Psychology Journal Article Review

In the article “Affective Processing in Bilingual Speakers: Disembodied Cognition”, Aneta Pavelenko aims to “examine the findings of clinical, introspective, cognitive, and neuroimaging studies of affective processing in bilingual speakers” (Pavelenko 405). The author’s purpose it to synthesize existing research in the area of disembodied cognition. At the end of the article Pavelenko’s conclusions reveal new opportunities for further research on the topic.

The journal article is written to analyze certain fields of the discipline of psychology. Psychology is a branch of social sciences, and psychology researchers desire to learn and understand the effects of various stimuli affecting individuals. One of the progressive fields of study in psychology is exploring the effects of speaking two different languages may have on affective and cognitive thinking. New revelations in this sphere can enable researchers to propose new methods to help individuals learning a second language to truly become a ‘native speaker’ in it.

This particular article analyses psychological features that are common for a second language learners. Specifically, in the focus of the study are the affective processing abilities of a bilingual speaker that are relevant for a person while switching between their native language and a second language, even if the latter is spoken fluently. Many scholars believe that bilingual speakers must be able to first think in a foreign language before they can truly possess the
cognitive skills of a second language in the same way they do with their native language. The author of the article that is being analyzed does not aim to propose a new question for a research study; rather she desires to conduct an in-depth review of existing literature in order to determine the progress that has been made in understanding the psychology of bilingual speakers.

Firstly, the literature review tried to determine whether or not affective and cognitive processing abilities are distinctive abilities of bilingual speakers. Secondly, it was aimed to understand if there is evidence that the effects of speaking a second language are attributed exclusively to the affective properties of various stimuli experiences of bilingual speakers, as opposed to individuals who speak only one language. Summarizing the results of the literature review, it was revealed that there is a statistically noticeable difference between bilingual speakers who have been fluent for a long period of time, when compared to individuals who have been fluent in a second language for a relatively short period of time. The author finds these results worthy of the beginning of further research in the area of language embodiment, which could lead to a better understanding of the cognitive and affective processing abilities demonstrated by bilingual speakers.

Finally, it is necessary to mention that the article discussed is a scientific peer reviewed article, published in a scientific journal. It discusses the results that the author has discovered after a scientific research, and supported all the arguments with a corresponding experiment or reference. In addition, this article contains numerous scholarly references that the reader can refer to while conducting their own research. This particular article, for example, contains nearly two and a half pages of references to other studies that the reader can use for further research on their own.
Work Cited

Pavlenko, Aneta. “Affective processing in bilingual speakers: Disembodied cognition?”