



# **Bilingual Teaching at Vocational Schools in the Canton of Zurich**

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# **Office for Foreign Languages, Zurich**

- Manages school development projects in the field of foreign language education
- Organises further education courses for foreign language teachers
- Provides schools and teachers with information and supports them in questions regarding foreign language education
- Produces handbooks, brochures, films
- Runs platforms on foreign language issues
- Evaluates foreign language education projects



# The Bili Project (CLIL)

## Beginning

- Pilot project bi.li (1999-2004)
- Implementation bili (2006-2011)

## Aim

- Clarify benefit and success of bili
- Deliver basic concept for decision about continuation



# The Project in 2010

- 10 vocational schools out of 21 in the Canton of Zurich
- bili subjects: general education, maths, IT, biology, economics, job-related subjects
- 1172 apprentices/vocational trainees
- 71 classes
- 35 teachers
- Between 1% and 9% per school



# Evaluation

## Interviewees

- Apprentices/vocational trainees, teachers, principals, persons responsible for continuing education, Office for Foreign Languages, Zurich

## Methods

- Questionnaires with closed and open questions, tests and self-evaluation (English), comparison of marks, interviews, conversations, observations, classification of documents

## Participants

- 22 teachers (66% of all bili teachers)
- 133 apprentices/vocational trainees of the control group
- 390 apprentices/vocational trainees of the experimental group



# Some results

## Teachers

„Subject matters are just as well understood as in the native language“:

95.4% agree completely or just agree

## Principals

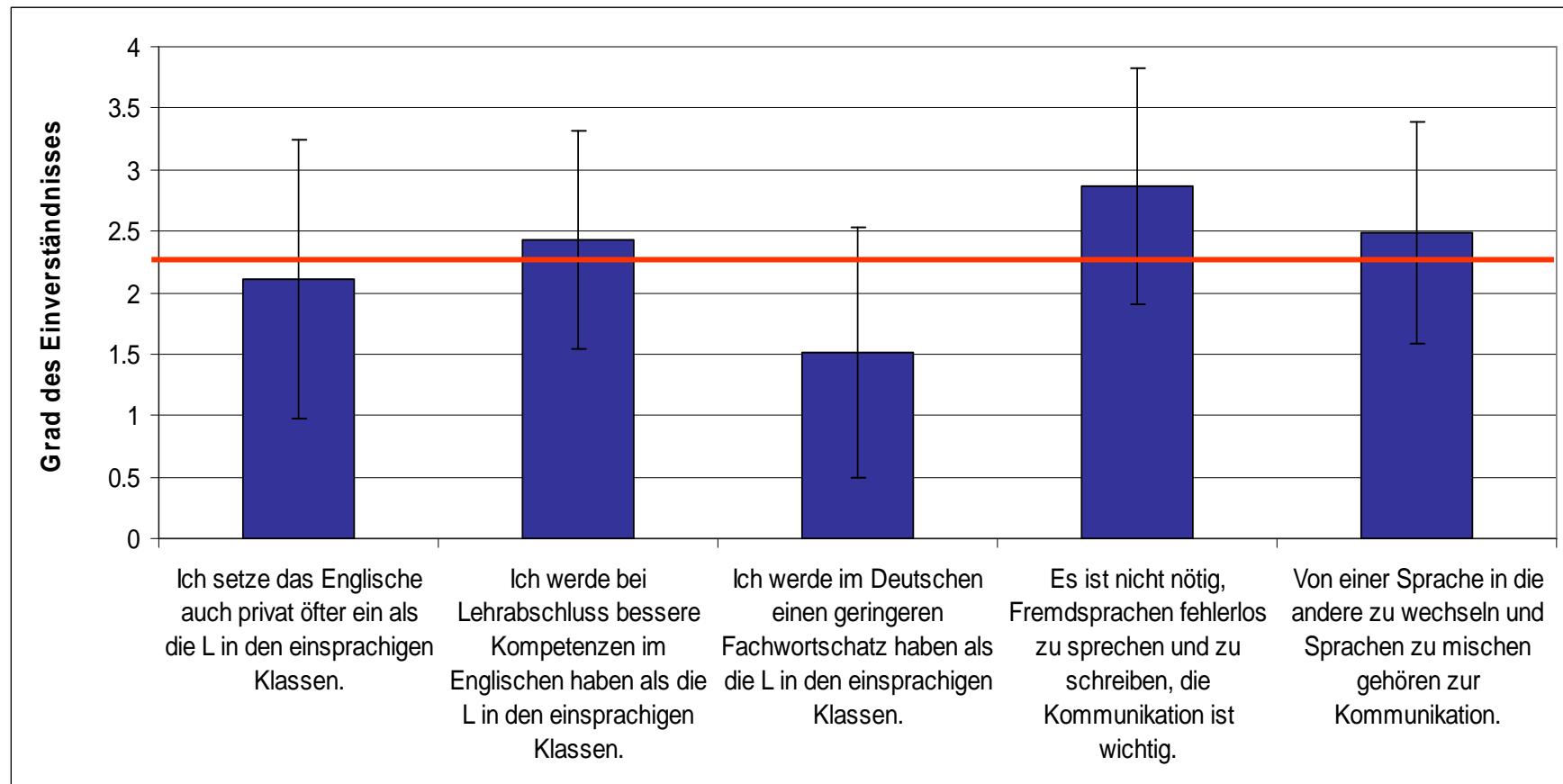
No difference in performance of students

## Final marks

No difference between experimental and control classes



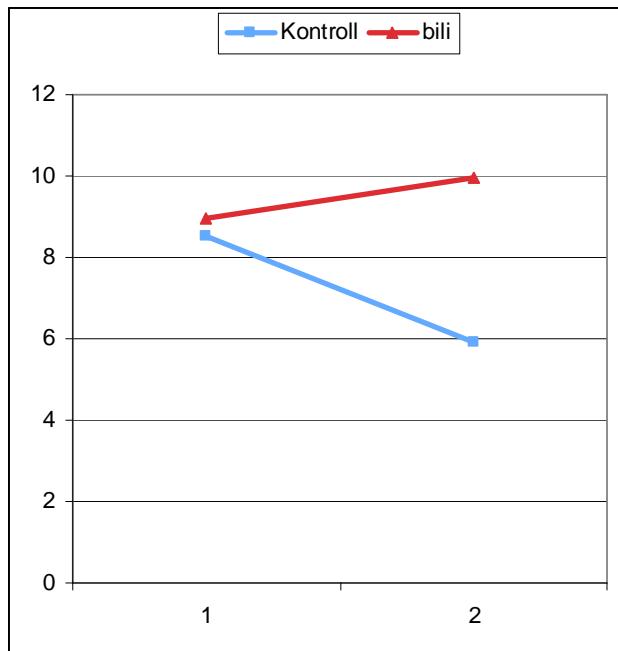
# bili consequences for learners: fluency before accuracy



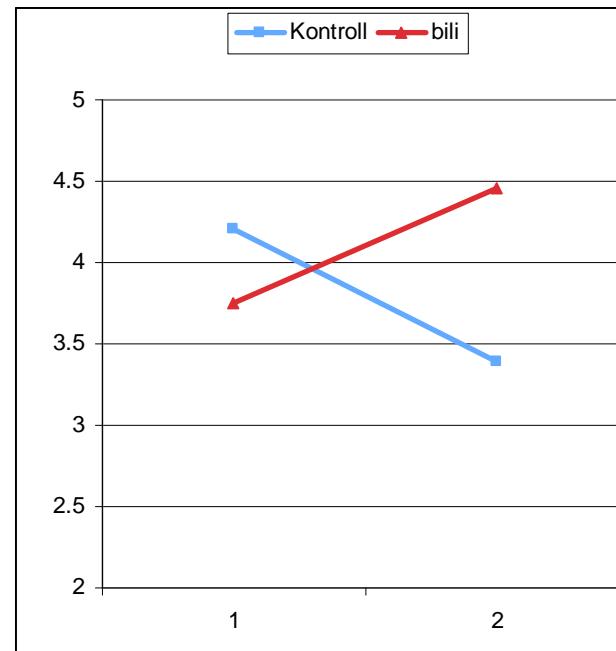


# Level of English

C-Test 3



WS 8





# Teachers' Qualifications

- English level: C1 or higher (One teacher B2)
- Language stays
- Methodological-didactical education for bilingual teaching
- Average of foreign languages per teacher: ~ three



# Recommendations

- Consolidate bili at schools already participating
- Expand in all schools
- Think about other possible languages
- More visibility for bili (internet, press, public)
- Promote teacher's education (gain younger teachers)



# **Further Development**

## **Bildungsrat (Advisory Council of Education)**

Debate May 2011: general introduction of bili agreed on

## **Regierungsrat (Senior Civil Servant Board)**

Act August 2011: Financial support for 5 years

## **Mobility**

Language stays/ exchanges

## **General Implementation**

possible for all vocational schools in the Canton of Zurich



Bili is fun, bili is interesting,  
bili is challenging. Try it!

Larissa, Kauffrau