

## ENGLISH TRANSLANGUAGING: BRIDGING LANGUAGES IN A GLOBALIZED WORLD

*by:*

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In today's competitive and globalized world, language is no longer limited. Translanguaging has become an important tool in communication, especially English, which is considered the universal language.

### Translanguaging Defined

Najarro (2023) defines translanguaging as the fluid practice of switching between languages and is also a teaching strategy that encourages this flexibility. In this approach, students can think in several languages at once, utilizing their native language as a tool to help them learn academic English more effectively.

According to the website Language Educators Assemble, this approach was developed by Cen Williams, who originally coined the term "trawsieithu." The term was later translated to "TRANSLANGUAGING" by Colin Baker, Emeritus Professor of Education at Bangor University and author of the widely recognized book on bilingualism and bilingual education. The main goal of this approach is to facilitate content engagement through both languages in a structured way, promoting a deeper understanding of the subject and reinforcing literacy practices for bilingual students in both target languages.

### English as a Global Lingua Franca

Translanguaging is common with the English language since it is the universal language. It is embedded in most countries' language as it is their second language. In

fact, the majority of English speakers globally are non-native speakers, and many of them are multilingual. For these speakers, English is just one of the many languages in their repertoire, and they often use it in combination with other languages in ways that reflect their cultural and social identities.

## The Role of Translanguaging in Education

Translanguaging has a significant impact on language education, especially in classrooms with students from diverse linguistic backgrounds. In many educational settings, English is taught as a second language, and students often face challenges as they navigate between their native languages and English. Translanguaging provides a way for students to use their full linguistic range to make sense of academic content, fostering deeper understanding and engagement.

Teachers who embrace translanguaging practices encourage students to draw on their home languages while learning English. This approach can enhance comprehension and retention, as students feel more comfortable and confident using all of their linguistic skills. In addition, it supports the development of bilingual or multilingual identities, showing that knowing more than one language is a strength, not a hindrance.

In practice, translanguaging in classrooms might involve allowing students to discuss concepts in their native language before translating their ideas into English, or encouraging them to use both languages in assignments, presentations, or discussions. This not only aids in learning but also validates students' cultural backgrounds and linguistic abilities.

## Embracing Diversity and Fluidity in Communication

Translanguaging with English highlights the adaptability and richness of human communication. It challenges traditional notions of linguistic purity and celebrates the fluid, dynamic nature of language in our increasingly interconnected world. Instead of

viewing language as something fixed or rigid, translanguaging demonstrates that language is a living, evolving tool for communication that can be adapted to the needs of the speaker.

Ultimately, English translanguaging reveals the diversity of human experience and the importance of allowing people to communicate in ways that feel authentic to them. By embracing translanguaging, we open doors to more inclusive, creative, and meaningful conversations in an ever-changing world.

English translanguaging is more than just a linguistic phenomenon; it's a reflection of a world where cultures, identities, and languages intertwine. As global communication continues to evolve, so too will the ways in which we use language. Translanguaging, especially with English, offers an exciting and empowering way to navigate this fluid linguistic landscape, enabling us to express ourselves fully, authentically, and with pride. Whether in education, entertainment, or everyday interactions, translanguaging is transforming how we communicate and how we understand each other across cultures.

The Official Website of DepED Division of Bataan

#### *References:*

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