learning was always compared to the full competence in your first language. What you don’t know, haven’t learned or cannot learn!
Additive Bilingualism

Develop both fluency and proficiency in a L2 while continuing to develop proficiency in their L1
Multilingual (CEFR)

- Multilingualism: societal
- Every country can be said to be multilingual
  - Heritage multilingualism: Composed of the traditional languages which are part of its cultural heritage
  - Varieties of the national language
  - Minority languages
  - Regional languages or dialects
Multilingualism (CEFR)

• Multilingualism: societal

• Every country can be said to be multilingual
  – Exogenous multilingualism
  • A result of increased economic and professional mobility due to globalization
Plurilingual (CEFR)

- Individual plurilingualism
- Linguistic plurality and diversity are part of the everyday reality and of everybody’s daily experience
Every language is plural

- Multiple intersecting variations:
  - In time and in space
  - Between the written and the spoken
  - In the medium
  - According to social strata
  - In specialized discourse
  - Creative use of the language games, humor, irony
Every individual is plural

- **Individuals:**
  - Are participants in different networks and social groups
  - Have multiple social identities
  - Have multiple roles
Every individual is plural

- **Individuals:**
  - Are participants in different networks and social groups
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- daughter
- professor
- language teacher
- mother
- sister
- dance teacher
- boss
- adjudicator
- partner
- friend
Plurilingual teaching

• A change in perspective which involves:
  – the foreign language
  – the languages in proximity
  – the languages in the repertoires of the learners
Plurilingual competence (CEFR)

• Is the ability to use languages at varying degrees of proficiency for the purposes of communication

• Is NOT a superposition or juxtaposition of distinct and separate competences, but rather the existence of a complex, even composite competence which encompass the range of the languages available to the learner
Plurilingual competence

• Capacity to successively acquire and use different competences in different languages, at different levels of proficiency and for different functions.

• It is diverse, malleable and evolves throughout life, linked as it is to experience and to the personal trajectories of the each individual.
Plurilingual competency

• Framed in terms of what you can say and how you use the language, not in terms what you don’t know, haven’t learned or can’t learn.

• Acceptance that abilities will vary for each skill: listening, speaking, conversing, reading and writing.

• Realization that perfection in the L2 (L3, L4...) is not realistic. (continues)
• Many agree that full mastery of a second language with all its linguistic subtleties and cultural allusions is a nearly impossible task
• Goal of language teaching is now effective use of the target language
Plurilingual teachers like you...

- The non-native speaker as the teacher
  - Very worldwide for ESL
  - Very common now in ESL and FLS even in Canada and the USA
  - Common in Canada and USA with the increased teaching of heritage languages
  - Exciting new research in this field

(continues)
Plurilingual teachers like you (continued)

- Provide a better learner model
- Teach language-learning strategies more effectively
- Supply more information about the target language
- Better anticipate and prevent language difficulties
- More sensitive to their students
- Benefit from ability to use the students’ mother tongue
Plurilingual teachers like you (continued)

• Supplement the Additive Bilingualism by looking at the surface features and showing how the different languages connect.

L1 + L2 =

- an uaireadóir gorm
- la montre bleue
- the blue watch

- le lait,
- la leche
- an bainne

- ser & estar
- is & tá

- animal – animaux
- mouse – mice
- ainmhí - ainmhithe
Plurilingual teachers like you (continued)
So, what are you?