

Barry McLaughlin

Second-language acquisition in childhood

Volume 2: School-age children

Hillsdale, NJ: Erlbaum, 1985. xi + 288 pp.

This is the companion volume to *Preschool children*, which appeared in 1984. Both books are an expansion of a single volume which appeared in 1978, where the topic of the present book received a single chapter. The focus of the new work is on the bilingual situation in the USA, but comparisons are drawn with the situation in Sweden, West Germany, the Soviet Union, and Canada. Recurrent themes include: language learning in school vs other settings; language abilities prerequisite for academic development; instructional models for second-language learning; the effectiveness of teaching methods; the role of individual differences; and the general effectiveness of bilingual education policies. The book reviews a wide range of literature from different academic disciplines, and provides a thorough and sensible evaluation. It is a valuable perspective for anyone working in the field of bilingual children.