How Caregivers Connect and Care for the Multilingual Older Adult with Dementia

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Objectives

Name	Define	Identify
• at least two challenges in healthcare associated with caring for people who have dementia and speak another language.	• at least two themes based on the research findings	• how language and culture affect communication

I have no conflict of interest to declare

Background

▶ Older adult population should double from 40.2 million to 88.5 million by 2050 (US Census, 2011).

▶ 5.7 million Americans are living with Alzheimer's Dementia (Alzheimer's Association, 2018).

Picture retrieved online from:
http://www.nytimes.com/2009/08/31/us/31elder.html?pagewanted=all&_r=0

Background Continued

" 5.3 million people over 65 speak a language other than English according to the American community survey in a report published in 2010 (Ortman, Velkoff & Hogan, 2014).

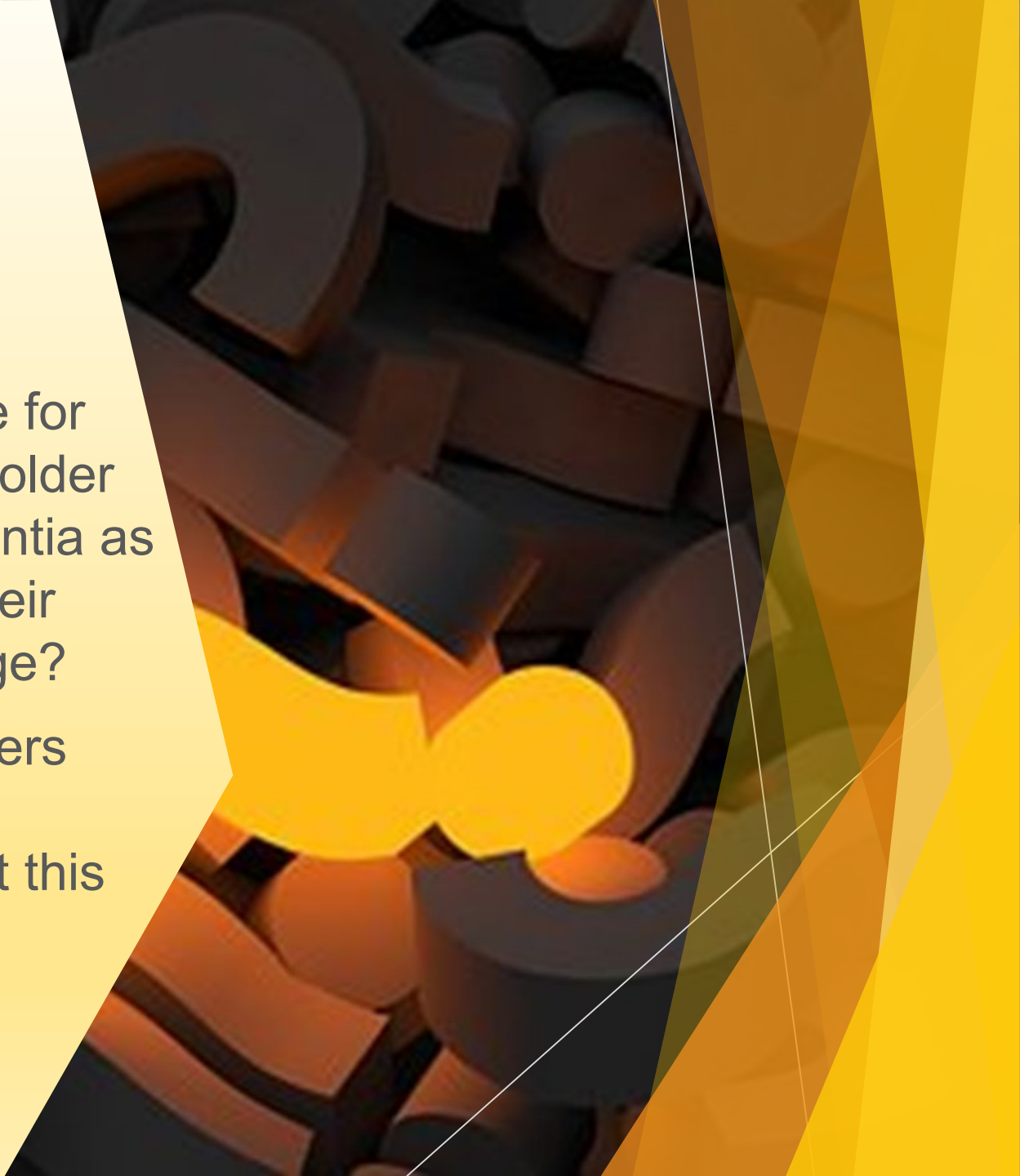350 Languages spoken in the US according to the US Census Bureau as of 2015

How does Dementia affect Bilingual and Multilingual adults?

▶ Multilingual adults with dementia usually revert to their primary language (McMurtray, 2009, Hyltenstam & Viberg, 1993)

Essential Questions...

▶ How do we care for the multilingual older adult with dementia as they revert to their primary language?

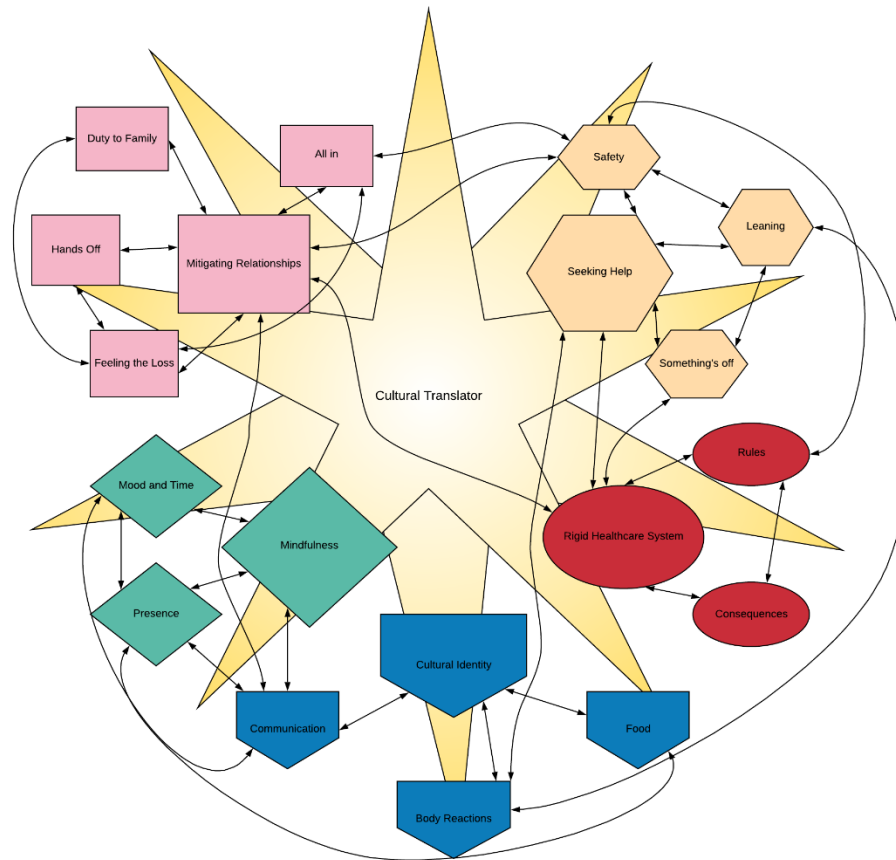▶ How do caregivers both formal and informal support this population?

Dissertation Work and Study Aims

- ▶ Understand how caregivers communicate with the multilingual older adult.

- ▶ Understand how caregivers interpret the actions and expressions of the Multilingual older adult care recipient.

- ▶ 14 participants with languages represented: Italian, Greek, Creole, Japanese, Jamaican Patois

Overview of Findings

- Six major themes
  - Rigid Healthcare system- Rules
  - Mitigating Relationships- negotiating and managing
  - Seeking help- finding and locating resources and support
  - Presence
  - Cultural identify
  - Cultural Translator

Model of Cultural Translation in Healthcare

1. What is Presence?

Healthcare provider

- making the connection with the person
- sensing the person's mood
- in the moment   (Roche-Dean,2018)

The family

- meeting them where they are provides an opportunity to get a glimpse of the person they cared for
- understand their lives in a different timeframe

1. Presence

"She's in a different time zone, where-- It's a much slower pace. I have the time to gather my thoughts and my words and communicate better with her. It's not quick… She controls her time and how it works around her." Addison

(Roche-Dean, 2018)

2. Cultural Identity

▶ *"She loves her pasta…*

I could see her appetite starting to fade a little bit in the evening. If I have pasta, she always eats the pasta." Nico

2. Cultural Identity

▶ "Language does not exist apart from culture" (Sapir, 2004)

▶ Culture influenced by society

▶ Culture influences how we communicate using language

▶ Culture evolves

(Tavassor & Chin, 2018)

3. Cultural Translator's Role

▶ Analyze, interpret, explain, educate, contextualize

▶ Bedecker and Fainauer's (2006) suggest that "translators today need to be aware of the importance of their role as cultural mediators in order to produce texts that function as communicative instruments in the target cultures," (p. 133).

▶ The cultural translator becomes an intermediary communicator between the multilingual older adult with dementia and the staff within the healthcare system (Roche-Dean, 2018)

3.Cultural Translator

"if you don't have the cultural translation, its perceived differently… So maybe to translate behaviors and levels of comfort based on their culture and upbringing, especially when they have mental issues because they'll go back to the beginning." River

(Roche-Dean, 2018)

How do caregivers connect and care?

▶ They educate

▶ They are present

▶ They interpret

▶ They meet the person where they are

▶ They pay attention to mood and body language (Roche-Dean,2018)

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Questions?

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