—Well, before beginning, I will first risk two propositions. They will also appear incompossible. Not only contradictory in themselves, this time, but also contradictory between themselves. They each take the form of a law. You will call the relationship of antagonism that these two laws maintain each time between themselves an antinomy, if you like that word of which I am fond.

—Very well, So what might these two propositions be? I am listening,

—Here they are:

1. We only ever speak one language.
2. We never speak only one language.

The second proposition approaches the meaning of what my friend Khatibi clearly sets forth in the Introduction to a work on bilingualism, at the moment of defining in sum [ensomme] a problematic and a program. I therefore call him to my aid:

If (as we are saying along with others, and after them) there is no such thing as the language, if there is no such thing as absolute monolingualism, one still has to define what a mother tongue is in its active division, and what is transplanted between this language and the one