

## **SIMULTANEOUS FAMILY BILINGUALISM OF ALBANIAN-GREEK CHILDREN IN ALBANIA**

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### **Abstract**

Family bilingualism resulting from a mixed marriage is based on the one parent-one language theory. This is also the case of our ten year-old bilingual children having a Greek parent and an Albanian parent, speaking Albanian and Greek languages and living in Albania surrounded by a larger Albanian-speaking community. We both co-authors of this article have similar experiences with converging results. At the age a bilingual child establishes full contacts with the outside world (nursery school and then primary school) the language of the outside environment (Albanian language in our case) becomes the dominant language and influences the other language in spite of the fact that both languages are mother tongues. Its influence upon the other language is mainly seen at the lexical level when they use Albanian words but with Greek declension and at the syntactic level with syntactic constructions typical of Albanian language, whereas grammatical analogy is mainly seen at the morphological level. The reasons for its dominance are three: the first reason is the linguistic environment within the family between the parents who communicate in Albanian, the second reason is the communication in the outside linguistic environment which is in Albanian and the third reason is education which is in Albanian, too. Does the dominant language proficiency hinder or does it help the learning of the other language?

**Keywords:** *bilingualism, mother tongue, dominant language, linguistic environment, vocabulary, grammatical analogy.*