## Abstract

The exploration of bilingual language processing in children is relatively recent. Early research on bilingual children indicated that a child acquires a second language (L2) after learning their first language (L1). The language processing system of their first language (L1) is a foundation for their second language (L2). During this process, both languages have shared architectural and functional components. Research indicates that language production delays in adult bilinguals are often associated with lexical or semantic (concept) competition between L1 and L2. However, little is known about the role of semantic structures and how they interact with other language processing units, leading to a receptive-expressive gap in bilingual children. This implies bilingual children experience more difficulty during language production than in language comprehension. The gap is more often found in L2 than in L1, which can be attributed to their level of proficiency in L2. Considering India's rich cultural and linguistic diversity, exploring the factors contributing to second language processing is essential. It is necessary to empirically examine with a cognitive science approach to understand the fundamental principles behind the functioning of Indian bilingual children. There is no significant work on questions such as these: How do children resolve conflict arising from the shared semantic unit(s)? How does it contribute to developmental language disorders? Does the presence of proficient bilingual speakers help reduce the receptive-expressive gap? I will address some of these issues in my talk.

## **Speaker Bionote**

Dr. V. Keerthana Kapiley is a National Post-Doctoral Fellow (DST-CSRI) at the Language and Cognition Lab under the mentorship of Professor Prakash Mondal, IIT Hyderabad. Her areas of interest lie in the investigation of the cognitive faculties involved during bilingual language use in a social communicative context. She currently explores semantic processes in bilingual children and how transient cognitive systems synergise.