Record Nr. UNINA9910734851503321
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Titolo The Effects of Bilingualism on Non-Linguistic Cognition : A Historic

Perspective / / by Jennifer Mattschey

Pubbl/distr/stampa Cham:,: Springer International Publishing:,: Imprint: Palgrave

Macmillan, , 2023

ISBN 3-031-34681-5

Edizione [1st ed. 2023.]

Descrizione fisica 1 online resource (136 pages)

Disciplina 929.605

404.2019

Soggetti Cognitive psychology

Psycholinguistics Multilingualism Psychology

Social sciences—History

Language and languages—Study and teaching

Science—History
Cognitive Psychology

Psycholinguistics and Cognitive Linguistics

History of Psychology Language Education History of Science Psicologia cognitiva Psicolingüística Multilingüisme

Llenguatge i llengües Llibres electrònics

Lingua di pubblicazione Inglese

Formato Materiale a stampa

Livello bibliografico Monografia

Nota di bibliografia Includes bibliographical references and index.

Nota di contenuto 1. Introduction -- 2. Bilingual Education in the Early Twentieth Century

-- 3. The Bilingual Problem -- 4. Mid-Twentieth Century: Bilingualism and Intelligence -- 5. Late Twentieth Century: Meta-Linguistics -- 6.

The Bilingual Advantage -- 7. Is Bilingualism Good or Bad?.

Sommario/riassunto

This book examines a century of research on the relationship between bilingualism and intelligence and relates it to more recent research on bilingualism and executive functioning. In doing so, it highlights how bilingualism research has been understood and used by wider society and its impact on current debates in cognitive science as well as language policy and education. The book probes the correlation between the fact that while early intelligence research suggested a negative effect of bilingualism on intelligence, the so-called "Bilingual Problem", later research implied a positive effect, "the Bilingual Advantage." It questions whether the negative consequences that arose from the Bilingual Problem are influencing researchers' reluctance to let go of the Bilingual Advantage. Findings on both the bilingual 'advantage' and 'disadvantage' are shown to have suffered from similar methodological problems, with research into the former finding itself at the centre of the ongoing replication crisis in psychology. This book provides fresh insights that will be of particular interest to students and scholars of cognitive psychology, psycholinguistics, bilingualism, applied linguistics, education and the history of science.