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## The skill of interpreting in bilingual and multilingual children

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*Natural interpreting* (NI) is a strategy used by bilinguals whereby a message expressed in one language (source language = SL) is reproduced in another (target language = TL) (Álvarez de la Fuente and Fernández Fuertes 2015a/b). NI has also been defined “as the sum of an innate ability parallel to bilingualism and a communicative function in a familiar context” (Álvarez de la Fuente and Fernández Fuertes 2012: 98). Our research is based on two premises: 1. Translation in a bilingual child is an innate skill which can be acquired without formal training and is developed through guidance and practice (Harris 1978); and 2. Natural interpreting can occur within different combinations of languages.

The results derived from our research (Hornáčková Klapicová 2018-2022; Baranovská 2018-2022; Hornáčková Klapicová 2020, Baranovská *et al.* 2022) demonstrate that bilingual and multilingual children can become quite competent interpreters and deliver messages accurately in the TL regardless of the directionality of interpretation. The results of error analysis show that the type of errors produced by the child in the process of interpretation are mainly morphological and occasionally syntactic or intrusion errors, which do not lead to misinterpretation of the meaning of the original message in the TL.