Recap of Day 1 & overview of Day 2
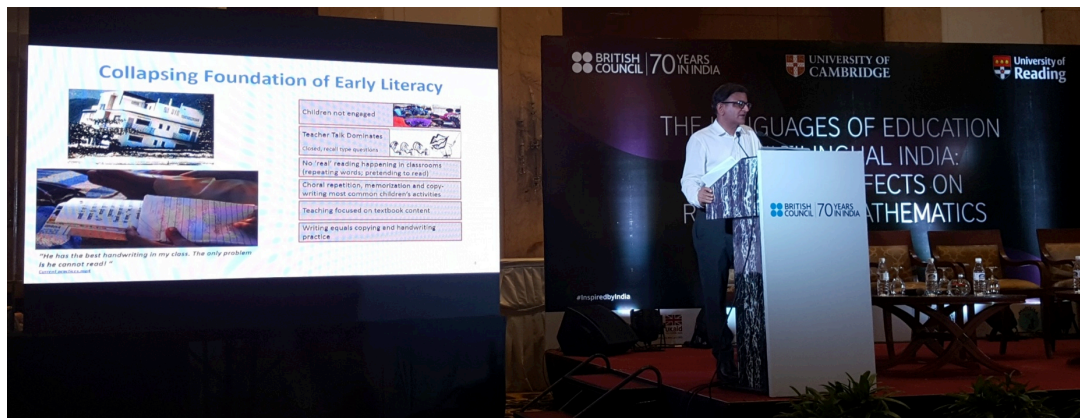# Theo Marinis

The languages of education in multilingual India: exploring effects in reading and mathematics
New Delhi, 12th and 13th July 2018

Day 1

Plenary Dr Dhir Jhingran – Multilingual education: attitudes, policies and practice

Focus on language for understanding, reasoning, thinking, learning to learn (not learning a subject)

- Top down interventions
- Migration: children from many parts of the country – Hindi a common language?
- Teachers unable to teach in English

Dhir Jhingran

Principles of Multilingual education
- Develop multilingual awareness
- Develop multilingual competencies in the classroom
- Include children's languages formally – respect languages
- Include children's cultures and experiences

Advocacy
- Seeking political support: raising learning outcomes within the state & improving English
- Ethnic groups: protect culture & identity
- Improving teaching/learning of early literacy
- Providing evidence to governments -> bottom up

Dhir Jhingran

What should Governments (and NGOs/Agencies) do

- …
- Flexible policy focused on creation of multilingual awareness
- Sociolinguistic mapping – variation
- English not MOI (at least before grade 3)
- Support pilot programmes
- Teacher education
- …

Ianthi Tsimpli – Overview of MultiLila project

Prof Ianthi Tsimpli – Overview of MultiLila project

Intro and first findings

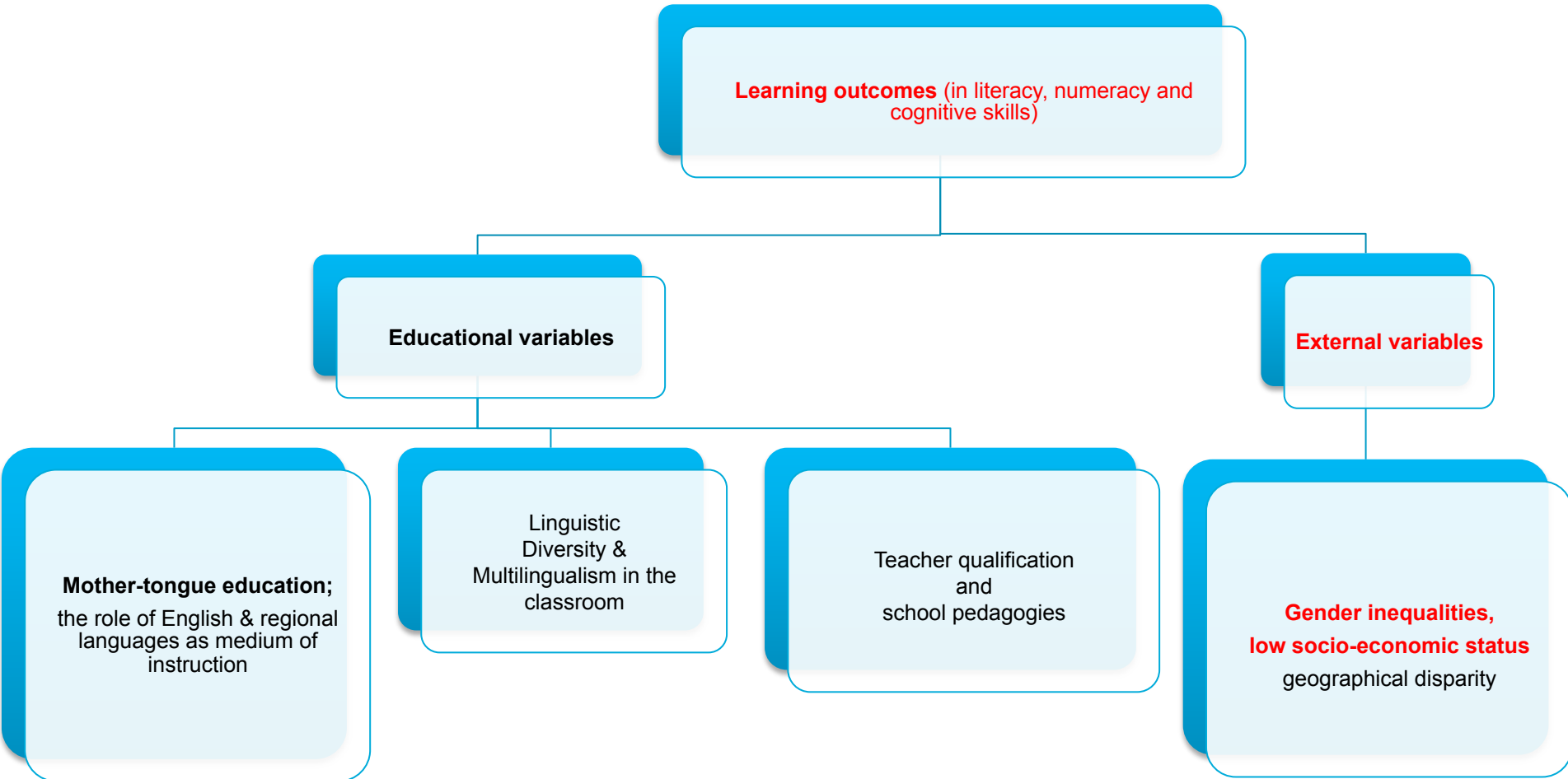| Problem: **Causes of low learning outcomes** of primary school children in multilingual India | → | Context: **Advantages to being bilingual or multilingual** in attention and learning skills | → | **Why do some children in India not benefit** from being bilingual or multilingual to the same degree as children in other contexts? |

Ianthi Tsimpli

Learning outcomes (in literacy, numeracy and cognitive skills)

Educational variables

External variables

Mother-tongue education; the role of English & regional languages as medium of instruction

Linguistic Diversity & Multilingualism in the classroom

Teacher qualification and school pedagogies

Gender inequalities, low socio-economic status geographical disparity

Ianthi Tsimpli

Effect of gender:

- Basic literacy (Hindi & English): girls > boys
- Subtraction: boys > girls

Effect of environment

- Division: more deprived > less deprived
- Mathematical reasoning: more deprived > less deprived
- → Life experiences

Relations between tasks

- Literacy – numeracy – mathematical reasoning
- Cognition – literacy – maths

Panel discussion

The role of home languages & English in multilingual education in India

Chair: Dr Debanjan Chakrabarti, Panelists: Ganesh N. Devy, Dr Riti Das Dhankar, Dr Dhir Jhingran, Vibha Sharma, Kadey Soren

Panel

Dr Dhir Jhingran
- Teacher education doesn't prepare teachers for multilingual classrooms
- Children not encouraged to take risks
- Need for flexible MLE policies

Vibha Sharma
- Examples of good practice in developing vocational skills, life skills
- Migration & language
- English currency for opportunities

Dr Riti Das Dhankar
- Methodologies for home language education
- Attitude of teachers – recognise regional languages

Panel

Ganesh N. Devy

- Home languages are dying: 283 languages from 1961-2011
- Role of **formal education** as contributing factor
- Language of power (Hindi)
- Language of knowledge (English)
- Recognition of multilingual zones
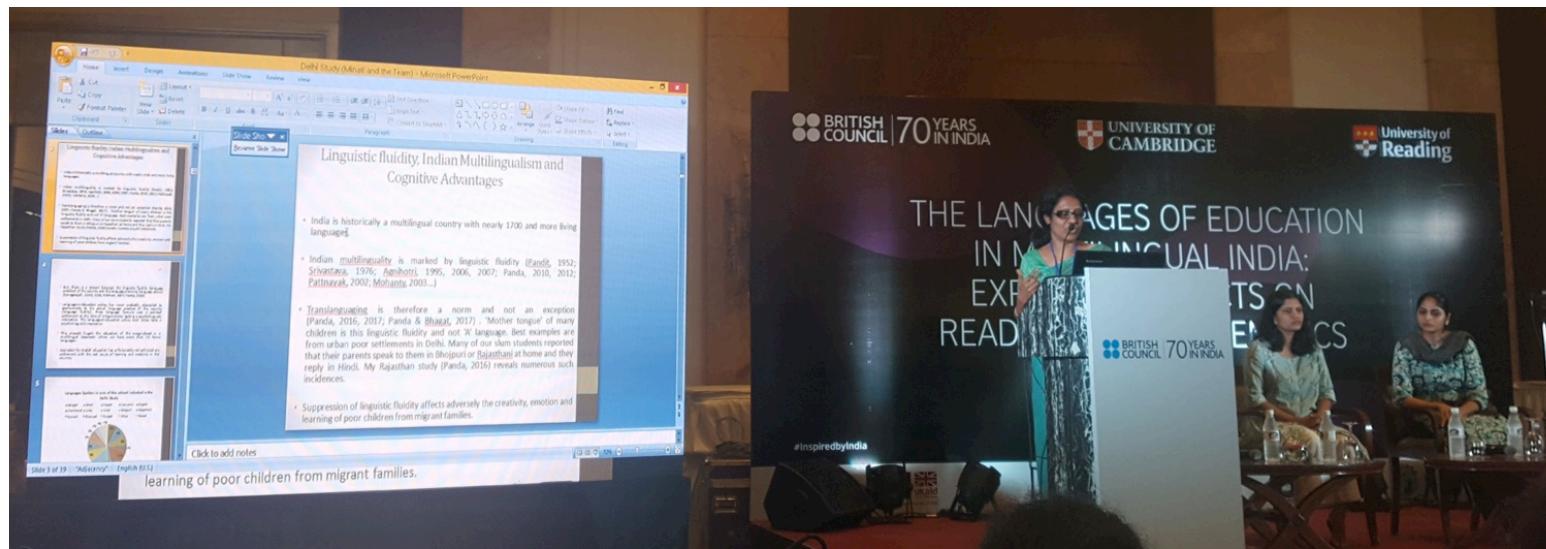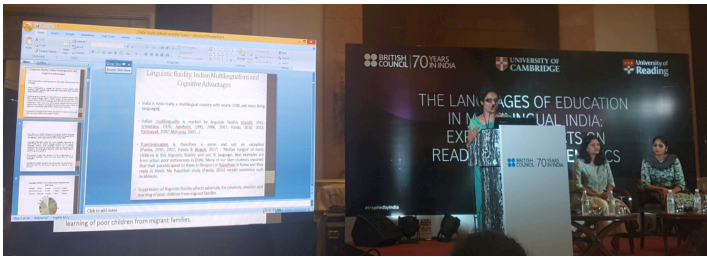- Reorganisation of school system to meet language needs

Kadey Soren

- Multilingualism in tribal areas
- When a language dies, tradition dies as well
- Problems when translating curriculum – cultural aspects

Migration, Multilinguality and Mathematics learning

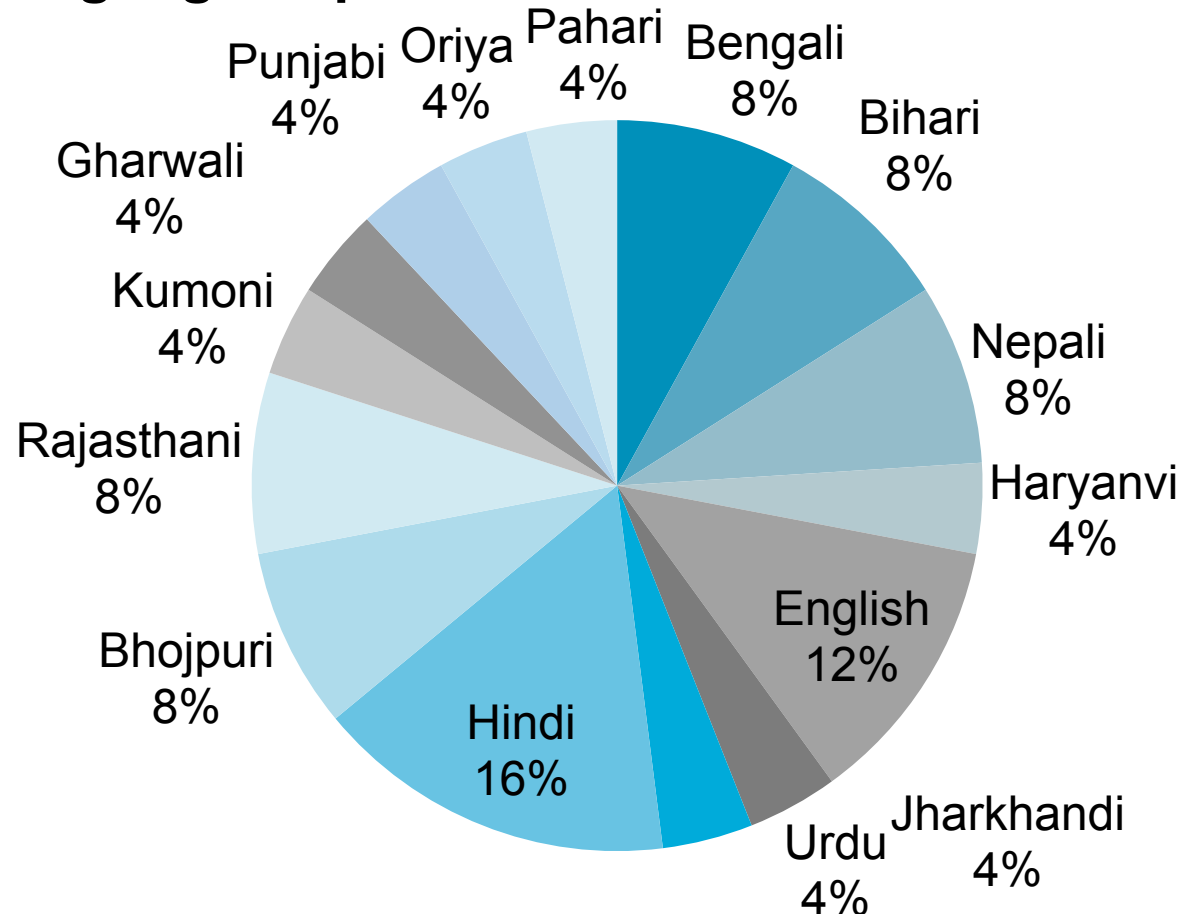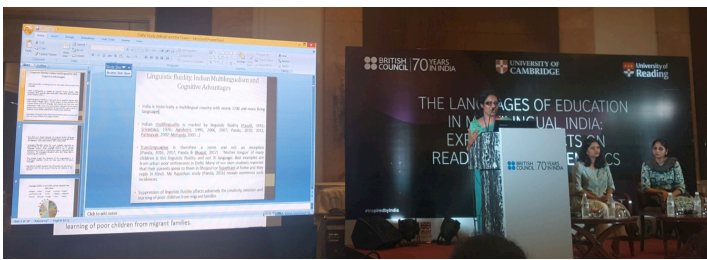## Prof Minati Panda, Shalini Yadav, Nainy Rao, and Shitika Chowdhary

Delhi team

Languages Spoken in one of the school in Delhi

Pie chart data:
- Bengali 8%
- Bihari 8%
- Nepali 8%
- Haryanvi 4%
- English 12%
- Jharkhandi 4%
- Urdu 4%
- Hindi 16%
- Bhojpuri 8%
- Rajasthani 8%
- Kumoni 4%
- Gharwali 4%
- Punjabi 4%
- Oriya 4%
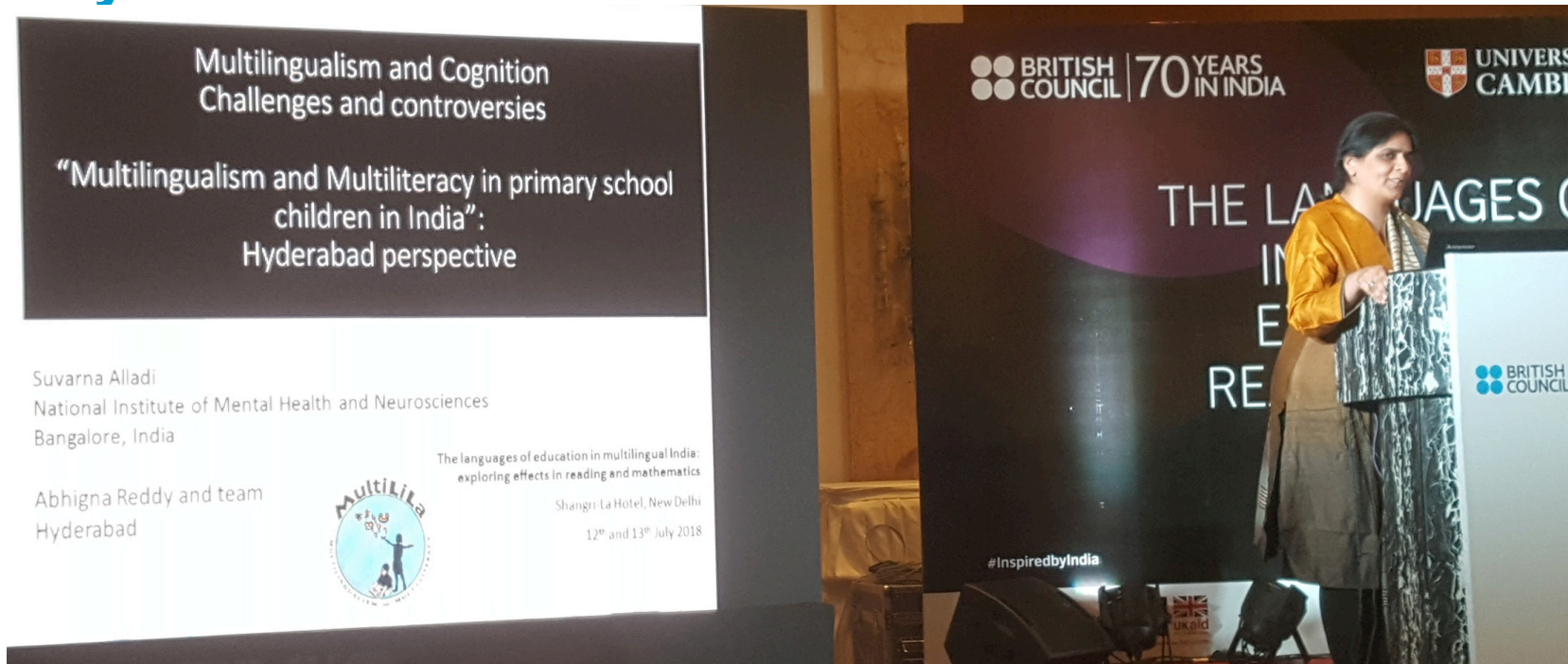- Pahari 4%

Delhi team

Hindi medium > English medium students in numeracy tasks, word problems and meta maths.
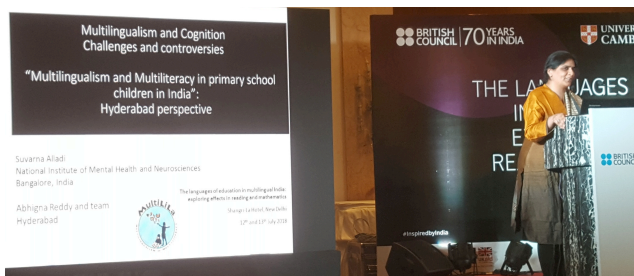
- Teachers in schools around most deprived areas more permissive of the use of children's strongest/home language and everyday experiences are concerned
- Children from the slums involved more in household chores including marketing and handling money independently
- Effect of students from less deprived schools attending low cost overcrowded private tuition classes after school?

Multilingualism and Cognition Challenges and controversies

Prof Suvarna Alladi, Abhigna Reddy and team Hyderabad

Hyderabad team

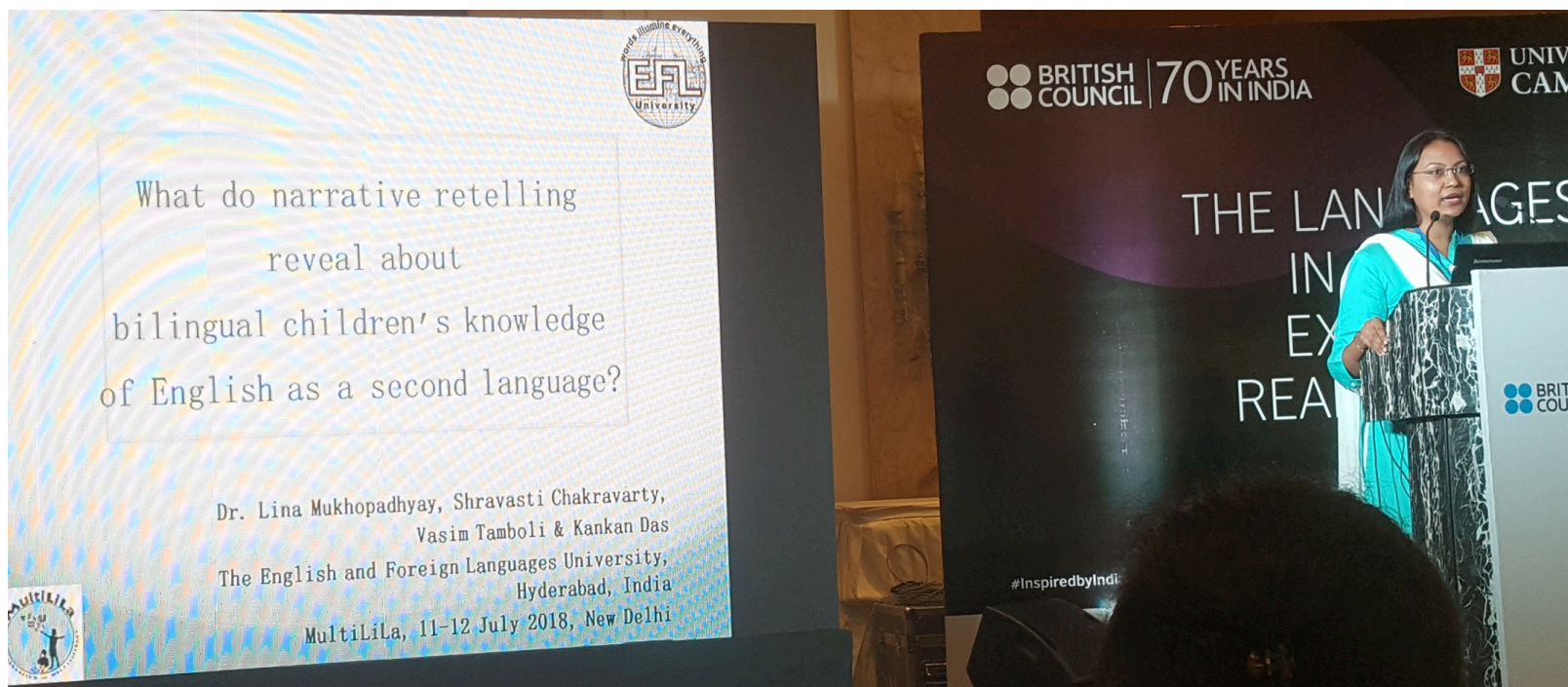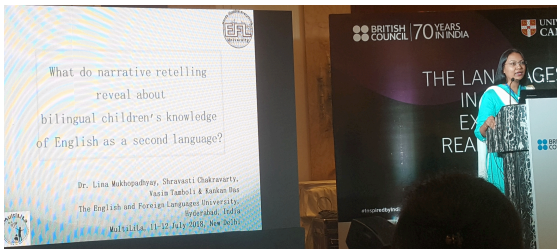1. TELUGU: 310
2. HINDI: 40
3. MARATHI: 15
4. KANNADA: 23
5. URDU: 24
6. LAMBADI: 40
7. NEPALI: 1
8. VODDERA: 1
9. BIHARI: 3
10. ORIYA: 1
11. TAMIL: 1
12. GUJARATHI: 2

TEST	MEDIUM OF INSTRUCTION	HOME LANGUAGE =/≠ MEDIUM OF INSTRUCTION
ASER English (literacy)	English better than Telugu	Students with medium of instruction different from home language better than students with same medium of instruction
Word problem (maths)	Telugu better than English (trend)	
Number recognition	Telugu better than English (trend)	
Raven's (cognition)		Students with medium of instruction different from home language better than students with same medium of instruction

What do narrative retelling reveal about bilingual children's knowledge of English as a second language?

Dr. Lina Mukhopadhyay, Shravasti Chakravarty, Vasim Tamboli & Kankan Das

Patna team

Narrative tasks English vs. Hindi

- **Story grammar**: Similarities between Hindi & English (attempt & outcome > goal)
- **Structural complexity**: Similarities between Hindi & English in structural complexity
- **Vocabulary**: Lexical variety: Hindi > English; Lexical density: Hindi = English
- **Referring expressions**: NPs: Hindi > English; Pronouns: Hindi > English
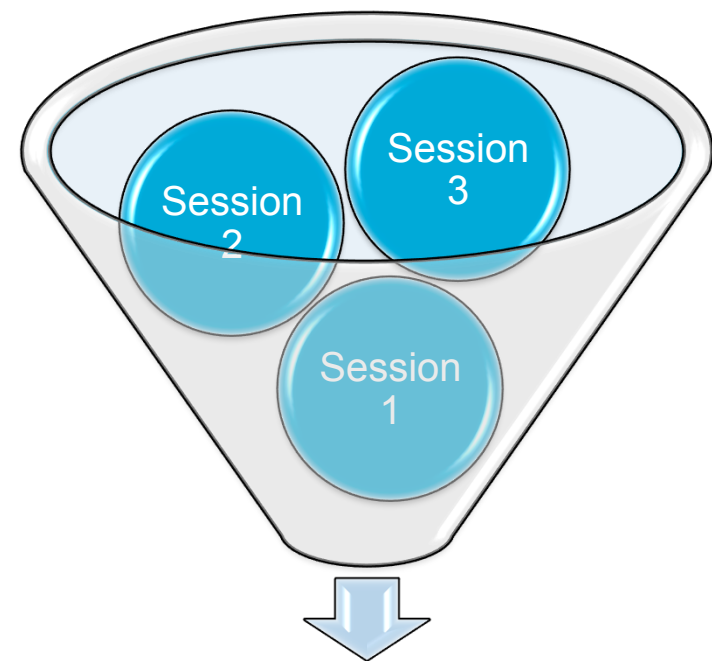- **Syntax**: Word order transfer L1 → L2

British Council report: Multilingual classrooms: opportunities & challenges for English medium instruction in low and middle-income countries

Day 2

Plenary Amy Lightfoot
What do classroom observations tell us about multilingual practices in India?

Session 2

Session 3

Session 1

Multilingual Education