

tional and individual bilingualism; language, culture and cognition; language planning in Canada — policies and practices.

Throughout the book, except where it deals specifically with bilingualism in Canada, all languages are considered, not just French and English, which the authors term “charter” languages. Other languages are grouped as indigenous (native) or immigrant languages.

The scholars show, among other things, the lack of clear data in many of the areas of knowledge they consider essential in the development and application of sound language policies for Canada. They raise many questions and suggest directions for future research.

In the matter of data-gathering, a basic research tool, sociologist John de Vries of Ottawa's Carleton University points out that questions posed by the census of Canada were “far from ideal”; that they failed in some instances to separate important language and cultural groups. For example, Chinese and Japanese, Indian and Inuit may be combined in single categories. De Vries recommends specific improvements in census and vital statistics data-collection.

Definition of bilingualism

There are varying views among scholars on what constitutes “bilingualism”, which Professor Jean Darbelnet of Quebec's Laval University considers an “over-used term in Canada”. Darbelnet would reserve the term “bilingual” to those who learn the second language almost unconsciously, in response to the necessities of the environment, and can slip effortlessly from one language to the other. Norman Segalowitz of Montreal's Concordia University adopts a much broader definition in his discussion of bilingualism and social behaviour. He cites studies on the degree of communication between bilingual people (those who have acquired a fair ability to communicate in the other language) and those speaking their native language, and the various types of interaction experienced — ranging from complete acceptance by the other party to failure and frustration.

In discussing second language acquisition, Robert C. Gardner of the University of Western Ontario's psychology department (London), looks at the linguistic nature of the community, including the political climate surrounding bilingualism. He examines individual dif-

ferences in achievement (touching on attitudes and motivation) and the ways in which these may be influenced by parent and teacher attitudes and community beliefs. He discusses the effects — such as costs and benefits — on the individual of acquiring a second language. On the subject of creating a political climate conducive to acquiring a second language, Gardner questions the assumption that political encouragement — such as that of the Federal Government through its Official Languages Act — necessarily results in higher enrolment in the study of the second language in schools. He cites a 1973 study that showed a mean decrease of some 12 per cent in enrolment in French classes in secondary schools in every province (Quebec omitted) over the three years from 1970-72. Gardner takes care to point out that these findings, though significant in his view, do not relate directly to second language achievement. “In fact, such research does not appear to have been conducted.”

Language and culture

On the complex linguistic and cultural mixture that is Canada, and for purposes of identifying research problems, Leo Driedger of the University of Manitoba's department of sociology (Winnipeg) divides the country into six distinct linguistic regions. These range from those that are clearly multilingual and multicultural to regions that demonstrate various combinations of unilingualism, bilingualism, uniculturalism and biculturalism. Driedger places the northerly section of the six most westerly provinces in a multicultural multilingual region, where 69 per cent of the people are of native origin and most retain their native languages at home. The only region approaching the bilingual/bicultural model, in this framework, is New Brunswick. The Ottawa-Hull area may become the best example of a bilingual region (it must, Driedger feels), as federal policies for the Public Service are implemented.

The inference drawn from the complexity of the language and cultural picture in Canada, and the lack of information on the multiplicity of problems this diversity creates, is that over-all policies are difficult to apply fairly in all regions. Some of Driedger's questions for further research are these: “Is language indeed the gatekeeper to a distinct culture or is religious ideology more important? What symbolic value do Canadians place on

English, French and other languages? Will a language remain dynamic and be maintained only if the culture is dynamic? Why is it important to maintain a distinctive language — because of its own intrinsic worth or because of the access it provides to a distinctive culture? Is it really true that when language is lost the identity of the group is lost? What are the exceptions and alternatives?”

Pierre Coulombe, a sociologist with the Public Service Commission of Canada, prepared the paper on varieties of institutional and individual bilingualism. He refers to the massive experiment in language change in the Public Service of Canada. Using examples, he shows the complexity of the task that the Government faces in changing language habits of long standing. He sees *francophones* as making the most useful contribution at present to the bilingual operation of the Public Service, and as continuing to do so until second-language teaching for *anglophones* is improved. Coulombe stresses the enormous cost of the Public Service bilingualism program, which includes the costs of translating thousands of documents and language training for tens of thousands of unilingual people on the job and for new recruits, who, for generations to come, he says, will be no more bilingual than were their predecessors.

Symposium in Peru

Canada, along with members of the telecommunications industry and governments from Europe, the United States, Japan and all South American countries, took part in an international symposium on satellite communications in Lima, Peru, from May 15 to 18.

Canadian presentations dealt with: telecommunications to remote areas; successful experiments with *Hermes*, Canada's experimental communications satellite, and the projects envisaged for *Anik B* to be launched by Telesat Canada later this year; Canadian experience in remote sensing; the possible transfer of Canadian technology to South American countries; Canadians as consultants; the possibility of aid for training programs; and the construction of small earth stations.

Highlight of the Canadian participation was a live transmission of a message from Communications Minister Jeanne Sauvé to the participants in the symposium via the *Hermes* satellite on May 16.