

## **Abstract**

This study investigated the relationship between bilingualism and cognitive skills. It shows how 10 to 12 year old bilingual learners apply cognitive aptitudes on mathematic tests compared to monolingual speakers. The study took place in Mexico and compared monolingual Spanish speakers with bilingual Spanish – German speakers regarding their cognitive aptitudes. The cognitive skills that were being investigated were velocity in spatial speed, short-term memory, logical thinking and abstract reasoning.

This study is especially addressed to teachers and parents because it shows the cognitive impact on a child who is learning content in a second language. The results demonstrate that bilingual education in the group tested increases the positive use of cognitive skills on tasks such as mathematics. The study also indicates a difference between gender in which boys outperformed girls in the tests.

Finally, this study has been conducted to encourage bilingual education in Mexico and to show parents that this kind of education does not overwhelm their children, on the contrary, it augments their ability to use their cognitive skills.