



THE UNIVERSITY OF
MELBOURNE

Seminar Series
School of Languages & Linguistics

Multilingualism and Literacy: Text Production Abilities in L1 and L2

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This seminar will demonstrate that the fostering of literacy in L1 is not only crucial for the development of bilingualism, but has also an impact on improving L2 skills. Thus written discourse competence has to be considered as an important criterion in a definition of multilingualism.

The first part of the seminar discusses the criteria which are appropriate to analyse the discourse competence in both languages. The analysis is based on a multiple-layer model that considers lexical and grammatical features, as well as structural and discursive patterns. These features are correlated in both languages in order to bring out the interdependence between L1 and L2 text production skills.

In the second part I will illustrate the complex interaction of literary skills in both languages by analysing text production abilities of migrant children of diverse home language backgrounds and diverse educational backgrounds in Germany. The study presented here is based on an analysis of different written text types (narrative and argumentative) in L1 and L2.

Time:	3:15pm
Date:	Friday 13 March 2009
Location:	Room 509, Arts Centre, University of Melbourne