With this book, change has come to foreign language teaching. The mother tongue taboo, which has been the perceived didactical correctness for so many years and in so many countries, is swept away. At the same time, this book combines theory with practice, advice and guidance to teachers. Since the mother tongue issue touches upon all the major domains of teaching – vocabulary, grammar, texts, communication, emotional aspects – a new synthesis of theory and practice has been developed. An invaluable resource both for the novelty and diversity of the teaching techniques presented and for the clarity of its writing.

The book benefits from the authors’ more than thirty-year-long research and teaching involvement with the role of the mother tongue in foreign language teaching and their involved observation of the functioning of natural bilingualism.