

Language Brokering



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What is language brokering?

Children, adolescents, and adults who translate and interpret communication from one language to another on behalf of parents and others

- *The language broker has to understand language and cultural nuances within the existing relational and power structure*



Is language brokering deleterious?

Frequency of language brokering has been associated with

- **Depression** (Love & Buriel, 2007)
- **Internalizing symptoms** (Hua & Costigan, 2012)
- **Low self-esteem** (Oznobishin & Kurman, 2009)
- **Loneliness in high school** (Brenner, 2011)
- **Family conflict** (Hua & Costigan, 2012; Titzmann et al., 2015)

Sense of burden and **less self-efficacy, lower self-esteem,** and **depressive symptoms** (Weisskirch, 2013; Kim et al., 2014)

Is language brokering beneficial?

Frequency of language brokering has been associated with:

- Feelings of self-efficacy (Kim et al., 2014)
- Academic performance (Buriel et al., 1998)
- Reading scores (Dorner et al., 2007)
- Greater respect for parents (Chao, 2006)
- Ethnic identity (Weisskirch et al., 2011)

Positive feelings about language brokering predicted self-esteem (Weisskirch, 2007), confidence in physical appearance (Niehaus & Kupiene, 2014), and parent-child bonding (Buriel et al., 2006)

Transnational (and developmental)

Development, parenting, and parent-child
dynamics

Community support and culture



Development, parenting, and parent-child dynamics

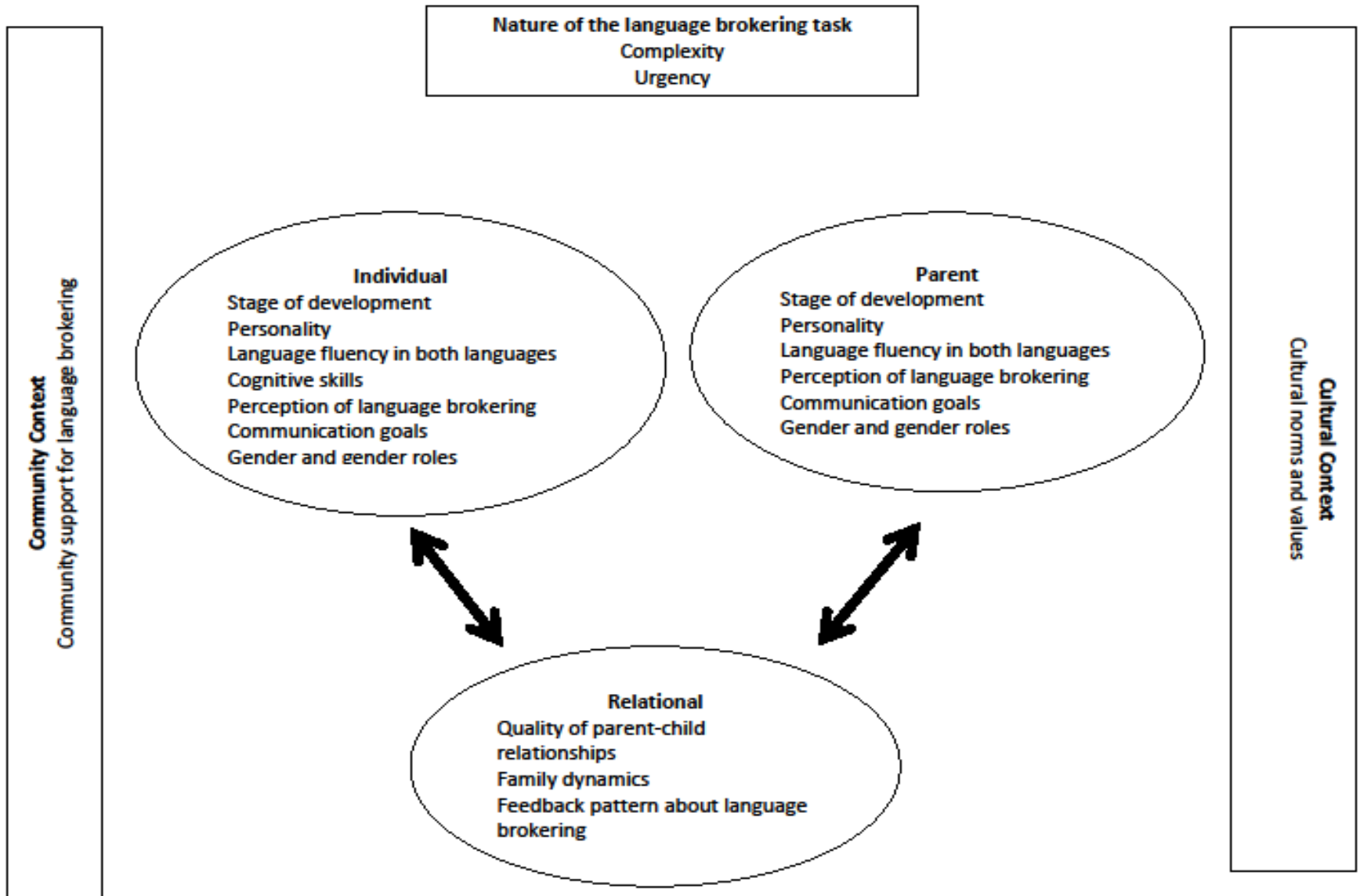
- Cognitive and linguistic skills
- Parent-child interactions
- Expectations of autonomy
- Intrusion into child's activities
- Parental support and expectations
- High stakes situations and sensitive topics

Community support and culture

- Immigrant-receiving area
- Pressure to assimilate
- Prestige of language
- Discrimination



A Developmental-Relational-Contextual Model of Language Brokering (Weisskirch, 2017)



Language Brokering in Immigrant Families

THEORIES AND CONTEXTS



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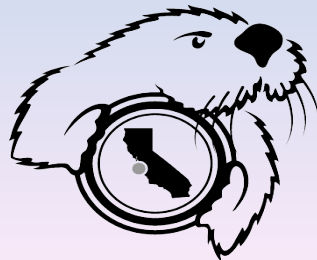


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Thank you!

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