

Monolingualism vs bilingualism essay

[Life](#), [Friendship](#)



Friends, you have already heard about monolingualism, but on the contrary, I am standing here to speak about bilingualism and firmly believe that bilingualism has an upper edge in capturing the cross-cultural euphoria. But firstly I would like to explain what is bilingualism? It is the ability to use 2 languages in equal/nearly equal fluency. Since time immemorial, bilingual intellectuals have left their remarkable footprints in the history. To name a few- Gautam Buddha, Mahatma Gandhi, Karl Marx, C. Rajagopalchari, Mother Teresa, B. R.

Ambedkar and Ramchandra Guha (whose articles we are discussing now) are all bilinguals. Had they been rigid and parochial and skeptical in using other languages then their greatness and popularity would have remained confined to their own region/country. So it's their adroitness of using 2 languages that made them to be at the tip of the tongue of the general masses and the world salutes them even today.

I know you are proposing translation to be an alternative for bilingualism, but have you ever realized who can do the work of translation? A mono or a bilingual? Can a monolingual intellectual who is a perfectionist in only one language be able to interpret your ideas into another? Here in the article, EPW Oct 10 2009 Vol 41 where Raman points out that "intrinsic merit of ideas" is quite independent of "societal reach" and has no impact on the merit of ideas. But Guha didn't agree to this statement as newer interactions not only lead to enrichment of ideas but also refinement of ideas. And nobody can say that the debate between the two bilinguals Gandhi and Tagore did not have the transforming effect on the thoughts of both. Moreover we can

only anticipate the world to be one global village having one common language, but can't ignore the fact that till date ..

it's not. talking about our own country there is language diversity. It has been rightly said that in india Kos kos pe badle paani Char kos pe baani and I do agree that the 2nd language may be merely used as bridging language. but I ask from u all .. who gets the upper edge then? will a monolingual be able to bridge the cross cultural gap of 2 entirely different languages?.

. i wud let these questions unanswered to further ignite the intellectual mind inside u