

▼ Aide à la contraction

Idées principales. – Everywhere educational systems need to open up to the outside world, and learning languages has become an essential means to do so. – In this context of globalization a key question is: can a country's language be taught independently from its culture? Culture is part of the process once the mechanics of a language have been acquired. – Why is that so? Culture is a crucial feature of any given society and makes each society different from the others. A language is not just a tool to communicate with others but also a way to get to know another culture. – As a result bilingual people are more tolerant – as opposed to some people speaking only one language who develop narrow-minded ideas. – It is wrong to think that speaking two languages may prevent people from developing their own cultural identities. They will do so but differently from others. – Bilingualism also has a political dimension: forbidding someone to speak another language might become a way to deny him an identity. – What is the definition of bilingualism? It depends, according to experts. Here is one of them: somebody bilingual is, up to a certain point, someone able to say and write the same thing in two different languages.

SUGGESTIONS DE CORRIGÉ **Bilingualism.** – Globalization and cultural exchanges have made the command of languages essential; yet it is not only a question of being able to speak: once the technical skills of a language have been mastered, the underlying¹ cultural background has to be apprehended.

Indeed, as culture is both inherent in any human society and particular to it, it is essential to grasp² all the rules, laws, norms, beliefs, values, myths and strategies which govern the social fabric³ and are transmitted down the generations.

Jean Duverger thinks that language is definitely a cultural product and the key to giving access to another culture and other human beings, a means⁴ to accept other people's differences. Thus, if being bilingual implies being tolerant, speaking only one language is often synonymous with chauvinism, even nationalism and racism. Language has indeed a political dimension too: being bilingual does not mean being schizophrenic or deprived of any sense of identity as some political organizations would like to make one believe so as to impose social structures which may sometimes be irrelevant. Being able to speak two languages – whether fluently or fairly well – is not a handicap but rather constitutes an asset⁵.

(197 words)

Bridging the gap⁶ with bilingualism. – In the present context of globalization, learning languages has become a key priority for any country's educational system.

Once language skills have been mastered, learning a language also implies learning about a country's culture since it is part and parcel of⁷ any society and sets it apart from others. Not only does a language help people communicate but it also enables them to open up to others, accept other people's differences and thus be more tolerant. On the other hand, people speaking a single language may turn out to harbour⁸ narrow-minded ideas verging on⁹ nationalism and even racism.

Some may also think bilingualism hampers¹⁰ the development of cultural identities. Far from it. Bilingual people are endowed with¹¹ an identity based on their bilingual life experience, making it simply different from that of others.

If in some people's minds bilingualism looks like a two-faced monster, it only goes to show politics and power control are at stake and not just languages or culture.

In the end what is bilingualism? Among many definitions here is one: anyone who can say and write the same thing in two different languages is, to an extent, bilingual.

(197 words)

▼ Explications

1. *Underlying* : sous-jacent. 2. *To grasp* : saisir, comprendre. 3. *The social fabric* : le tissu social. 4. *A means* : un moyen. 5. *An asset* : un atout. 6. *To bridge a gap* : réduire un écart. 7. *To be part and parcel of* : faire partie intégrante de. 8. *To harbour ideas* : nourrir des idées. 9. *To verge on* : frôler, approcher de. 10. *To hamper* : entraver, gêner. 11. *To be endowed with* : être doté de.

Vocabulaire thématique

<i>To master a language</i>	Maîtriser une langue
<i>I can speak Chinese</i>	Je sais parler le chinois
<i>To have a good command of a language</i>	Bien maîtriser une langue
<i>Learning English</i>	L'acquisition de l'anglais
<i>To be fluent in Dutch</i>	Parler couramment le néerlandais
<i>A standardized language</i>	Une langue uniformisée
<i>To speak good Greek / to speak Greek well</i>	Parler bien le grec