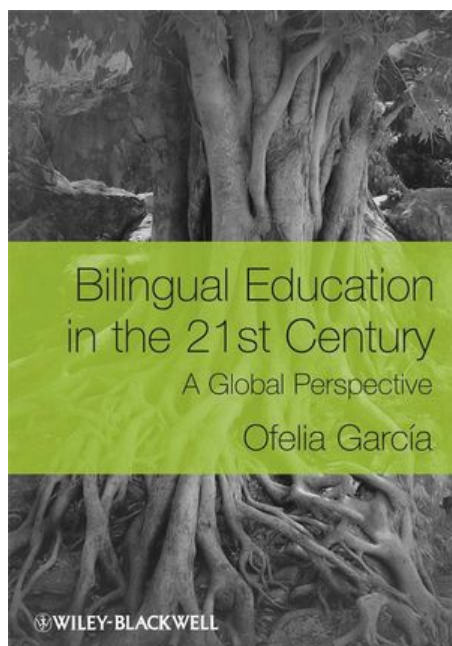


Book Review



Title: Bilingual Education in the 21st Century: A Global Perspective

Author: Ofelia García

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Reviewed by Asst. Prof. Ubon Sanpatchayapong, D.Ed.

ubon.s@rsu.ac.th

Rangsit English Language Institute (RELI), Rangsit University, Pathum Thani, Thailand

Bilingual education has been around for ages; however, it is still a complicated phenomenon especially in designing a curriculum at all levels. As I have been a lecturer in this area and have experienced both teaching and giving supervision to students at graduate levels, I find out that dealing with bilingual education is very complicated. *Bilingual Education in the 21st Century: A Global Perspective* by Ofelia García, in my opinion, gives the ideas that “reposition bilingual education in the twenty-first century” (García, 2009, p. 5). The book also provides me with multiple visions in this field and beyond.

This book incorporates 5 parts. **The first part** entitled *Bilingual Education for All* introduces bilingual education in different scenarios, its definitions, beneficiaries and reasons, and geopolitics and language orientations. It touches on the development of bilingualism in different cultural and social backgrounds. The part also issues its summary and ends with the conclusion while questions for reflection and further reading are suggested. This design is applied throughout. **Part II:** *Bilingualism and Education* discusses more extensively on bilingualism providing in-depth notions of bilingual education in states, nations, and social groups where histories, needs, challenges and aspirations are to be revisited and more choices for children should be available. **Part III** on *Bilingual Education Policy* opens up theoretical frameworks and types of bilingual education. This part also encompasses language-in-education policies throughout the globe. **Part IV:** *Bilingual Education Practices* offers curricular,

pedagogical, and assessment implementations. This part also reminds the reader that literacy practices of bilingual education in this globalized world are more and more multilingual and of multimodal. The last part or **Part V** gives the perspectives of the two authors: Ofelia Garcia and Hugo Baetens Beardsmore on *Bilingual Education in the 21st Century*. It serves as a conclusion of the book supporting bilingual education as a crucial mechanism to develop communicative competence for bilingual education.

The Book Strengths and Weaknesses

To me, the book's strengths lie in its being well-researched and greatly informative. Though it was published 13 years ago, it is still applicable to bilingual education at present. It gives in-depth knowledge in each part where significant information is provided reasonably and well-rounded. To teachers and researchers or even interested readers, the questions for reflection as well as further readings are excellent because they encourage critical and analytical thinking very well. Further reading is also very useful for readers and particularly for researchers.

I personally do not see any weaknesses in the book. Though the author mentions some limitations in her caveat for the readers (p. xiv), I still find this book a valuable piece of work worth reading and an excellent reference in bilingual education and bilingualism.

About the Author

Ubon Sanpatchayapong served as Thailand TESOL President from 2009 - 2011. In 2014, she was awarded 'Alumni of the Year' by AustCham and the Australia Embassy in Bangkok. Currently, she is Deputy Director of Rangsit English Language Institute (RELI) and a lecturer at Bilingual Education International Programme, Suryadhep Teachers College, Rangsit University. Her interests include TESOL, PLC, outcome-based learning, life-long learning and technology.