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**COMPARISON OF METALINGUISTIC ABILITIES IN KANNADA
BETWEEN MONOLINGUAL AND BILINGUAL CHILDREN BETWEEN
7-8 YEARS**

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Title: Comparison of Metalinguistic Abilities in Kannada Between Monolingual and Bilingual Children.

Abstract:

Bilingualism is a cognitively devastating experience for children hence there might be metalinguistic benefits for those children who are learning more than one language. **Aim:** The aim of the present study was to compare metalinguistic abilities in Kannada between bilingual and monolingual children between the age range of 7-8 years. **Method:** The first phase of the study involved the preparation of material, followed by the second phase which involved the administration of prepared material to assess the metalinguistic abilities of children between 7-8 years. The material was administered to a total of 97 typically developing children between the age ranges of 7 to 8 years. 37 children were assigned to Kannada-speaking monolingual group and 60 in Kannada – English speaking bilingual group. **Results:** In the present study, there was a significant difference between the bilingual and monolingual groups in two domains i.e., Metaphonology & Metamorphology. This highlights on the positive effect of bilingualism on metalinguistic performance.

Key words: Metalinguistic ability, Monolingual and Bilingual children, Kannada.