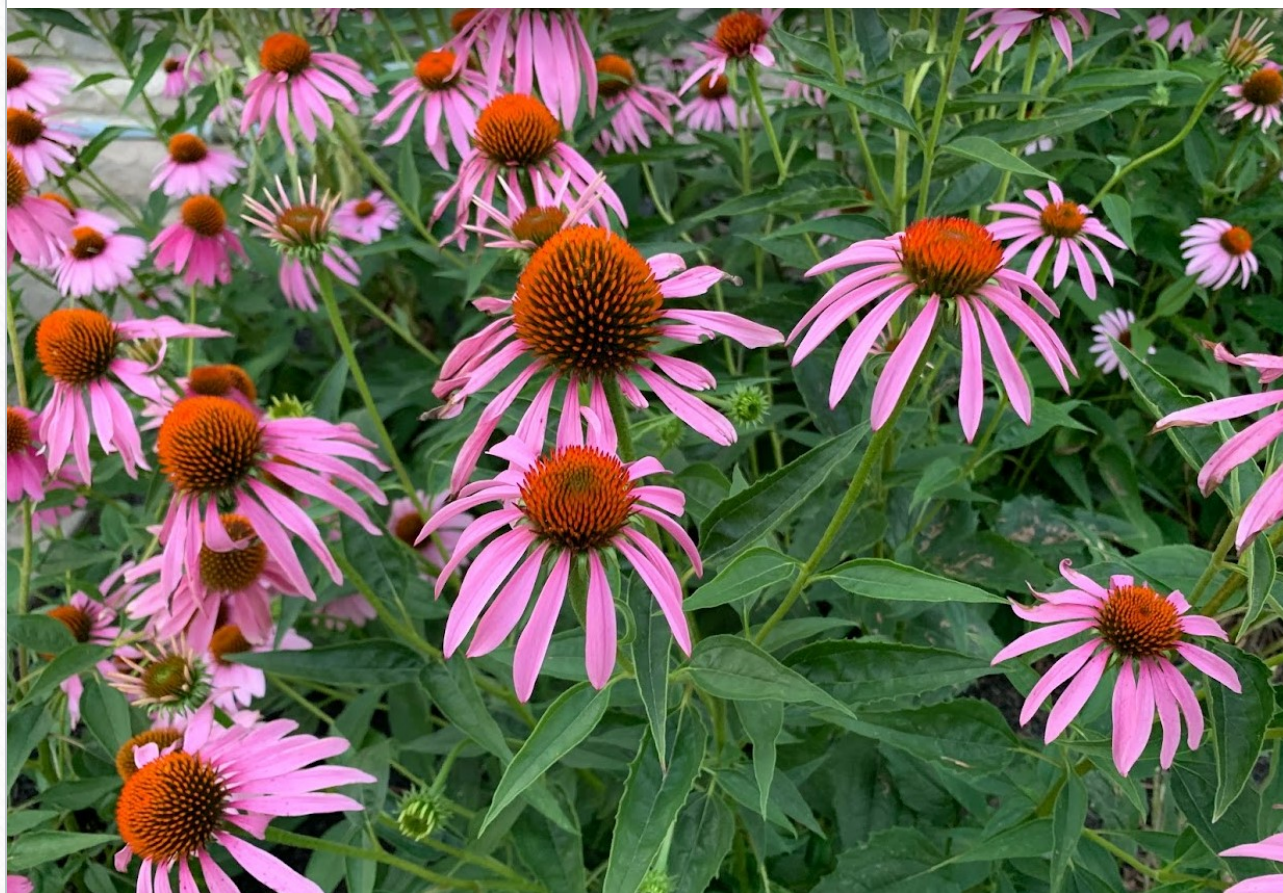


# BORDERLESS DEFINED

Newsletter of Borderless Interpreting & Translation, LLC



## Our Brains and Bilingualism/Multilingualism

Newsletter No. 116 issued by Noriko Rogers (August 1, 2022)

As you probably know by now, I spend most of my day being preoccupied with all things bilingual.

When I am not actively translating or interpreting, I sight translate, read books and watch news and shows in both of my languages. When I see an ad in a video, I would ponder how it can be localized into the other language.

Thinking bilingually is so engrained and I have always enjoyed the small challenges it poses in my mind.

[This BBC article](#) prompted me to think about bilingualism and multilingualism on a more personal level than before. So much so that I quickly clipped the article and started marking it up.

For example, I experienced an observable case of reversed dominance a number of years ago.

In this particular situation, I was chatting with another bilingual (English and Japanese) person in English. And just as the article mentions, I decided to switch momentarily to Japanese to utter a word. And lo and behold, my inflection was completely off.

By this point, I had been learning and speaking English for just shy of 10 years in an English-dominant environment. As the article points out, I perhaps "overshot" the inhibition over my mother tongue in an attempt to access both languages more easily.

(On a related note, I also wonder if the degree of reverse dominance varies depending on the language combination or if there is any relationship at all.)

The shift in one's grammatical expectations is interesting, too. Although this is nothing more than anecdotal evidence, I have personally found that maintaining consistent exposure to a variety of grammatical structures in my native language helps lessen this shift.

Anyway, I hope that you enjoyed the article as much as I did!

The next Borderless Defined will be in your inbox in the week of August 15, 2022.

Thanks for reading!

Noriko Rogers

Borderless Interpreting & Translation, LLC

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