

## ADDRESSING CULTURAL AND LINGUISTIC DIVERSITY IN CLINICAL PRACTICE: GAINING COMPETENCE IN CULTURAL AND LINGUISTIC DIVERSITY

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The Committee on Cultural and Linguistic Diversity (CLD) often receives questions from the membership of TSHA. A few recent questions were:

*I am bilingual, but I am enrolled in a university program that does not have a bilingual speech-language pathology (SLP) track. After graduation, will I be considered a bilingual SLP?*

*What can I do if I am not competent in cultural and linguistic diversity when I finish graduate school?*

*As a practicing SLP, I am not competent in cultural and linguistic diversity although many clients/students on my caseload are bilingual. How can I learn what I need to know? Do I have to go back to school?*

These are questions we are asked frequently. Not all graduate programs provide comprehensive training in cultural and linguistic diversity (CLD), but that does not mean you cannot become CLD-competent. Being bilingual is only part of what is needed to become a bilingual SLP. All bilingual SLPs should also be culturally competent; in fact, all SLPs should be culturally competent even if they are monolingual. There are a number of resources available to support your continued learning about diversity and its implications for assessment and intervention.

For those looking for international experiences, there are three summer programs that provide cultural experiences as well as seminars and training in speech-language pathology.

- The most intensive of the programs is hosted by Portland State University in Quito, Ecuador. It is a six-week program (June 15-July 26) for students and professionals who have basic-to-proficient Spanish skills. The program includes home-stays, intensive Spanish classes, seminars on culture, education, and health topics, clinical experience in settings serving individuals with communication disabilities, and training on bilingual SLP practices. Students receive eight graduate school credits. For more information about the program, visit <http://oia.pdx.edu/ea>. Program cost is \$4,000-\$5,000 plus approximately \$2,000 for airfare.

- Bilinguistics offers a summer boot camp that allows SLPs to gain all of the competencies of cultural and linguistic diversity recommended by the American Speech-Language-Hearing Association (ASHA). This summer's program will take place in Guanajuato, Mexico, from June 17-21 and will be offered for 2.8 ASHA continuing education units (CEUs). The course is designed for monolingual and bilingual SLPs working with diverse populations. For more information about the Bilinguistics Summer Speech-Language Pathology Seminar on Working

With Diverse Populations, visit [www.bilinguistics.com](http://www.bilinguistics.com). Program cost is \$850 (with promotion code TSHA13) plus hotel or family stay and airfare.

- Bilingual Therapies offers a three-day event for 1.0 ASHA CEUs at the Costa Rica Marriott San Jose with discussion on the hot topics in bilingual speech-language pathology and new developments and advancements in bilingual speech-language assessment and intervention. For more information on the 2013 Bilingual Therapies Symposium, visit [www.bilingualtherapies.com/bilingual-symposium/2013](http://www.bilingualtherapies.com/bilingual-symposium/2013). Program cost is \$575 plus hotel and airfare.

For those who want to get their continuing education close to home, there are many valuable resources available through webinars, online courses, websites, and books. Below are some of the resources available to those seeking to enhance their competence on cultural and linguistic diversity.

### Webinars on Cultural and Linguistic Diversity

- The Regional Education Service Centers (ESC) throughout Texas offer many opportunities for SLPs to gain competency in cultural and linguistic diversity via webinars and their closed network (TETN) system. A link to all of the regional service centers can be found at [www.txsha.org/consumer/education\\_centers.aspx](http://www.txsha.org/consumer/education_centers.aspx).

- Bilinguistics has a series of Friday lunchtime webinars designed for monolingual and bilingual SLPs who work with clients from diverse backgrounds. Visit [www.bilinguistics.com/webinars-2](http://www.bilinguistics.com/webinars-2) for more information.

- Pearson offers webinars on a range of topics, including working with diverse learners. Visit [www.pearsonassessments.com/NR/exeres/F933C276-47FF-4095-B965-12D47450377F.htm](http://www.pearsonassessments.com/NR/exeres/F933C276-47FF-4095-B965-12D47450377F.htm) for more information.

### Online Courses

- Bilinguistics offers many online courses, all of which are related to some aspect of cultural and/or linguistic diversity in the field of speech-language pathology.

- [Speechpathology.com](http://www.speechpathology.com) offers online courses on the administration and use of the PLS-5-Spanish, which is a conceptual language-assessment tool.

### Websites

- Archives of the *Communicologist's* CLD Corner can be found at <http://txsha.org/publications/communicologist.aspx>.

- The Bilinguistics Resources page is located at <http://speechpathologyceus.net/cld-resource-library>.

- Colorin Colorado is a part of Reading Rockets and provides great resources for theme-based learning in English and Spanish at [www.colorincolorado.org/boletines/boletin/actual](http://www.colorincolorado.org/boletines/boletin/actual).

- Spanglish Baby focuses on the benefits of raising children with two languages. They host an Ask An Expert column that addresses many concerns about bilingual development at [www.spanglishbaby.com](http://www.spanglishbaby.com).

- ASHA has a multicultural affairs and resources page that includes a self-assessment for cultural competence, additional resources for being competent as well as other resources to help when you don't speak the language of your clients or students. The page is located at [www.asha.org/practice/multicultural](http://www.asha.org/practice/multicultural).

### Books

Brice, Alejandro E. & Brice, R. (2009). *Language Development: Monolingual and Bilingual Acquisition*. Boston: Allyn and Bacon.

Battle, D. (2012). *Communication Disorders in Multicultural Populations*. St. Louis: Mosby.

Cheng, L.L. (1991). *Assessing Asian Language Performance: Guidelines for Evaluating Limited-English Proficient Students*. Oceanside, CA: Academic Communication Associates.

Genesee, F., Paradis, J., & Crago, M (2004). *Dual Language Development and Disorders: A Handbook on Bilingualism & Second Language Learning*. Baltimore: Paul H. Brookes Publishing.

Goldstein, B. A. (2000). *Cultural and Linguistic Diversity Resource Guide for Speech-Language Pathologists*. San Diego: Singular Thomson Learning.

Goldstein B. (Ed.) (2011). *Bilingual Language Development and Disorders in Spanish-English Speakers, Second Edition*. Baltimore: Brookes.

Kayser, H. (1998). *Assessment and Intervention Resource for Hispanic Children (Clinical Competence Series). Treatment of Hispanic Children*. San Diego: Singular Publishing Group.

Koda, K. & Zehler, A. (Eds.). (2008). *Learning to Read Across Languages: Cross-Linguistic Relationships in First- and Second-Language Literacy Development*. New York: Routledge.

Kohnert, K. (2007). *Language Disorders in Bilingual Children and Adults*. San Diego: Plural Publishing

Langdon, H. (2008). *Assessments & Intervention for Communication Disorders in Culturally and Linguistically Diverse Populations*. San Diego: Thomson Delmar Learning.

McLeod, S. (Ed.). (2007). *The International Guide to Speech Acquisition*. Clifton Park, New York: Thomson Delmar Learning.

Paradis, J., Genesee, F., & Crago, M.B. (2011). *Dual Language Development and Disorders: A Handbook on Bilingualism & Second Language Learning*. Baltimore: Brookes.

Pearson, B.Z. (2008). *Raising a Bilingual Child*. New York: Random House.

Rhodes, R., Ochoa, S., & Ortiz, S. (2005). *Assessing Culturally and Linguistically Diverse Students: A Practical Guide*. New York: The Guilford Press.

Shulman, B.B & Capone, N.C. (2010). *Language Development: Foundation, Processes, and Clinical Applications*. Sudbury, MA: Jones and Bartlett Publishers.