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My paper will consider issues relating to both research design and to the research process in relation to Researching Multilingually.

In the course of developing a research project in tandem learning (collaborative language learning between native speakers of different languages and learners of each others' mother tongue- in this case Spanish and English), a set of assumptions were made which informed my research design. These assumptions were influenced by the research focus itself as a multilingual site. For example the context required participants along multilingual lines, and the research design involved multilingual discussions on word meaning. Along the way I was faced with a number of decisions of a multilingual nature, for example:

- do I assume that native speakers of a language will have a similar understanding of the meaning of a word in their own language?
- have I the 'right' to make decisions on what I think is being said in another language without the need to consult a 'native' speaker?
- in which language should I speak with the interlocutors during interviews? I chose for a number of reasons their mother tongue
- at what points should I involve a native Spanish speaker in the research? Funding limited their involvement, but their involvement at particular points raised a further question, that of assuming that reliance on a native Spanish speaker will solve multilingual issues in the research project- in fact it raised further questions
- differences in linguistic structures within the languages meant that different approaches needed to be taken to achieve the same results in the data collected in Spanish and in English

Speaking both languages relatively fluently gave me a very helpful insight into doing research multilingually, however, it did not always eliminate problems. It simply raised different questions such as:

- what do we do with the insight from another language speaker if it doesn't appear to match the research design?
- on what basis do we decide to make use of speakers of different languages?

In this paper I would like to explore these themes and related questions further.