

Data Extract 1: Focus Group Discussion Data

Based on student experiences of the Bilingual Resource materials trials in a bilingual lesson: The Hare and the Hyena at Dominican Convent Secondary School- Ndola - Zambia

*Interactants

Eli,	Kay	Nii	Nak
Gra	Dor	Kan	Nam
Mit	SW: Moderator		

*The identity of interactants has been hidden

Discursive ethnographic analysis: focus is on the immediate interactional context

00:29 SW: How much do you know about Bemba stories?

00:34 Kay: Um I don't really know much coz I am not Bemba but I have heard some from friends and neighbours...um...they are nice.

00:56 Nii um I have heard a lot of Bemba stories.... Some I didn't understand them. Some talked about animals, yes they are nice.

01:08 Nma: well, the Bemba stories are, um, I am still learning Bemba to deal with...um... They are interesting; I find them interesting, because the way they mix. Sometimes there are human beings sometimes there are animals.

01:29 SW: How much do you know about Bemba culture?

00:31 Eli: Uh... Yes but not very much coz (*because*) my grandmother is not actually Bemba, yes. But I have heard some from friends, even my parents. ...Yes.

01:50 Gra um, Yes I have not really got to learn anything... because my father is Nsenga and mostly the stories are from Nsenga but the ones that I have heard are interesting.

02:11 Kan: um, in a way yes, I am, because my mum is Bemba, yes... so I am Familiar with Bemba culture....

02:21 SW: You say your mum is Bemba so your father is...?

02:24 Kan: ... is Ngoni.

02:27 SW :So there is an intercultural mix....

02:29 Kan: Yes.

- 02:30 :SW: So you are familiar with Bemba stories?
- 02:32 Kan: Some of them but not very much.
- 02:38: SW: Can you speak and hear (*understand*) Bemba?
- 02:42: Dor: Yes I can.
- 02:50: Dor: Yes but not deep ... deep Bemba... it is just in passing...yes.
- 02:57: Nak: Yes because my mum is Lamba so at home we usually speak Lamba.
- 03:08 Nak: Yes (*Can hear Bemba that is spoken*).
- 03:10: SW: Do you use of Bemba in class?
- 03:15 Kay: No, We are not allowed to speak Bemba.
- 03: 20: SW: Why are they not allowed? (*Discussion directed at teacher*).
- 03:25: Mit: (*laughs*). They are not allowed to speak Bemba because it is not one of the languages that we teach in school.. may be French and English.
- 03:37: SW: Do you use Bemba when you are playing or chatting outside?
- 03:42: Gra: No I don't because I am not really familiar with the language.
- 03:51: Naka: Yes I do because there are some expressions that you find difficult to speak in English so you better say them in Bemba besides when you are with friends you have the right to express yourself in any language because they are your friends and that's the reason why.
- 04: 08: Kan: Yes and I agree with Nak because some expressions are... you can express yourself more uhm better or yes in that sense when you use Bemba there are just certain words that are in Bemba that you cannot really use in English. Yes...
- 04:28: Dor: yes I would say we speak Bemba at times because.. there other people usually that don't understand English a lot. So when you are talking to a friend, it is better sometimes to use like Bemba coz there is a lot of people that understand Bemba.
- 05:00 SW: Did the inclusion of Bemba in BR effect your reading (*of the text*) in English
- 05:12: Kay: um, No. (*It did not affect her reading in English*) uhm...because it is not like if we read or speak Bemba then we are going to forget how to speak English. It is just helping us to know both languages.
- 05: 41: SW: Oh, do you agree with that Eli...

- 05:45: Eli: Yes. I think it also helps us understand more in English.
- 05:51: SW ... Does the inclusion of Bemba in the BR help? (directs discussion to teacher)
- 05:57: Nam: Yes I agree with Eli and Kay. Uhm yes... I find it since I am in the process of learning Bemba as well, I read the English part and then I went to the Bemba part, so I was able to...OK so in English it is said like this ...in Bemba it said like this...
Yes...So...
- 06:19: Yes, it does (*help in understanding*) because there some words I know in Bemba because I do know a bit of Bemba and in English. I think in the understanding, it does very much help.
- 06:29: SW: Given an option to read in Bemba or English, what would be your option?
- 06:44: Kan: Both ...
- 06: 46: SW: You can read both? .. Can you explain that...
- 06:52: Kan: because if I just use Bemba, in case I don't understand what the sentence in Bemba is saying, I can read in English to understand what the sentence in Bemba is saying.(Kan, 652)
- 07:20: Kan: Even if I knew how to read in Bemba I would go for both Both um: its not like if you read or speak bemba you are going to forget how to speak English
- 07:30: Nak: I would go for English (*given the bilingual materials*) ... Like I said Bemba I am not really familiar with it, and as for Bemba, for someone to understand what you are saying you are supposed to pronounce the words properly for that person to really get what you are saying... coz (*because*), we have different languages, so you might say the wrong pronunciation and you may never know it is another language than Bemba. (*that's why I would prefer the material in English*).
- 08:00: SW (Would you have preferred these stories (narrative) in English or you comfortable with the bilingual presentation?)
- 08:10: Kan: Comfortable with both.
- 0815: Eli: Yes, I think we are comfortable... I am comfortable with both...
- 08:21:Eli: ... because I might not know some expressions in English but I may understand when you are reading Bemba,.. Yes... so I think it is better.
- 08:32: Kay: Yah um just like what Eli was said, uhm when you read like English, when you are reading English, you get to...uhm let me say Bemba, when you read Bemba, you get to learn more and you how know to pronounce some words. Like maybe when you failed to pronounce a word you ask your friend, how to pronounce it and then you understand it more.

08:58: SW: Do you see the Bemba language and culture as different from the literature you were learning?

09:18: Dor: I don't think so, OK they collide together, so I don't think they are divided in any way

09:25: SW: You just saw this as literature in English?

09:28: Dora: Yes:

09:37: Niz: I also agree with Dor... they collide a bit but they are the same.

09:45: SW: From a teaching point of view... is it possible to tell the difference between the literature being learnt and the language it is being presented in?

09:57: Mit: I think at the end of the day it all comes to uhm... what you want them to learn is a constant so which ever language is used ...may be the way they have suggested to say they would rather have both English and Bemba for their easier understanding. I don't think there is anything wrong...uhm

10:17: SW: What did you find exciting about the story Kalulu and the Hare presented in both Bemba and English?

10:29: Nak: I think it was fun because usually at times, we pupils here at Dominican Convent, are usually just exposed to the English ways, so when you find like for some of us who even at home usually don't speak English you find...oh, there is something like nephew, oh uncle, grandmother in Bemba and the words really like grabs your attention, like you even prefer to read Bemba, because by reading Bemba it's not everyone in Zambia that can speak English, so you learning to interact with other people in Bemba

11:13: Gra: uhm, Yes, I think it's good to read both Bemba and English because I find it more interesting and some of the cultures in Bemba I read that way.

11:29:SW: ...Is this your this your first time learning through a BR?

11 40: Kan: Yes, for me it's a first time

11:42: SW: What was your experience of the BR?

11:49: Kan: It's really interesting and fun, in a way.

11:57: SW: why do you say fun

11:59:Kan: Because in Bemba there are just certain words that are..uhm.. are OK, let's say in English there are... if ...if How can I put this?...uhm.. words that are in English and then they are written in Bemba, you find may be its funny but it's... it's just fun reading in both languages.

12:24: Nak, Kan, Dor: It's even interesting

12:31: Dor: uhm a bit of (*inaudible*) ... explanation. It was like in English, when you are reading, maybe there was a part where there was a joke, maybe, OK, it wasn't funny in English but when you read it in Bemba, maybe the Bemba version it's 'catchy' So maybe that's when you can laugh.

12:52: SW: When you say its 'catchy' can you explain what you mean by 'catchy' (*elated Laughter from group*)

12:59: OK, uhm, like I said, maybe if you are reading it in English, the joke, it's not that funny at all, maybe you just have a 'small' laugh at it but if you read it in Bemba it's much funnier.

13:13: SW: the meaning comes through

13:15: (*Chorus*) Yes.

13:16: SW: That's what you felt too

13:18: Kan: Yes, I really felt it. (*In Kalulu and the Hare*) It was more interesting and the words are in a way that can make you laugh.

13:36: Eli: Actually... is interesting, coz (*because*) as for me, It helped made me to understand more in Bemba... yes

13:46: SW: Learning literature lesson through the bilingual story the Hare and the Hyena

Does this help you to prepare for grade eleven and twelve literature?

13:58: Nak: Yes, in way that, literature, when you learn literature, we are not supposed just to learn English, we are also supposed to learn other languages like Bemba and this is prepared us in a way that as much as you can understand things in English, I think, as Zambian children we also understand things more in Bemba because no matter how this is like, the... one of the most commonly spoken languages in Zambia.

14:29: SW: Is that your view

14:32: Kan: Yes

14:33: SW: You think it helps to *prepare you for grade 11 and 12 literature*?

14:35: Kan: Yes. Since literature is all about learning people... about other cultures, so if we have them in both languages, it is going to help us even associate with other people who do not understand English only... can also understand,... those that understand uhm Bemba, so I think I agree with Nak.

14:59: SW: Does the BR materials such as exemplified in the Hare and the hyena help to prepare students for grade eleven and twelve literature?

15:08: Nam: Uhm Just like the girls have mentioned, well, they are coming from a society OK, most of them are not Bemba but they are exposed to Bemba. Like I have mentioned, and once they are reading something in Bemba OK and in English, they will get to understand maybe this Bemba phrase they didn't understand it or the English phrase or something, they will get to really understand the story and you find... in the first term we learnt a lot of literature terms. OK, so the question that followed was what we did on Thursday, OK. They were able to practice like how to come up with the plot of the story, you know all those which we did and its good for them, they should know that literature is not all about or just it's found in one culture or the English culture, no, it can also relate to their own culture whether it is in Bemba or Nyanja or whatever language it is yes at least they will come to understand and appreciate that we are not just teaching literature for the sake of them just thinking of English but also for their own understanding of their communities and their culture...something like that

16:19: SW: How does this help you to appreciate literature in ten?

16:30: Nii: Yes...because I was reading both Bemba and English so it made me understand more and I appreciate it that way.

16:53: Kay: it has helped me a lot in the sense that it has helped in widening my mind...

17:00: SW: How did it (*the BR*) do that?

17:02: Kay: Uuh, I didn't really know that there was literature in English. So when I first saw this (*the BR*), I thought that maybe it was just a joke or something (*laughs*).

17:14: SW: What did you know before?

17:17: Kay: huh?

17:18: SW: What did you know before, you said you didn't know that there was literature in English..

17: 20 Oh I mean in Bemba,..yah (*Literature*) in Bemba. So, it was fun! It's nice. You even get like interested in reading things like... when you read in both Bemba and English, you even learn how to read and understand things properly.

17:50: Eli: Actually, it is just, it's interesting, it's nice.

17:52: SW: It helps you to appreciate literature in grade ten?

17:54:Eli: Yes.

17:57: Gra: *I think it is very interesting to read both the Bemba (and English version) because in the Bemba... Bemba version, it fascinated me how the words were arranged and it looked so simple.*

1816: SW: And Bemba is not your language

18:17: Gra: No it's not

18: 18: SW: But yet you were able to follow?

18: 19: Gra: Yes I understood it (*the stories*) very well

18:23: SW: because you were reading the English version

18:25: Gra: yes both of them and I even got to know more words in Bemba.

18:30: Does the bilingual resource help to prepare students for grade 11 and 12 literature?

18:31: Mit: Yes it does, especially *that we are using stories that they're familiar with*, we are starting with something that they know and then we go to something that they don't know. So in that way, the foundation is actually strong, because we have not gone somewhere very far, but we are just using something within ourselves. Despite them, some of them saying they are not Bemba, but of course these stories, stories that they have heard and now they are using in class that's why they are saying it's interesting because we have not borrowed something somewhere very far but something that is within us even if we were to go and pick on something that they don't know they will appreciate because they will still want to learn more, we have learnt what we have now we can also go and learn what others are doing.

1830:SW: Thank you for your participation in the focus group Discussion