

Comparative Conflict Resolution Tactics among Monolinguals and Bilinguals

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Abstract

Bilingualism refers to individuals' talent to understand and generate two languages naturally. This study is aimed at comparing the tactics of conflict resolution between monolingual and bilingual. In this study of cross-sectional analysis 30 monolingual subjects (3 males, 27 females) and 30 bilingual subjects (3 males, 27 females) were selected by available sampling method and have responded to the Comparison of Conflict Tactics questionnaire (Murray. Ayashtras). For data analysis, multivariate analysis of variance test was used. Results showed that there is significant differences between bilingual and monolingual in individuals' reasoning tactics in conflict resolution of self and father, ($p = 0.01$) and parents (0.04). There is significant difference between the two group of bilingual and monolingual in verbal aggression tactics in conflict resolution of self and father ($p = 0.014$), mother & self ($p = 0.007$); self & mother ($p = 0.005$) and parents ($p = 0.02$). In aggression tactic was not seen as significant difference between bilinguals and monolinguals. Also, between age, sex and education with conflict resolution of reasoning, verbal aggression, physical aggression, in all forms, there was no significant difference between the two groups. Results indicated that monolingual people were better in half of conflict resolution tactics of reasoning and verbal aggression compared to the bilinguals and this requires trainings for conflict resolution of bilingual community.

Keywords: bilingualism, conflict, monolingualism,

Introduction

Bilingual or bilingualism refers to the ability of speaking, understanding and communicating in two languages and a bilingual is able to read and write in two languages (Maghsudi, & Talebi, 2008). The differences due to bilingualism are not only due to the cultural factors but also more include individual identity and psychological factors (Yoshida, 1999).

Conflict is one of these issues with the cognitive behavioral approach has its roots in individual differences. Individuals are different from each other in terms of attitudes, behavior and personality. Understanding these differences and their impact on how individuals' behavior leads to conflict process and understanding and reduction of its incidence will result in effective resolution of conflicts (Babapor, 2002)

Epstein, Baucom, & Rankin, (1993) conducted a research about cognitive behavioral of conflict. They support from the coherence and cohesion of behavioral or cognitive strategies. Also,

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Ashnay1987 showed that high or low of individuals' self-control depends on the difference in behavioral attitude, understandings and beliefs (Kumru, Thompson, 2003). Whether bilingualism involved in changing of these cognitive processes?

Recent findings have indicated that bilingual people perform better than their monolingual counterparts in verbal activities that require analytical or control processes. It also appears that they are better in meta-linguistic awareness and divergent thinking (Kormi-Nouri, et al, 2008). Bilingual individuals are exposed to two models which through that have shaped and organized the world around them and have high skill in change and replacement of their perspective based on the situation (Pavlenko, 2007) However, previous studies have assessed the impact of nurturing children in a bilingual environment on their cognitive abilities as negative and have seen it as a deterrent factor in cognitive development of children (E.g., Dornic, 1969; Marsh & Maki, 1978; Taylor 1974).

However, since the experience of being bilingual will have a significant impact on the development of cognitive processes (Marsh & Maki 1,978) according to the functional differences due to the learning of two or more languages by individuals, this study aims to evaluate the comparison of conflict resolution tactics in bilinguals and monolinguals and in addition to learning more about the individuals' cognitive, behavioral features, areas are provided for more studies on these population.

Procedure

This study was a cross-sectional analysis. The statistical population are include all bilinguals and monolinguals living in the Arak city. In this study 30 monolingual subjects (3 males, 27 females) and 30 bilingual subjects (3 males, 27 females) were evaluated by available sampling method. Inclusion criteria were satisfactory testing, being monolingual at first group and being bilingual at second group, matched samples of two groups, two by two in terms of age, sex, level of education (diploma, associate degree, bachelor's degree).

The instrument used in this study were Comparison of Conflict Tactics questionnaire (Murray. A. Ashtras). This questionnaire which consist of 15-questions was developed to measure the three conflict tactics (i.e., reasoning, verbal aggression, and violence) between family members. The scale has three forms: sibling conflict, conflict with parents and resolve conflicts of parents. Questions (Conflict Tactics Scale) indicate behaviors that individual performs with family member in conflicting circumstances and its scores refer to the number of times that the desired behavior was occurred in the past year. Respondents assess the times of occurring behavior by himself and the other side of conflict.

About the validity of test, six research works confirmed the internal consistency of subscales of reasoning, verbal and physical aggression. There are 12 alpha coefficients for the reasoning subscale that ranges from 42% to 76%. There are 16 alpha coefficients for verbal subscale that ranges from 62% to 88% respectively. There are 17 alpha coefficients for physical aggression subscale that ranges from 42% to 96%. Agreement of family member about conflict tactics is evidence of concurrent validity. It seems that discussed subscales have correlated with social desirability; in addition, a lot of information are available about the structural validity such as correlations between conflict tactics scores and family violence factors, anti-social behavior of victim child, the level of love between family members and self-esteem (Taylor, 1974). Scores range from 0 to 15, higher scores mean greater use of a particular tactic. Since this study aims to compare the tactics of conflict resolution between monolingual and bilingual inferential statistical analysis (multivariate ANOVA) is used for data analysis and results of analysis were offered in tables and graphs through SPSS software.

Findings

In this study, 30 monolinguals and 30 bilinguals were evaluated in both male and female groups. The results are presented in all forms based on the multivariate analysis of variance in three Conflict Scale (reasoning, verbal aggression, physical aggression), respectively.

Tables (1-8) indicate the results of MANOVA analysis to compare the tactics of conflict between bilingual and monolingual.

Table 1. Conflict resolution of reasoning, aggression and physical of person & siblings

Dependent variable	group	Mean	F	df	P
Reasoning conflict resolution of self & sibling	Group 1 monolingual individual	97.112	2.991	1	0.089
	Group 2 Bilingual individual	104.017			
aggressive conflict resolution of self & sibling	Group 1 monolingual individual	11.661	1.177	1	0.282
	Group 2 Bilingual individual	25.350			
Physical conflict resolution of self & sibling	Group 1 monolingual individual	11.110	0.467	1	0.493
	Group2 Bilingual individual	3.267			
Total conflict resolution of person & sibling	Group 1 monolingual individual	98.001	2.108	1	0.152
	Group 2 Bilingual individual	180.267			

Table 2. Conflict resolution of reasoning, aggression and physical of sibling & person

Dependent variable		Mean	F	df	p
Reasoning conflict resolution of sibling & person	Group1 monolingual individual	10.002	0.425	1	0.517
	Group2 Bilingual individual	15.000			
aggressive conflict resolution of sibling and person	Group1 monolingual individual	22.300	2.234	1	0.140
	Group2 Bilingual individual	40.017			
Physical conflict resolution of sibling & person	Group1 monolingual individual	11.088	0.848		0.361
	Group2 Bilingual individual	6.017			
Total conflict resolution of sibling & person	Group1 monolingual individual	88.700	2.157	1	0.147
	Group2 Bilingual individual	160.017			

Table 3. Conflict resolution of reasoning, aggression and physical of father and person

Dependent variable		Mean	F	df	P
Reasoning conflict resolution of father & person	Group1 monolingual individual	90.358	3.998	1	0.051
	Group2 Bilingual individual	161.852			
Aggressive conflict resolution of father& person	Group1 monolingual individual	85.223	2.400	1	0.127
	Group2 Bilingual individual	48.747			
Physical conflict resolution of father & person	Group1 monolingual individual	55.396	1.017	1	0.318
	Group2 Bilingual individual	70.672			
Total conflict resolution of father & person	Group1 monolingual individual	336.145	5.029	1	0.029
	Group2 Bilingual individual	505.073			

Table 4. Conflict resolution of reasoning, aggression and physical of person with father

Dependent variable		Mean	F	df	P
Reasoning conflict resolution of person with father	Group1 monolingual individual	147.332	7.026	1	0.011
	Group2 Bilingual individual	274.922			
Aggressive conflict resolution of person with father	Group1 monolingual individual	87.007	6.460	1	0.014
	Group2 Bilingual individual	136.224			
Physical conflict resolution of person with father	Group1 monolingual individual	115.008	1.181	1	0.282
	Group2 Bilingual individual	9.225			
Total conflict resolution of person with father	Group1 monolingual individual	200.158	8.804	1	0.004
	Group2 Bilingual individual	979.034			

The findings revealed that there is a significant difference between monolingual and bilingual in conflict resolution scale of individual with parents ($p = 0.011$), and the mother with the father ($p = 0.046$). There are also a significant difference between the two groups in aggression conflict resolution of individual with father ($p = 0.014$); mother with individual ($p = 0.007$); individual with mother ($p = 0.005$) and aggression of mother with father ($p = 0.020$). In physical conflict resolution relationship was not seen significant relationship. In resolve all conflicts of father with individual ($p = 0.029$); individual with father ($p = 0.004$), mother with individual ($p = 0.039$), and mother with the father ($p = 0.009$) were observed significant differences between the two groups. Also, evaluation of mean of data indicates that bilingual individuals had lower performance in resolving their conflicts

than monolingual individuals. Also, between age, sex and education with the conflict resolution of reasoning, verbal and physical aggression, there is no significant difference in all forms between two groups.

Table 5. Conflict resolution of reasoning, aggression and physical of mother and person

Dependent variable		Mean	F	df	P
Reasoning conflict resolution of mother and person	Group1 monolingual individual	207.004	0.493	1	0.485
	Group2 Bilingual individual	20.417			
Aggressive conflict resolution of mother and person	Group1 monolingual individual	98.589	7.801	1	0.007
	Group2 Bilingual individual	209.067			
Physical conflict resolution of mother and person	Group1 monolingual individual	11.001	2.666	1	0.108
	Group2 Bilingual individual	21.600			
Total conflict resolution of mother and person	Group1 monolingual individual	158.222	4.461	1	0.039
	Group2 Bilingual individual	558.150			

Table 6. Conflict resolution of reasoning, aggression and physical of person and mother

Dependent variable		Mean	F	df	P
Reasoning conflict resolution of person and mother	Group1 monolingual individual	112.002	0.470	1	0.469
	Group2 Bilingual individual	21.600			
Aggressive conflict resolution of person and mother	Group1 monolingual individual	96.897	8.587	1	0.005
	Group2 Bilingual individual	220.417			
Physical conflict resolution of person and mother	Group1 monolingual individual	29.347	1.317	1	0.256
	Group2 Bilingual individual	11.267			
Total conflict resolution of person and mother	Group1 monolingual individual	296.201	3.988	1	0.050
	Group2 Bilingual individual	522.150			

Table 7. Conflict resolution of reasoning, aggression and physical of father and mother

Dependent variable		Mean	F	df	.P
Reasoning conflict resolution of father and mother	Group1 monolingual individual	22.489	2.675	1	0.107
	Group2 Bilingual individual	86.400			
Aggressive conflict resolution of father and mother	Group1 monolingual individual	29.468	1.330	1	0.253
	Group2 Bilingual individual	24.067			
Physical conflict resolution of father and mother	Group1 monolingual individual	114.002	0.361	1	0.550
	Group2 Bilingual individual	2.400			
Total conflict resolution of father and mother	Group1 monolingual individual	117.458	3.332	1	0.073
	Group2 Bilingual individual	248.067			

Table 8. Conflict resolution of reasoning, aggression and physical of mother and father

Dependent variable		Mean	F	df	P
Reasoning conflict resolution of mother and father	Group1 monolingual individual	56.394	4.144	1	0.046
	Group2 Bilingual individual	147.267			
Aggressive conflict resolution of mother and father	Group1 monolingual individual	22.859	5.694	1	0.020
	Group2 Bilingual individual	141.067			
Physical conflict resolution of mother and father	Group1 monolingual individual	115.002	0.273	1	0.603
	Group2 Bilingual individual	2.017			
Total conflict resolution of mother and father	Group1 monolingual individual	230.431	7.273	1	0.009
	Group2 Bilingual individual	646.817			

Discussion and Conclusion

Results show that there is no significant difference in scale of conflict resolution tactics of physical aggressive between both groups. But, parents of bilingual have better performance in scale of conflict resolution tactics of reasoning than parents of monolingual. Also bilingual individuals when faced with father and mother perform better in conflict resolution tactics of reasoning than monolingual. On the other hand, monolinguals have used better conflict resolution tactics in verbal

conflict that are formed between person with father and mother. In addition, monolinguals perform better than bilingual in conflict resolution tactics of verbal aggression between siblings with person. Also, results reveal that, monolingual parents utilize more appropriate conflict resolution tactics of verbal aggression, as compared to the other group. Therefore, generally bilinguals in most subscales have weaker function in conflicts resolution compared to monolinguals. According to these results applying efficiency methods are essential for problems solving and prevention of bilinguals' conflict, in order to be a window for prosperity and creativity of society and also be able to satisfy some psychological needs of them. Linaman recognizes evaluation of conflict barriers as the first step in understanding conflict and one of the barriers refers to lack of communication skills (Rogers, Lister, Febo, Besing, & Abrams, 2006). Increasing communication between family members, facing parents and bilingual children are appropriate factor for their social cognitive – emotional development and one of ways for this confronting is group formation (Senai, 2000) and in addition to evaluating cognitive behavioral differences in bilingual, its results are considered in clinical counseling and its effectiveness in treatment.

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