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**Bilingual clients and their trilingual interpreters.**

Most people in the world know at least two languages. When acquiring English, migrants to Australia are often adding a third or further language to their repertoire. This paper examines scenarios beyond the stereotypical monolingual client serviced by a bilingual interpreter and focuses on bilingual (or multilingual) migrants who have acquired languages at different stages in their lives, in different circumstances and surrounds, to different levels of proficiency. Often, interpreters who service such clients have similar, bi- (or multi-)lingual personal backgrounds. When clients realise this, they can, in some circumstances switch languages. For example, Bosnians who have spent years in Germany before coming to Australia may switch to German if they realise that their interpreter has also spent time in Germany and speaks German. Similarly, Lebanese Arabic-speakers may switch to French, Pushtu-speakers to Persian, Tigre-speakers to Tigrinya if they know their interpreters also have proficiency in these languages. This paper examines the dynamics and ethical implications of clients who change languages and how interpreters negotiate this change.