

TRANSCRIPT MULTILINGUALISM VIDEO

Transcribed by: Nicole Larraguibel

Key:

S1 = Speaker 1

[] = Transcriber Notes

S1 00:00 My name is Nicole Larraguibel and aside from being a writing tutor in FIU's center for excellence in writing, I am also one of the two staff members directing the Mandarin Conversation Circle. I studied Chinese for 3 years at FIU and studied abroad in China, which has given me the knowledge to serve as a bridge between the Chinese and American culture. In this weekly Conversation circle, students learn about the rich culture and history of more than 5,000 years along with learning and practicing the language, which together builds communication and understanding, two characteristics fundamental in this globalized world, where multilingualism has become essential.

S1 0:45 Now when it comes to the general population of FIU, we are without a doubt a multilingual university. With students coming from all around the world to study on our campus, our writing center plays a key role in providing the resources they need to succeed in their academic careers. Taking into great consideration that many students speak English as a second language, our center for excellence in writing has gone out of its way to advertise, through its website and social media, the linguistic diversity of its tutors. Our website provides a detailed list of the tutors on staff and all their multilingual abilities. For example, my tutor biography explains I am fluent in both English, Spanish along with being conversational in Mandarin Chinese. As a result, access to this information will allow FIU students to schedule appointment with tutors that best suite their needs. The writing center has also used social media to further promote its multilingualism by implementing a Tutors Spotlight on instagram, where every week a post is dedicated to one of our tutors, allowing the viewer to get to know a bit more about their interests, abilities and dedication within FIU and the writing center, along with how they help the new incoming students from around the world.

S1 2:09 As a multilingual tutor myself, the method I use to help students become better writers is the translanguaging approach in which I explain to the student the importance of viewing their first language as a resource that needs to be preserved, further developed and used side by side the demands of Standard English. To show the student how to put this approach into practice I then teach them Pei-Hsu's method of Transformative Accommodation in which students use the rhetorical elements of their first language to write in English. For example, the composition of the Chinese students I have tutored is very descriptive, using a lot of metaphors to avoid directness, a contrast to English composition in which the main idea needs to be expressed as soon as possible and must be brief, simple and to the point. However, since the required structure by professors for an English

paper per paragraph involves a topic sentence, a main idea and supporting details students can not ignore it. Yet, they can still keep their writing style by writing the supporting details in a descriptive and indirect way. In this way students can negotiate between their English and native language writing styles, using their well-developed first language knowledge as a foundation to build up their second language knowledge.

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As a result, using these two methods will make multilingual writers more confident in their writing and viewing their unique perspective as a contribution to society rather as an aspect they should keep hidden. After all, today there is an increased need and demand for people who can work across differences, not just of language but of disciplines and culture as well. **[END OF VIDEO]**