



“Bi” – a prefix meaning two

Bilingual can define the speaking of two languages or a text written in two languages

“Multi” – means many

The term **Multilingual** is commonly understood as meaning the speaking of many languages

*We need a new concept to describe the ideal
International School classroom ...*



Interlingual Classrooms

“Inter” – stands for international mindedness

The integral, underlying factor in the notion of everyone being open & responsive to learning about other languages

“Inter” – stands for the international languages of the classroom

In the Interlingual classroom children not only learn their own mother-tongue but learn about all the other classroom languages as well



How is an **Interlingual** classroom different

Traditional classrooms

- ✗ Literacy refers only to English literacy
- ✗ The cultural knowledge and linguistic abilities that children bring to school are considered of little or no relevance to what they learn in school
- ✗ ESL parents whose English may be poor are sometimes thought of as not being able to contribute anything to their children's literacy because they don't have the skills in English
- ✗ Curriculum relevant to the English language speakers
- ✗ Respect for sameness

Interlingual classrooms

- ✓ ESL students' cultural knowledge experiences and mother-tongue languages are viewed as precious resources
- ✓ ESL students participate actively in all academic areas because the teacher and the instruction affirm their identity
- ✓ ESL parents are welcome in the classroom and are considered a valuable resource. They help develop literacy in both English and the home language
- ✓ Curriculum relevant to everyone
- ✓ Respect for diversity



Interlingual Classrooms

- Recognise the different discursive practices of students with different “language” experiences and build on them
- See translanguaging as an important and legitimate practice
- Allow children to use translanguaging to construct understandings (both conceptual & linguistic)
 - ✓ with each other
 - ✓ with each language
 - ✓ to include everyone
 - ✓ to mediate understandings