



— Well, before beginning, I will first risk two propositions. They will also appear impossible. 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 [*en somme*] 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