

## **Caregivers Adjust Their Speech in Response to Bilingual Infants' Attentional Preferences**

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The bilingual advantage is classically interpreted as an enhancement of the executive control system in bilinguals compared to monolinguals (Bialystok, 2017). Recent studies have suggested that the effect of bilingual exposure in the first year of life actually results in an experience-driven novelty-oriented attentional preference to compensate for the less predictable bilingual language environment (D'Souza et al., 2020). Following the assumption that caregivers constantly and dynamically adapt their input to their children's responses, even in interactions with preverbal infants (Tamis-LeMonda et al., 2014), we studied traces of these attentional preferences in caregivers' speech directed to bilingual and monolingual infants. Specifically, this study aimed to assess whether caregivers of bilingual infants navigate the lexical space with increased freedom when introducing novel content to their infants. For this purpose, we recorded the spontaneous speech of 19 caregivers while interacting with their 9-month-old bilingual or monolingual infants in a picture-book sharing activity. We coded the number of shifts produced by the caregivers among the lexical clusters presented on each page of the picture-book. Findings revealed that caregivers of bilingual infants produced more lexical shifts in their infant-directed speech compared to caregivers of monolingual infants. These findings provide novel experimental evidence supporting the attentional sampling hypothesis as an alternative perspective on the benefits of bilingualism in cognitive development. In addition, the current study contributes to the growing body of literature on infant-directed speech as a strongly interactional and listener-oriented speech register.