



Career Bilingualism

More and more companies need graduates of the hard and applied sciences. As students, these new scientists and engineers received technical training in their disciplines but not preparation for careers in industry.

Career bilingualism is the key to success in business for anyone with a science or engineering background. Along with speaking “technical,” these new hires need to speak the language of those who will help foster their career development: managers.

Being monolingual, or able to speak only one language, is a liability to anyone who seeks mobility. Just as a true bilingual enjoys twice as many opportunities for work, travel, and connection as a monolingual, the career bilingual is more likely to move either up or off the technical ladder. He or she is seen as a member of the technical and corporate communities and has credibility with both.

Technical people in industry must be fluent in both technical and corporate communication to advance. But they must also be career bicultural and know when and how to switch.

The good news is that, unlike with real languages, career bilingualism and biculturalism can be gained in days—that is with the proper training.

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