

LIGN177: Multilingualism

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Language planning - Europe

Language planning: focus on Europe

- Celtic languages
 - Welsh, Irish, Scottish
- France
- Immigrant languages

European Union

European Union Member States



European Union

- 500 million citizens, 27 Member States, 3 alphabets
- 23 EU official languages
- 60 other EU languages spoken in specific regions or by specific groups.
- 175 nationalities through immigration are now present within the EU's borders

Multilingualism policy

- Encourage linguistic diversity
- Multilingual objective – mother tongue + 2 other languages for every citizen
- Promote 'lifelong learning' of languages
- Protect and promote regional and minority languages (immigrant languages are not covered)
- 'Article 22 of the European Charter of Fundamental Rights states, "The Union respects cultural, religious and linguistic diversity".'

Celtic languages

- Welsh, Irish Gaelic, Scots Gaelic, Breton
- Manx and Cornish are extinct



Irish Gaelic

- Gaeltacht – areas where Irish is still spoken as a native language
- Irish is spoken by many people as a second language learned in school



Irish in Ireland

- Centuries of colonization by the English shrunk the Irish-speaking areas down to the rural west
- English use increased due to
 - (1) use in Church (1795)
 - (2) use in schools (Education Act of 1831)
 - (3) the Great Famine (1846-48)
- Independence gained in 1922, Irish declared national language in 1939
- Today Irish English dominates
- Huge economic boom coinciding with resurgence of Irish language schools

Use of Irish

- 2006 census: approx. 1.6 million speakers (1st and 2nd language)
- 485,000 of them use the language in educational contexts only
- 53,000 (3.2%) speak Irish on a daily basis outside the educational context
- Highest proportion of speakers in the age groups of 10-14 and 15-19, i.e. school-going population

Irish in Northern Ireland

- Irish became official in Northern Ireland in 1998
- Must be protected by U.K. under European Union charters
- Radio BBC in Irish
- Irish language schools thriving in Belfast and other areas

Welsh - milestones

- The Welsh Language Act of 1967
- Establishment of The Welsh Language Council in 1977
- Education Act in 1988
- Spread of bilingual education at primary and secondary school level
- Foundation of a Welsh television service (*Sianel Pedwar Cymru*) in 1982

Welsh- number of speakers

	1921	1931	1951	1961	1971	1981	1991
% of all persons speaking Welsh	37.1	36.8	28.9	26.0	20.8	18.9	18.7
% of all persons speaking Welsh only	6.3	4.0	1.7	1.0	1.3	0.8	

Welsh speakers by age

Age group	Sample size	Welsh speakers (as % of population, N)	Mother tongue speakers (as % of all Welsh-speakers)
3-15	5,094	32.4 (157)	27.0
16-29	4,809	17.8 (92)	48.9
30-44	5,741	16.7 (97)	60.8
45-65	6,674	18.7 (124)	70.7
65+	5,335	24.2 (120)	79.3

(Welsh Office 1992)

Welsh

- positive attitude towards bilingualism and the use of Welsh
- lack of practical usefulness for bilingualism for the people
- Welsh is regarded as a second language by younger speakers, due to education policies

French language policy

- Post-French Revolution – French (as spoken in Paris region) was only language allowed in schools → symbol of French nation
- Solidified under the 2nd Republic (Napoleon) and the 3rd Republic
- 4th Republic (1950 →) – other languages tolerated

French language policy

- French language policy: French is the only official language (put in constitution in 1992) and the mandated language in workplace
- France has not ratified *The European Charter for Regional or Minority Languages*, but has recognized minority languages in the constitution (in 2008) as being part of French heritage
- *Jacque Chirac (former French president) declared that it would affect "the indivisibility of the Republic," "equality in front of the Law" and "the unity of the French people,"*

Breton

- 200,000 people still speak it today, but this is down from 1.3 million in the 1930s
- Most are over 60 years old, and few under 18 speak Breton
- Breton speakers suffered banning of their language
- Today sign laws require French as well as Breton, and public schools cannot use Breton

Non-indigenous minorities

- Different kinds of non-indigenous minority languages:
- Guest workers – common in Germany, Netherlands (< Turkey)
- Refugees – common in Greece, Italy, Sweden, U.K., Netherlands (< Asia, Africa)
 - Status and accommodation differs

Non-indigenous minorities

- Immigrants – common throughout western Europe
 - France < Africa, Caribbean, Asia
 - U.K. < Caribbean, Africa (post-colonial), South Asia, Hong Kong
 - Spain < Africa
- Internal EU migrants
 - – Eastern European → western Europe

Three models of language instruction

- Little accommodation to immigrant languages – *France, U.K.*
- Some language instruction – *Germany, Netherlands, Belgium*
 - Designed for guest workers who will return home
 - Reinforced separation between workers and natives
- Bilingual education – *Sweden*
 - Funding for multiple languages

Europe

- Countries vary in their approach to both indigenous minority languages and immigrant languages
- Immigrants to Europe fit uneasily into countries where immigration is recent phenomenon
- Policy of EU is towards multilingualism, but policies and treaties are not ratified by all members and cannot change societal attitudes