



Newsletter of the OEP N°73 (March-April 2018)

<http://www.observatoireplurilinguisme.eu>

Plurilinguism in Higher Education – A Conference on Linguistic Policy in Universities and Higher Education Institutions

An Armenian saying goes “As many languages you know, as many times you are a human being.” Charles the Great is attributed a similar idea: “A man who speaks four languages is worth four men.” Such a wise saying could complement the European motto: “United in diversity.”

Kant, in a famous chapter of his *Critique of Judgment*, argued that “to think into the place of others” was a necessary step towards common sense. Tzvetan Todorov, in “Literature in Peril” (a short essay to be read and re-read without moderation), observed that “to think and to feel from the point of view of other people, either real persons or literary characters, is the only way to strive toward universality” (p78).

This is not the most widespread conception of universality but it might contain one of the philosophical tenets of plurilinguism.

It is surprising enough to hear sometimes that English is nowadays what Latin was in the past. It is just like expressing nostalgia for an intellectual order which was entirely dominated by the Church and that prevailed from the time the Roman Empire adopted Christianity (making it a state religion in 370) and lasted until the 18th century. A return to vulgar languages was initiated by Dante (1265-1321), who was the founder of modern Italian just like Luther was the founder of modern German, and reached the domain of sciences with Descartes (his *Discourse on the Method* was initially published in French in 1647) and Galileo Galilei. Descartes himself explained that it was a matter of breaking free from the yoke of conformism while reaching out to a new audience that could not read Latin (and which Latin are we talking about anyway?).

Descartes took the question of communication into account since the *Discourse on the Method* was translated into Latin later on. This might certainly have been an opportunistic decision, a move not to alienate the Church and also a way to address intellectuals who did not speak French. However, he also took into account another dimension of language: when Descartes addressed scholars who thought and wrote in French, he was calling for the development of ideas outside of the Church.

Latin did not die with Descartes or Galileo Galilei. Latin did not die at all, for that matter. Even today, it remains the official language of Vatican and it is still an inexhaustible source of inspiration for our languages which are derived from it to variable degrees...->

Direction et rédaction : Christian Tremblay, Anne Bui

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Dans ce numéro

- Édito - Plurilinguisme et enseignement supérieur : un colloque sur la gouvernance linguistique des universités et établissements d'enseignement supérieur
- Des articles récents à ne pas manquer
- Autres annonces et parutions

-> In the scientific domain, Latin has remained a communication tool in a scientific community both multilingual and plurilingual. Humanities and sciences have therefore been communicated in Latin but not only, and were developed in a variety of languages.

One more difference: while Latin was always central to developing our modern languages, international English, used as a *lingua franca* rather than a cultural language, puts them in jeopardy.

The historic settlement in the case of the Politecnico di Milano

The question remains the same to these days and has been given a new lease of life with the decision by the Italian Council of State in the case of the Politecnico di Milano.

Although European law does exist, there is no European legal order. If there had been one, the decision of the Italian Council of States...->

-> could have been referred for cassation to the European Court of Justice or to the European Court of Human Rights. Such a thing is unlikely to happen. The rector of the Polytechnic Institute of Milan has agreed (with obvious reluctance) with the decision of the Council of State and has not mentioned the eventuality of contesting it. The settlement by the Council of State, which was based on a decision by the Constitutional Court of Italy, is therefore final and conclusive.

Because legal orders are distinct between countries, the double decision of the Italian Court could not be invoked in, say, French or German law. However, these historic decisions have to hold all our attention.

Since the 28th January 2018, any course taught in universities and higher education institutions is illegal and unconstitutional if it is only delivered in English. "International" is now understood by Italian law in terms of at least two languages: a foreign language and Italian. This makes sense on the semantic level, the prefix "inter" suggesting two entities. Let's have a quick look at what the Italian Council of State tells us:

-To begin with, the Italian Council of State acknowledged globalization and the need for internationalization: *"the progressive supranational integration of legal systems and the erosion of national borders as they are entailed by globalization, might certainly infringe, in many ways, on certain functions of the Italian language. Plurilinguism in contemporary society, the use of one particular language in certain domains of human knowledge, the propagation of one or several languages are nowadays phenomena that belong to the essence of the constitutional order and that are placed on the same level as the national language in diverse areas of application."*

-Yet, internationalization is not to be reduced to one single language: *"Globalization should not push the Italian language "into a liminal position: on the contrary internationalization is the very reason why privileging the Italian language is far more than the formal defense of a heritage from the a past, out of touch with change and modernity, but an enduring principle of the constitution and a pivotal element in the transmission of historical identity and of the Republic's legacy as well as the condition for the preservation and improvement of Italian as a cultural asset in its own right.""*

-The Italian Council of State indicates how to respond to these two principles: The goals of internationalization *"must definitely be achieved, but without infringing on the constitutional principle of primacy of the Italian language, equality of access to higher education and academic freedom."*

The Italian Council of State develops extensively this argumentation that is available in its entirety in Italian and French on *the web site of the OEP.*

Comparison with French Law

If a parallel with French law was to be drawn, the decision would appear in perfect agreement with the article 121-3 of the French Education Code which is, in its current version, a transposition of the article 2 of the law on Higher Education and Research passed on the 22th July 2013. According to this article:...->

-> "1. Mastery of French language and knowledge in two other languages are part of the primary goals of education.

2. The language used for teaching, assessments and all sorts of examinations, as well as in Phd and master dissertations in both public and private educational institutions is French. Exceptions could be justified. [...]

In such cases, higher education courses shall not be delivered entirely in a foreign language but only partially. [...]

Foreign students attending foreign language-courses shall benefit from French classes if they cannot demonstrate sufficient proficiency in French. Their command of the French language is part of the graduation assessment.

French-speaking students shall be offered classes in the foreign language in which the course is delivered."

The whole article is available from [this link](#).

Although this text resulted from heated debate in the Parliament, its implementation by the Ministry of Education, Research and Innovation is only partial. Two examples:

-The 2016 annual report on the use of French language mandated by the Ministry of Culture has made public for the first time the results of the implementation of the law. But the statistics do not discriminate courses that are delivered completely in English and courses delivered partially in English.

-On the 14th February, upon the opening of the Conference on Internationalization and Promotion of the French Language and Plurilinguism, Minister Frédérique Vidal praised full-English programs as a showcase for plurilinguism. She saw a positive outcome in the fact that 57% of the students enrolled on programs delivered in English could speak French at the end. Yet, the measure according to which French classes should be delivered to these students to allow them to understand the part of the course delivered in French remains:...->

-> unimplemented in 3 cases out of 4.

If the law were implemented properly it is not 57% but 100% of the students who should master French upon graduating.

Conference on linguistic policy in Universities and Higher Education Institutions

This raises the wider question of linguistic policy in Universities and higher education institutions.

Higher education has a many-faceted role in the domain of languages: enhancing a relationship to the territory, raising awareness to regional languages, training teachers, training non-specialist students. Its role is not limited to the question of the English language, however central it may be. The problem of language in teaching programs has never been the object of a comprehensive reflection, nor does it benefit from an explicit policy. In this domain, implicit and improvisation are key words.

All these problems arise on a backdrop of philosophical interrogations that have been widely discussed for decades. To what extent is conceptualization influenced by language? Is the transmission of knowledge and concepts independent from languages? Can research be developed in one single language? Is creativity possible in another language than the mother language(s)? (Mother language being an "imperfect" phrase, it is used here for want of a better one.) Are there such things as linguistic or cultural ecosystems? Does linguistic hegemony lead to uniformed thought? Etc. When thought about, consciously or not, in a given linguistic universe, these questions may find answers that some people would deem simple. But how should the problems of transfer from one universe to another and across different linguistic universes be dealt with? It is important to know what...->

-> is at stake behind this kind of questions, even when no definitive answers can be found.

This is the reason why the OEP, in a partnership with the Ecole Polytechnique, the Ecole des Ponts-ParisTech, the University Paris-Diderot-Paris VII, the University of Cergy Pontoise, the University of Strasbourg and the Association of the Language Teachers in Higher Education, has organized on the 8th and 9th of November 2018, under the high patronage of the Conférence des Grandes Ecoles and in partnership with the Ministry of Culture, an international conference on the "Linguistic Policy in Universities and Higher Education Institutions." This conference is intended as a continuation of the speech delivered by President's Macron on the 26th of September at the Sorbonne and as a parallel to the ministerial conference on European Higher Education Area (EHEA) scheduled from the 23rd to 25th Mai 2018 in Paris.

Click here to access the web site of the conference



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Des articles à ne pas manquer

L'intercompréhension à la portée de tous - 1er février 2018 (compte rendu et vidéos)

Compte rendu de la réunion du 1er février 2018 à Paris - mairie du 5e arrondissement. Réunion organisée par l'OEP et DLF Bruxelles-Europe (délégation de DLF internationale). L'OEP s'intéresse à l'intercompréhension depuis de nombreuses années, c'est un sujet traité à Paris en 2005, à Berlin en 2009,...[Lire la suite...](#)

	<p style="text-align: center;"><u>La francophonie has been ?</u></p> <p>Un dossier de l'hebdomadaire POLITIS, par Pouria Amirshahi</p> <p>L'espace linguistique français est d'une richesse exceptionnelle. Il mêle, en voix et en écritures, des cultures du Tout-Monde cher à Édouard Glissant. Avec près de 250 millions de locuteurs dans le monde, la langue française reste fertile et d'une étonnante diversité que, nonobstant les efforts récents de certains...</p> <p>Lire la suite...</p>
	<p style="text-align: center;"><u>China's great leap forward in science (The Guardian)</u></p> <p>Chinese investment is paying off with serious advances in biotech, computing and space. Are they edging ahead of the west? by Philip Ball first met Xiaogang Peng in the summer of 1992 at Jilin University in Changchun, in the remote north-east of China, where he was a postgraduate student in the department of chemistry. He told me that his dream was to get a place at a top American lab. Now,...</p> <p>Lire la suite</p>
	<p style="text-align: center;"><u>Encore un jugement qui fera date : le dispositif d'évaluation du personnel d'Alcatel-Lucent invalidé par le Tribunal de Nanterre pour méconnaissance de la loi concernant les langues au travail</u></p> <p>Pour les fédérations syndicales auteures du recours, les documents d'évaluation et la conduite des entretiens en langue anglaise suffisent à rendre inopposable aux salariés tout le dispositif mis en place à la société Alcatel-Lucent International (Nokia) Voici l'extrait du jugement rendu par le TGI de Nanterre le 31 janvier 2018 (N°RG : 17/04685) "L'article L1321 -6 du Code du...</p> <p>Lire la suite</p>
	<p style="text-align: center;"><u>Une langue inconnue sans terme «acheter», ni «vendre» découverte en Malaisie (Le Figaro)</u></p> <p>Le village des jedek est au nord de la Malaisie, près de la Thaïlande. - Crédits photo : Lund University Par Jean-Luc NothiasMis à jour le 19/02/2018 à 10h57 Publié le 15/02/2018 à 11h24Des chercheurs suédois ont découvert ce nouveau langage dans un village malaisien pourtant déjà étudié par des anthropologues. Selon les estimations, elles sont entre 6000 et 7000 sur Terre....</p> <p>Lire la suite</p>
	<p style="text-align: center;"><u>Icelandic language battles threat of 'digital extinction' (The Guardian)</u></p> <p>Iceland's mother tongue and cultural identity is drowning in an online ocean of English. Young Icelanders spend a large part of their lives in an almost entirely English digital world. Photograph: Alamy Unlike most languages, when Icelandic needs a new word it rarely imports one. Instead, enthusiasts coin a new term rooted in the tongue's ancient Norse past: a neologism that looks, sounds and behaves like Icelandic. The Icelandic word for computer, for example, is tölva, a marriage of...</p> <p>Lire la suite</p>
	<p style="text-align: center;"><u>"Déclic langues", projet lauréat du Label européen des langues 2017</u></p> <p>Le programme éducatif Déclic Langues, destiné à développer, dès le plus jeune âge, le goût des langues étrangères chez les enfants, a été lancé à la Ville de Paris par la Circonscription des Affaires Scolaires et de la Petite Enfance des 6e et 14e arrondissements, en septembre 2014. À l'échelle de trente-six écoles maternelles et élémentaires, ce dispositif sollicite toutes...</p> <p>Lire la suite...</p>



"Bilingual kids : garde d'enfants à domicile en langue étrangère", projet lauréat du label européen des langues

Résumé du projet Bilingual Kids est une entreprise toulousaine qui propose depuis 2012 la garde d'enfants en langue étrangère et des cours de langues pour enfants et adolescents, « en immersion », c'est-à-dire entièrement en langue étrangère et « à domicile ». L'objectif est de donner l'occasion aux enfants, dès l'âge de trois ans, de découvrir une langue étrangère de...

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Por que todo mundo não fala a mesma língua?

Muitas das línguas que você sabe que existem vieram de uma raiz comum. Porque as línguas foram surgindo nas várias regiões do mundo de forma independente. Algumas têm a mesma origem, como o hindu, o sueco, o inglês e o português. Eles vieram de uma grande língua comum, chamada proto-indo-europeu, que há milhares de anos era falada na Ásia. Esse...

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No, non or nein? The other Brussels Brexit battle (Financial Time)

Philip Stephens 26 January 2018 Paris thinks EU business could be conducted in French again. Never mind the looming collision between Berlin and Paris over Emmanuel Macron's expansive plans for the eurozone. Brexit has triggered a more emotionally charged contest. For France, there is something much more important than money at stake — it's a matter, you could say, of national pride....

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Comment les chiffres (tronqués) minimisent la francophonie à l'étranger

Aperçu des données internationales sur la situation mondiale du français, par Yves Montenay et Christian Tremblay. Dans le débat sur les situations respectives de l'anglais et du français, et de l'avenir de ce dernier, un argument fréquent est que le français est en voie de disparition et l'anglais déjà universel. Dans de précédents articles j'ai critiqué l'anglicisation...

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Annonces et parutions

L'OEP recherche des traducteurs bénévoles en anglais
Merci d'écrire à contact@observatoireplurilinguisme.eu

Les publications de l'OEP Collection *Plurilinguisme*

[Ecoles, langues et cultures d'enseignement en contexte plurilingue africain](#), coord. Koffi Ganyo Agbefle et Robert Yennah, Bookelis.com, 330 p., 13 €, port non compris, [COMMANDER](#)
[Plurilinguisme, entreprises, économie et société](#), 2018, coord. Christian Tremblay, préf. Claude Truchot, Bookelis.com, 230 p., 13 €, port non compris, [COMMANDER](#)
[Plurilinguisme et éducation](#), 2017, tome 1, coord. Jean-Claude Beacco et Christian Tremblay, Bookelis.com, 217 p., 13€ port non compris [COMMANDER](#)
[Plurilinguisme et éducation](#), 2017, tome 2, coord. Jean-Claude Beacco et Christian Tremblay, Bookelis.com, 222 p., 13€ port non compris [COMMANDER](#)

[Plurilinguisme et créativité scientifique](#), 2017, coord. Pierre Frath et José Carlos Herreras, Thebookedition, 138 p., 12,99 € (papier, port non compris), 5,99 € (numérique), [COMMANDER](#)
[Culture et plurilinguisme \(numérique\)](#), 2017, Bookelis, 4,99 € [COMMANDER](#)
[Plurilinguisme et enseignement du français en Afrique subsaharienne](#), 2017, coord. Koffi Ganyo Agbefle, Bookelis, 282 p., 15 € (papier, port non compris), 4,99 € (numérique) [COMMANDER](#)
[Culture et plurilinguisme](#), 2016, coord. Christian Tremblay, La Völva, 189 p., 14 €, port non compris [COMMANDER](#)
[Plurilinguisme, interculturalité et emploi : Défis pour l'Europe](#), L'Harmattan, 2009, 33,73 € (papier), 27,99 € (numérique) • 408 pages [COMMANDER](#)



Plurilinguisme : Écoles, langues et cultures d'enseignement en Afrique et expériences similaires à l'étranger. Recherches-actions et méthodes.

Comme à ses deux premières éditions, le colloque DELLA 3, co-organisé par le Département de français de l'Université du Ghana, l'Association LEM-ITALIA et l'Observatoire Européen du Plurilinguisme (OEP), ambitionne de rassembler le monde des chercheurs des 4 coins du monde à l'University of Ghana, Legon, pour trois jours d'échanges, de débats, d'actions en vue de faire avancer la science.

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Séminaire Paris Denis Diderot/OEP "Politiques linguistiques et plurilinguisme" (2017-2018)

Année universitaire 2017-2018 Séminaire de recherche Politiques linguistiques et plurilinguisme L'université Paris Diderot-Paris 7 et l'Observatoire européen du plurilinguisme organisent durant l'année universitaire 2017-2018, et avec le soutien de la Délégation générale à la langue française et aux langues de France (Ministère de la Culture), un séminaire de recherche...

[Lire la suite...](#)

The Multilingual Citizen - Towards a Politics of Language for Agency and Change

Edited by: Lisa Lim, Christopher Stroud, Lionel Wee Multilingual Matters. In this ground-breaking collection of essays, the editors and authors develop the idea of Linguistic Citizenship. This notion highlights the importance of practices whereby vulnerable speakers themselves exercise control over their languages, and draws attention to the ways in which...

[Lire la suite](#)

Appel à contributions pour le n° 1/2019 des Langues Modernes : « L'approche intermédiaire en enseignement-apprentissage des langues vivantes »

Date limite de soumission des propositions le 8 avril 2018.

[Voir l'appel à contributions sur le site de l'APLV... >>>>](#)

Palimpsestes : « génétique de la traduction » – Appel à contribution

« La revue Palimpsestes souhaite consacrer un numéro spécial – coordonné par Patrick Hersant – à la génétique de la traduction (brouillons de traducteurs, correspondance avec l'auteur) dans le domaine anglophone — c'est-à-dire que l'anglais sera la langue cible ou la langue source des œuvres littéraires étudiées. Date limite : 1er mai 2018 Cliquer ici...

[Lire la suite...](#)

Call for papers: Understanding multilingualism

Call deadline: 30 April 2018

[Understanding Multilingualism](#)

	<p>Zrozumieć wielojęzyczność Mehrsprachigkeit verstehen Понять многоязычие Capire la multilinguàlità</p>
	<p>Petición de contribuciones: I Congreso Internacional "Traducción y sostenibilidad cultural" Entidad organizadora: Departamento de Traducción e Interpretación (Universidad de Salamanca) URL: http://traduccionysostenibilidad.fundacionusal.es/ Lugar de celebración: Salamanca, España Fecha de inicio: 28 de noviembre de 2018 Fecha de finalización: 30 de noviembre de 2018 Circular N°: 1 Contacto: Congreso de Traducción Salamanca 2018... Lire la suite...</p>
	<p>CfP: Videographie im Fremdsprachenunterricht. Eine Fachtagung der Kasseler Fremdsprachenlehr- und -lernforschung Stadt: Kassel Frist: 2018-05-13 Beginn: 2018-10-10 Ende: 2018-10-11 Mehr auf Romanistik.de... >>></p>
	<p>Représentations sociales des langues et politiques linguistiques Déterminismes, implications, regards croisés A cura di Giovanni Agresti, Joseph Turi Ce volume rassemble un premier choix de contributions présentées lors du premier Congrès mondial des droits linguistiques. Ce congrès est le fruit d'une convergence entre deux traditions scientifiques : les conférences de l'Académie Internationale de Droit Linguistique de Montréal et les Journées... Lire la suite...</p>
	<p>Publication : Perspectives plurilingues en éducation et formation. Des représentations aux dispositifs Auteur(s) : JEOFFRION Nathalie, NARCY-COMBES Marie-Françoise (dir.) Editeur(s) : Presses universitaires de Rennes Coll. "Des sociétés", 274 pages, 24 € Année d'édition : 2018 (paru en février 2018) Revendiquant une diversité transdisciplinaire, translangagière et spatio-temporelle, cet ouvrage présente une recherche inédite sur la question du « plurilinguisme »... Lire la suite...</p>
	<p>Novedad bibliográfica: Variación lingüística e identidad en el mundo hispanohablante Autor/a: Santos Rovira, José María, ed. Título: <i>Variación lingüística e identidad en el mundo hispanohablante</i> Año de publicación: 2017 Lugar de edición: Lugo Editorial: Axac Descripción en la web de INFOLING... >>>></p>
	<p>Manifeste pour un monde francophone - Comment construire un avenir non standardisé ? (Florian Hurard, L'Harmattan) Préfaciers : Dominique Hoppe, Zachary Richard, Ingo Kolboom De plus en plus parlée, de plus en plus apprise, la langue française connaît une progression constante et rapide. La dynamique est là. Il est urgent pour ne pas dire vital de l'accompagner. Voici un bilan synthétique de ce qu'est la francophonie aujourd'hui, chiffres, freins, leviers. Voici de nombreuses pistes de réflexion et... Lire la suite...</p>

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