

Speaking Your Whole Self: The Power of Translanguaging

Linguistics and Translanguaging

PART 01 Pre-Reading & Visualization

"Is technology a tool to help us reach our goals, or is it a shortcut that erases our individual voices?"

PART 02 The Reading Text

 BLOG POST • LINGUISTICS AND TRANSLANGUAGING

More Than Just One Language

Maria is a professional living in Chicago. At work, she speaks English fluently. At home, she speaks Spanish with her parents. However, when Maria talks to her sister, something interesting happens. They don't choose just one language. They use both at the same time. Maria might start a sentence in English and finish it with a Spanish expression that feels "just right." This is not because they are confused; it is because they are using their full brain.

What is Translanguaging?

In linguistics, this is called "translanguaging." For a long time, teachers thought that students should keep their languages in separate "boxes." They believed that mixing languages was a sign of weakness. Today, experts have a different view. They see translanguaging as a powerful tool. It allows people to use all their knowledge and cultural history to communicate clearly. It is like a musician using every note on the piano instead of just the white keys.

The Benefits of Being Fluid

When we practice translanguaging, we feel more comfortable and confident. It helps us solve problems and learn new information faster because we can connect new English words to the deep meanings we already have in our first language. By accepting translanguaging, we celebrate our identity. We realize that being bilingual is not about being two people in one; it is about being one person with a rich, colorful way of speaking.

PART 03 Active Reading (QAR)**1. Right There (Find the facts):**

1. According to the text, what was the old "box" theory about learning languages?

2. What is the specific term linguists use for mixing languages naturally?

2. Think and Search (Connect the ideas):

3. Why does the author compare translanguaging to a piano? What do the "white keys" and the "full piano" represent?

3. Author and You (Infer and analyze):

4. The text suggests that translanguaging helps people feel more "confident." How might being allowed to use your first language in an English class change how you feel about learning?

PART 04 Glossary

- **Linguistics (n):** The scientific study of language and how it works.
- **Translanguaging (n):** The process where multilingual people use all of their languages to communicate.
- **Fluid (adj):** Able to flow easily; not stuck in one shape or rule.
- **Resource (n):** A useful tool or skill that a person has.

**WORKSHEET CORE REFLECTION**

Review your answers and vocabulary entries above. Prepare to discuss how these terms apply to real-world contexts.

TEACHER'S GUIDE & ANSWER KEY

Level: **B1**
(INTERMEDIATE)

Duration: 45 mins

ACTIVITY OVERVIEW

TOPIC CONTEXT

Speaking Your Whole Self: The Power of Translanguaging

OBJECTIVE

Students will define translanguaging and identify its benefits for multilingual learners while practicing B1-level reading strategies.

VOCABULARY TERMS

Linguistics Translanguaging

Fluid Resource

GRAMMAR FOCUS

- Present Perfect for experiences
- Relative Clauses

INSTRUCTIONAL PROCEDURE

1. **Pre-reading (10 mins):** Direct students to the image description. Ask: "Have you ever felt 'stuck' in one language? How does it feel when you can use both?" This activates prior knowledge of the bilingual experience.
2. **Reading & Chunked Tasks (20 mins):**
 - **Silent Reading:** Have students read the text once for the general idea.
 - **Vocabulary Check:** Review the glossary. Ask students to find the word "resource" in the text and explain what Maria's resources are.
3. **Post-Reading & QAR Discussion (15 mins):**
 - Use the QAR questions to move from literal understanding to critical thinking.
 - **Discussion Tip:** For the "Author and You" section, allow students to translanguague! If they want to explain a complex feeling using a word from their L1, encourage them to do so and then try to describe the "feeling" of that word in English.