

bilingualism

and second language acquisition

Psycholinguistics

LING/PSYC 27010

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lecture #17
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a frequent question in real life

question:

is it good to know more than one language?

some considerations:

1. what is meant by "know"?
2. what is meant by "good"?
3. what is meant by "language"?

what is meant by "know"??

- you can **learn** a language, or you can **acquire** one
- the cognitive correlates of knowing more than one language depend upon how well L2 is known and how/when that knowledge was obtained

what is meant by "good"??

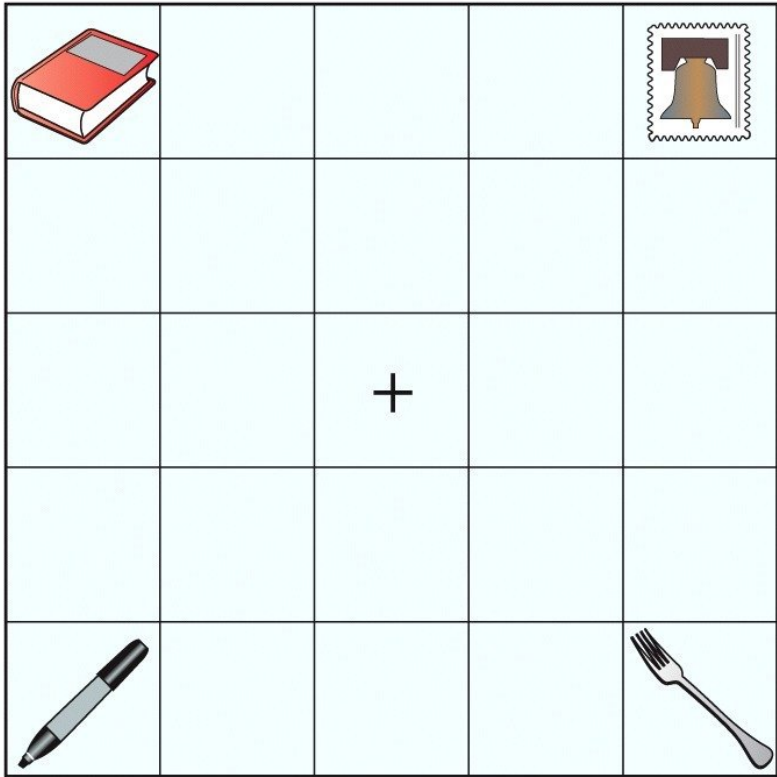
what are some benefits of knowing more than one language?

what are some drawbacks?

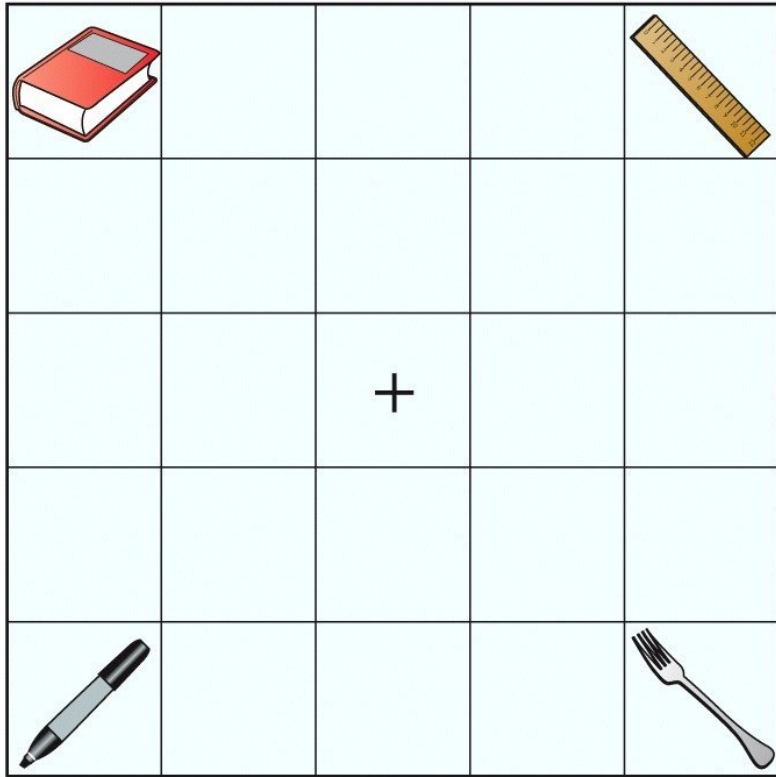
we can distinguish between **cognitive** and **social-emotional** consequences of bilingualism

cross-language interference

(A)

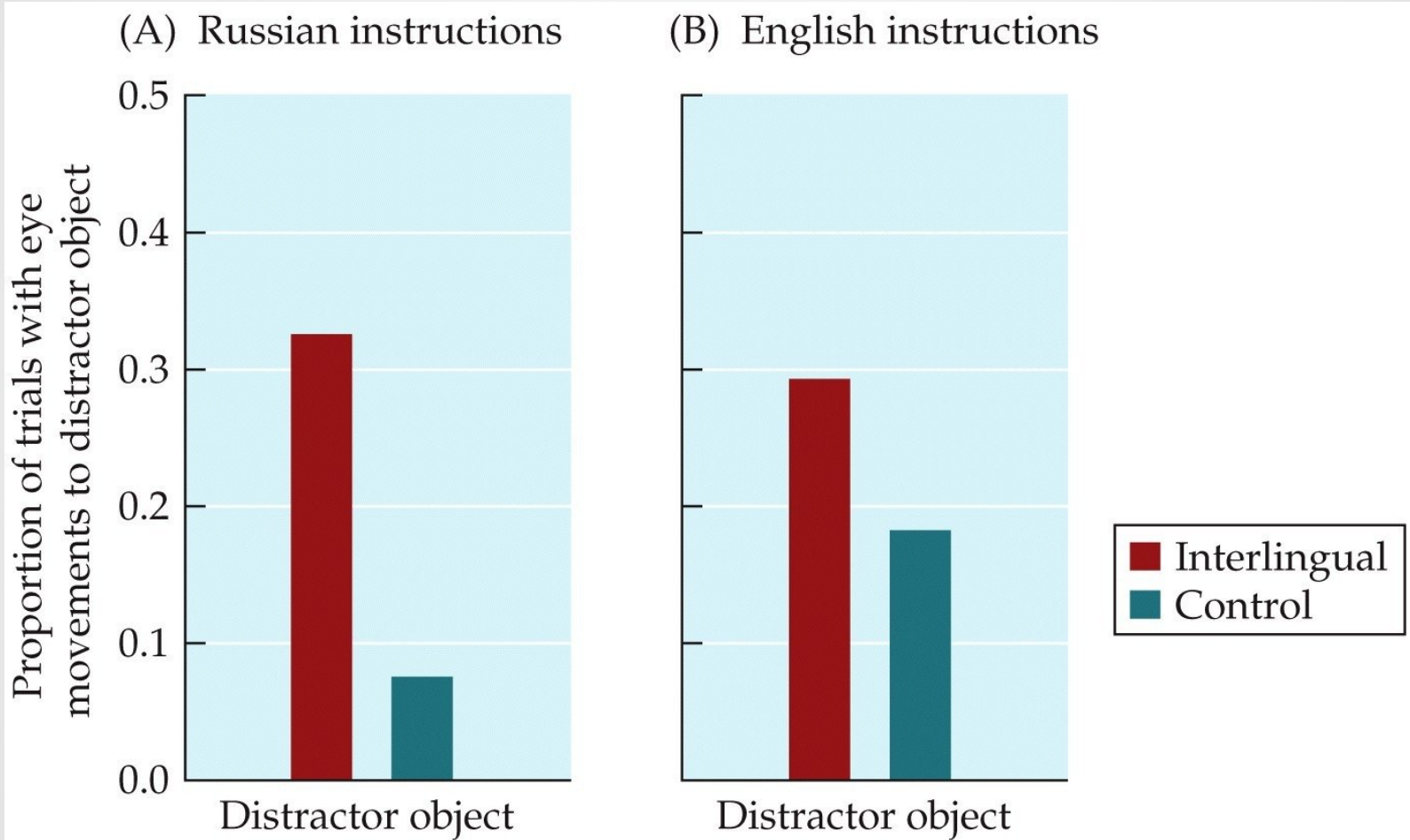


(B)



LANGUAGE IN MIND 1e, Figure 7.8
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cross-language interference



LANGUAGE IN MIND 1e, Figure 7.9
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cross-language interference

the stroop effect!

a classic effect in cognitive psychology,
showing the interaction between (e.g.)
color perception and language processing

name the colors of the words on each of
the next two slides

which one is easier?!?!

red

green

pink

orange

blue

red

green

pink

orange

blue

what about...

dkf

opw

fjks

qesv

iukp

now only the people who do **not** know Spanish

rojo

verde

rosa

naranja

azul

rojo

verde

rosa

naranja

azul

now only the people who **do** know Spanish

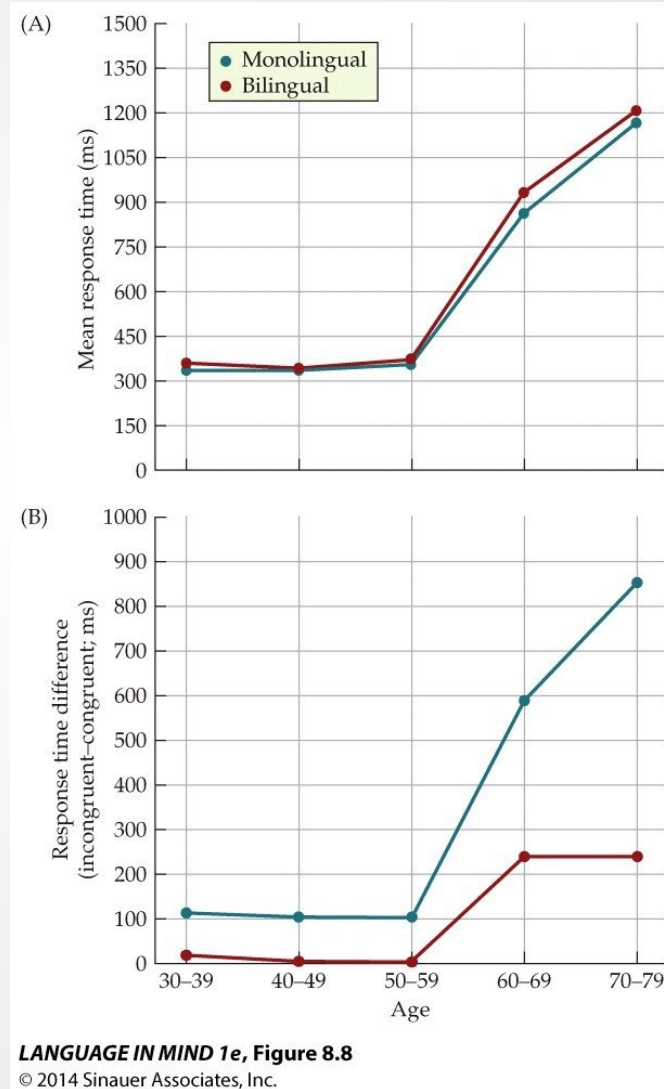
according to legend, this task was used to identify
russian spies in the US during the cold war!

(someone google it after class!)

benefits for executive function

the "simon" paradigm!
(think: simon says)

bilinguals outperform
monolinguals in stroop-like tasks
that require executive control



what is meant by a "language"?

a language is a dialect with an army and a navy

- max weinreich(?)

would the same benefits/deficits be expected for...

- a Chinese person who moves to America as a teenager and becomes near-native in English
- a person born to an English-speaking father and a Yoruba-speaking mother, growing up in America?
- a person born to a Bosnian-speaking mother and a Serbian-speaking father?
- a person born to an American-English speaking father and a British-English speaking mother?

almost certainly not!

some broad areas of research

1. learning a second language
2. acquiring multiple native languages
3. processing language in a bilingual mind/brain
4. crossmodal bilingualism!

final review!