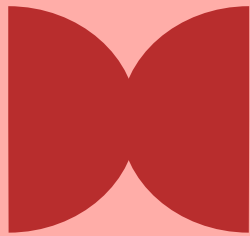


Bilingualism & Intelligence



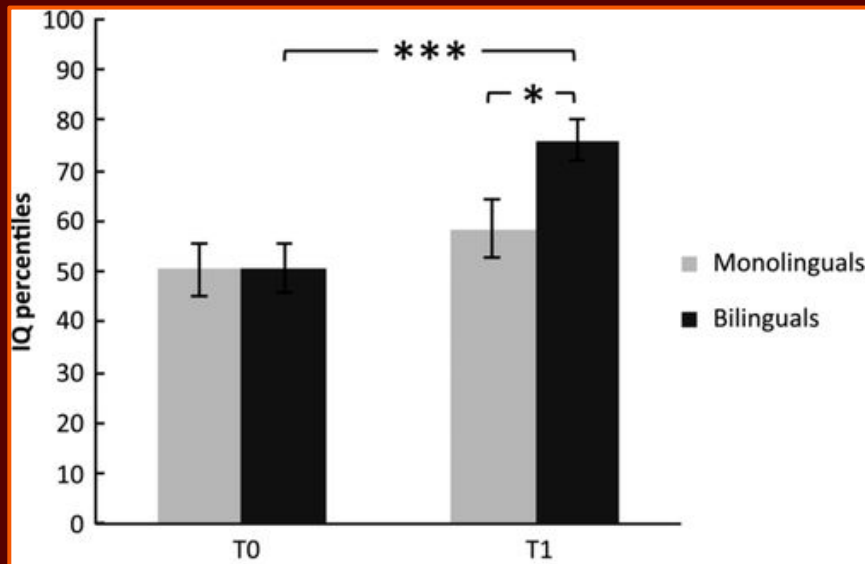
Yuliana Rust, Molly Arkoulakis,
Abby Russ, and Anna Brooke Keisler

Data Graphic

X-axis: timepoints, T0 (start of school year) and T1 (end of school year)

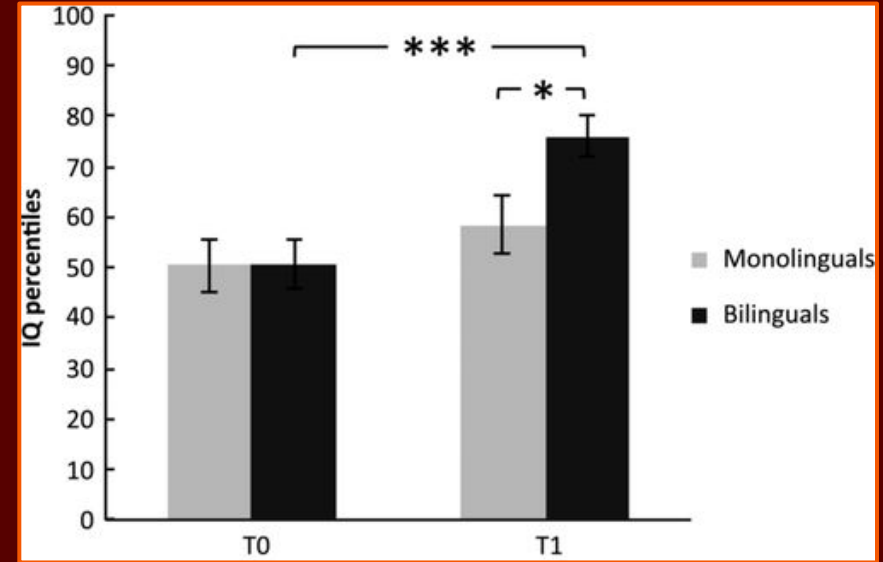
Y-axis: IQ percentiles, measured with Raven's Coloured Progressive Matrices and scores extrapolated using Raven's instruction manual normative scores

Groups: Light gray (data from monolingual children), dark gray (data from bilingual children)



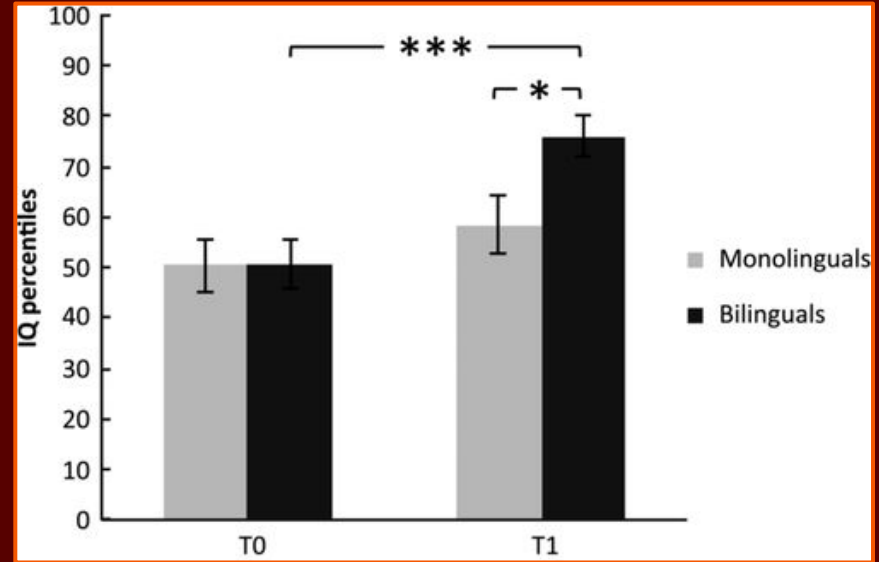
Interpretation Question

What change can be seen between the beginning and the end of the school year, and is this change the same in both monolingual and bilingual children?



answer

In both groups of children, IQ percentiles increase from the beginning to the end of the school year. However, this change is not the same in both groups, as bilingual children experienced a significantly larger increase in IQ percentiles when compared to monolingual children.

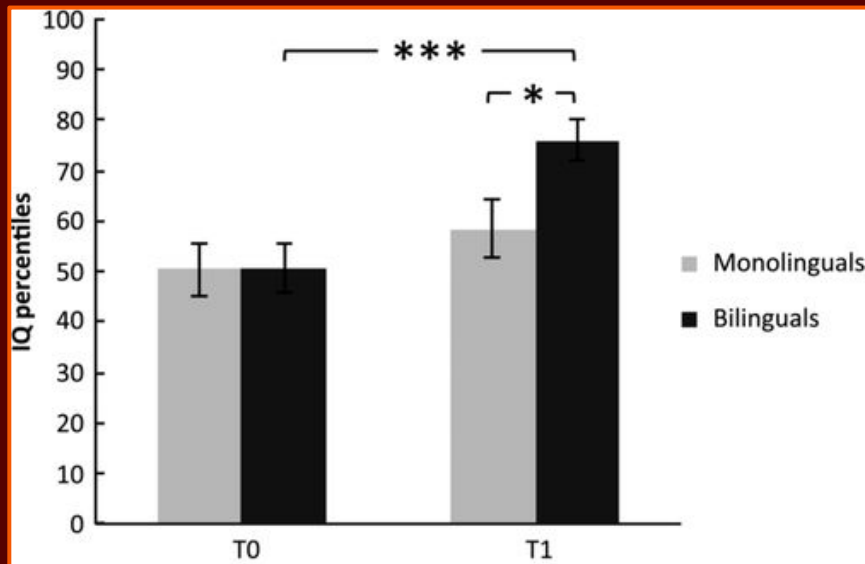


Discussion Question

Does the fact that bilingual children experienced a more significant growth in their IQ percentiles compared to monolingual children indicate that the bilingualism does indeed impact one's intelligence?

Kaplan's Myth:

Being bilingual impacts your intelligence, either in a negative or positive way.



answer

The fact that bilingual children had a significantly greater increase in IQ percentiles when compared to their monolingual counterparts indicates that being bilingual does, in fact, impact one's intelligence, and it does so in a positive way. However, it's important to note that IQ tests are an often controversial way to measure intelligence. It could be the case that what's being measured here is not simply "intelligence", but a combination of critical thinking skills and the ability to express oneself, which bilingual children are understandably more capable of doing.

