



EUROPEAN OBSERVATORY FOR PLURILINGUALISM



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the hidden dimension" (Bucharest 23-24 May 2019)

<http://www.observatoireplurilinguisme.eu>

Editorial – Brexit – The Democratic and Geopolitical challenges of the Official European Languages

Brexit and its possible consequences regarding the official languages of the European Union has already been the subject of many of our communications. The question being far from solved, there remains, that in practice, English is still used so preeminently in the European institutions that, on 20th March 2018, Emmanuel Macron even expressed his surprise in a speech on "An Ambition for the French Language and Plurilingualism."

This question is raised cyclically and time has come to bring together some key ideas around it.

First and foremost, concerning the status of English as official language after Brexit, the worst outcome would be that decisions be taken without any formal decisions by the UE Council.

The controversies which were recorded in the press some months ago are evidence that the situation is extremely unclear. The issue is not to decide whether English will remain the language the most learnt (not spoken) in the world.

An official language is the language used by the legitimate power of a nation to address its citizens. The political power wants to be understood by the people over which it rules and the people needs to understand the decisions and the process behind the decisions that are taken in its name. This is the condition for a population to take part in the process of decision-making, and for democracy to make sense.

It would be paradoxical if the European institutions used predominantly a language that only one percent of the population could understand as well as a mother tongue. This percent is constituted by the Irish and Maltese population. This is what would happen if nothing changes after Brexit.

Of course, some casuists could always solve this moral qualm by arguing that English is used by the Commission and the Council for internal communications only, and that important texts with juridical effects, are written in all the European languages. And indeed, the official journal of the European Union is published in all the languages which have been declared as official languages by the member states. This is often the European Commission's line of argument (less so, since Jean-Claude Juncker is president, although bad habits persist), but such an argument is unacceptable.->

Direction and editing : Christian Tremblay,
Anne Bui

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> What if French, Italian, German, or any other state's administrations published reports and technical preparatory material in Latin, before publishing the final decisions, the laws, in the "vulgar languages" that the official languages of the member states, except English, are about to become? This would be a surrealist jest of democracy. It is however the current situation.

The Europa website might not be a popular place of culture and entertainment, but it is a necessary tool for anyone who wishes to find information about European policies, to take part in projects, to contribute to online consultations, to apply for subsidy or to respond to a call for tender. Yet, about half of what is published on the website is in English, and only in English. Of course,->

-> it may be said that English is the language spoken by most people in Europe. This is obviously wrong. The first language is German, followed by French and Italian. And although, survey report 38% of Europeans who claim that they can have a conversation in English, this is only possible on a basic level. In reality, the percentage of people able to tackle complex issues in English is rather about 7 to 8%. This means that for a non-native English speaker, it is 2, 3, 4, 5 times harder to read English than it is for a native. The argument is therefore invalid and the level of plurilinguism necessary to meet the minimum prerequisite of democracy is not attained.

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Some believe naively that the domination of English in the European institutions follows a natural momentum. They need to be reminded what a strong symbolic values the languages used in institutions have as they are intended to be diffused among the population. This is the reason why, in the 1990s after the fall of the Berlin Wall, under pressure from the United-States, Europe became "America's essential geopolitical bridgehead on the Eurasian continent" (Zbigniew Brzezinski, *The Grand Chessboard*, 1997, chapter 3). The generalization of the use of English in the European institutions was a political act of interference, and a pledge of allegiance. It is over this same decade that the ten countries which had been liberated from the yoke of the Soviet Union made their application, almost simultaneously, to NATO and to the European Union. For these States, the language question was not even raised, since English was imposed to them in the negotiations. At that time, the British Neil Kinnock, as vice-president of the Prodi Commission from 1995 to 2005, was responsible for the administrative reform. Over five years, he caused the number of texts written in English to increase from 48% to 69% (today 83%) while, in the same time, the number of texts written in French dwindled from 37% to 16,5% (today 3,6%).

It is more necessary than ever, that the European nations break free from the burden of the useless dependency to the United States and this emancipation must have linguistic consequences.

Of course, it would be unfair to take away from 5 million Irish citizens the official language that they have been sharing with the United Kingdom from 1974 to 2005, the year when the EU Council acknowledged Irish -already the first national official language in Ireland- as one of the EU's official languages. This must be the only reason to accept that English remain a European official language. And this must be an explicit choice of the Council, not a hushed decision taken behind the back of the citizens. It is nonetheless crucial to respect plurilinguism in the EU's external communication and to rebalance the use of languages in internal communication, without this being a threat to the departments' efficiency.->

-> To sum up:

1/ The European Union's official languages are not the sum of the member states' official languages. In 2005, Irish, which was already recognized in treaties, became one of the EU's official languages. Before that, the linguistic arrangement of the European Union counted one official language per member state, with exceptions for states sharing languages, such as Belgium and Luxembourg.

2/ An official language is first and foremost a language in which the authorities communicate with the citizens.

3/ Malta is not impacted by the problem of English because Maltese has become an official language of the European Union in 2005, and the Maltese language is spoken by all the Maltese people.

4/ However, Ireland is impacted, because the Irish language is only spoken by about a quarter of the Irish population. To demote English from its status of official language would mean denying an official language to 4 million people.

5/ An official language, in addition to its initial utility, has obviously a huge symbolic value and is meant to be shared by an entire population.

6/ Therefore, symbolically, it is fundamental for the EU Council to decide that English is confirmed as an official language on behalf of the majority of Irish for whom English is the only mother tongue, so that they can keep communicating with the European institutions.

7/ It is just as fundamental for the European institutions to send a strong political signal, by finding a new balance in the languages used for external and internal communication, so that English would cease to be the almost exclusive language that it has become. This is at least true if the European countries wished to stop considering themselves as a bridgehead for the American power and to stop serving the United States as vassals.



The OEP is engaged on a long distance, necessary and far-reaching fight. Big and small decisions are equally significant. Our mission is to be present on all those occasions. Let us double our effort together. You can bring human support by getting involved in our action or a material support by subscribing to the OEP or by making a donation.

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Articles not to be missed

	<p>Manifesto en defensa del multilingüismo científico ES/ DE/ IT/ EN/ FR/ PT</p> <p>Le CEIPAC a lancé cette pétition adressée à Silvia Costa, Presidenta de la Comisión Europea de Cultura y Educación, Jerzy Buzek, Presidente de la Comisión Europea de Industria, de la investigación y de la energía, Esther Rodríguez, <i>Esquerra Republicana de Catalunya</i>, España, Lucía Del Río, <i>Esquerra Republicana de Catalunya</i>, España, et Jean-Pierre Bourguignon, Presidente de la European Research Council. José Remesal Rodríguez, Catedrático de Historia Antigua, Universidad de Barcelona. Director del CEIPAC. IP del Proyecto EPNet. Miembro de número de la Real Academia de la Historia. Sus investigaciones han sido publicadas en siete lenguas (Alemán, Catalán, Español, Francés, Inglés, Italiano, Portugués). En catorce países (Alemania, Argentina, Austria, Brasil, España, Estados Unidos de Norteamérica, Francia, Holanda, Hungría, Inglaterra, Israel,...)</p> <p>Lire la suite...</p>
	<p>British 'linguaphobia' has deepened since Brexit vote, say experts</p> <p>The Guardian - Sian Cain - @siancain - Mon 28 May 2018 13.38 BST - Last modified on Mon 28 May 2018 15.01 BST - Photo : A Vote Leave campaign sign in the Derbyshire countryside ahead of the 2016 referendum. Photograph: Mark Richardson/Alamy New research shows teachers reporting that the vote to leave the EU has hardened monolingual attitudes. Britain faces further isolation after Brexit if it doesn't adjust its citizens' attitude towards learning foreign languages, a panel of experts has warned, with Britons becoming increasingly "linguaphobic" in the wake of the EU...</p> <p>Lire la suite...</p>
	<p>As Britain leaves, English on rise in EU — to French horror (Politico)</p> <p>After Brexit, the use of English is likely to be even more common. By Maïa de La Baume - 5/7/18, 4:00 AM CET - Updated 5/8/18, 10:16 AM CET - e-enactment of the battle of Waterloo, June 2015 Emmanuel Dunand/AFP via Getty Images Brexit was supposed to be the French language's chance at a comeback. For a brief moment after the United Kingdom voted to leave the European Union, Francophones in Paris and Brussels allowed themselves to believe that French would regain its historical standing as Europe's language of diplomacy. Instead, perhaps paradoxically, the opposite is taking place....</p> <p>Lire la suite...</p>

	<p>Quand la Commission européenne met la pression pour imposer l'anglais</p> <p>Cela n'a l'air de rien, mais à la Commission européenne, en dépit d'un discours lénifiant sur le plurilinguisme, l'égalité entre les langues officielles et la diversité linguistique, les exemples d'abus caractérisés sont multiples. En voici un (d'autres à venir, mais vous pouvez aussi nous écrire). Il s'agit du rapport 2018 sur l'avenir des régimes de retraite en Europe. Le communiqué de presse est bien sûr dans toutes les langues, mais le rapport lui-même est en anglais seulement. Seuls donc les anglophones sont censés être dignes de prendre connaissance du contenu, le... Lire la suite...</p>
	<p>The English language is the world's Achilles heel (The conversation)</p> <p>English has achieved prime status by becoming the most widely spoken language in the world – if one disregards proficiency – ahead of Mandarin Chinese and Spanish. English is spoken in 101 countries, while Arabic is spoken in 60, French in 51, Chinese in 33, and Spanish in 31. From one small island, English has gone on to acquire lingua franca status in international business, worldwide diplomacy, and science. But the success of English – or indeed any language – as a “universal” language comes with a hefty price, in terms of vulnerability. Problems arise when English is a second... Lire la suite...</p>
	<p>Le Ministre de l'Education Nationale met en place une mission chargée de lui proposer un plan « Langues Vivantes »</p> <p>APLV, lundi 14 mai 2018, BRETON Jean-Luc Le Ministre de l'Education Nationale a confié à Chantal Manes, inspectrice générale d'anglais, et Alex Taylor, journaliste, la mission de lui proposer avant la fin de l'année scolaire un plan pour améliorer les performances des jeunes Français dans le domaine des langues vivantes... Lire la suite...</p>
	<p>You're never too old to become fluent in a foreign language</p> <p>The Conversation, 10 May 2018 by Monika Schmid , Professor of Linguistics, University of Essex A new study on second language learning has recently taken the media by storm. A range of headlines – from the BBC to the Daily Mail and The Guardian – all trumpeted the depressing message that it's impossible to become fluent in a foreign language after around age ten. All of these reports... Lire la suite...</p>
	<p>Un ciclo di trasmissioni dedicato al plurilinguismo</p> <p>Il plurilinguismo va “in Onde”. Sabato 19 maggio comincia la serie di trasmissioni tematiche che fanno parte del progetto LINGUA +, realizzato dall’associazione di promozione sociale e culturale KLARIS con il sostegno della Regione autonoma Friuli-Venezia Giulia e con la collaborazione e il patrocinio di diverse istituzioni e entità pubbliche e private, allo scopo di promuovere... Lire la suite...</p>
	<p>Plurilinguismo sul posto di lavoro è molto diffuso in Svizzera</p> <p>Swissinfo.ch, 03 aprile 2018 - 16:37 In Svizzera circa il 43% delle persone usa sul posto di lavoro due o più lingue regolarmente, ossia almeno una volta alla settimana. L'inglese è la lingua non nazionale più usata professionalmente, con una quota del 32%. Leggere il seguito... >>></p>



Parler une même langue, un véritable atout économique (FERDI)

<https://ideas4development.org/parler-meme-langue-veritable-atout-economique/>
© Gabriel Flores Romero / Flickr cc Fondation pour le développement des études et recherches sur le développement international (FERDI) En novembre 2014, lors du XVe sommet de la Francophonie à Dakar fut adoptée pour la première fois une « stratégie économique pour la Francophonie » soulignant ainsi les...
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Announcements and publications

Les publications de l'OEP Collection Plurilinguisme

Ecole, 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 Völv, 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](#)



Colloque sur la gouvernance linguistique des universités et des établissements d'enseignement supérieur, sous le haut patronage de Monsieur Emmanuel Macron, Président de la République, 8 et 9 novembre 2018.

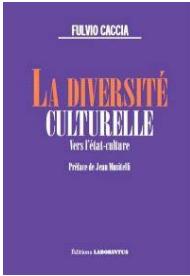
Organisateurs : Observatoire européen du plurilinguisme, École polytechnique, Écoles des Ponts-ParisTech, Universités Paris Diderot-Paris 7, Cergy-Pontoise et Strasbourg, Union des professeurs de langues étrangères des grandes écoles (UPLEGESS).

<https://gluees.observatoireplurilinguisme.eu>

L'espace européen de l'enseignement supérieur (EEES/EHEA), lancé il y a vingt ans par la déclaration commune des ministres français, italien, allemand et anglais, faite à la Sorbonne est d'une grande portée linguistique et culturelle et devrait contribuer à la définition ou à la redéfinition d'une identité européenne dans le monde. Le discours prononcé par le président de la République à la Sorbonne le 26 septembre 2017 a inscrit ce projet dans une perspective globale clairement plurilingue et interculturelle.

[Lire la suite et s'inscrire](#)

	<p>Comité d'initiative de l'OEP – 18 juin 2018 à 17 heures, Mairie du 5e arrondissement de Paris, 21 Place du Panthéon. Invité : Jean-Claude Beacco « L'éducation plurilingue et interculturelle dans les programmes : entrée en douceur ou évolution en profondeur ?» S'inscrire en écrivant à contact@observatoireplurilinguisme.eu</p>
	<p>Colloque international : Désir de langues, subjectivité, rapport au savoir : les langues n'ont-elles pour vocation que d'être utiles ? (14-15 février 2019, Université Paul-Valéry Montpellier 3 - Appel à communication : date limite 1er juillet 2018) Appel à communications pour le colloque international :Désir de langues, subjectivité, rapport au savoir :les langues n'ont-elles pour vocation que d'être utiles ? 14-15 février 2019 organisé par le Laboratoire DIPRALANG – EA-739, Université Paul-Valéry Montpellier 3 ArgumentaireNous souhaitons, à travers ce colloque, réfléchir à la place et à la figure du sujet en... Lire la suite...</p>
	<p>Colloque international Traduire : un engagement politique ? Date limite 30 juin 2018 Appel à communication (date limite 30 juin 2018) Télécharger Colloque internationalTraduire : un engagement politique ? Paris - 30 novembre-1er décembre 2018 La traduction, en tant qu'elle est orientée par un contexte socio-historique, politique et subjectif, n'est pas, n'a jamais été, ne saurait être une opération neutre. Elle implique des choix, un positionnement et un... Lire la suite...</p>
	<p>14e Conférence consacrée aux droits linguistiques, à la jurilinguistique et à la traduction juridique FR/EN/PL Chères et Chers Collègues, nous avons le plaisir de vous inviter au 14e colloque international organisé par l'Institut de Linguistique de l'Université d'Adam Mickiewicz de Poznań (Pologne : www.lingualegis.amu.edu.pl) avec l'Académie internationale de droit linguistique (Canada, Montréal : https://iall-aidl.wixsite.com/iall-aidl), l'Université de... Lire la suite...</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 Nº: 1 Contacto: Congreso de Traducción Salamanca 2018... Lire la suite...</p>
	<p>Figures of Transcontinental Multilingualism, K. Alfons Knauth et Subha Chakraborty Dasgupta (éds.) K. Alfons Knauth, Subha Chakraborty Dasgupta (Eds.) Figures of Transcontinental Multilingualism Reihe: poethik polyglott Bd. 4, 2018, 313 S., 34.90 EUR, 34.90 CHF, br., ISBN 978-3-643-90953-4 This volume investigates outstanding figures and configurations of literary and cultural multilingualism on a transcontinental and on a global scale. Its first focus is on the both subcontinental and...</p>

	Lire la suite...
	<p>Diversité culturelle. Vers l'Etat culture</p> <p>Fulvio Caccia, directeur de l'Observatoire de la diversité culturelle La diversité culturelle. Vers l'État-culture, Editions Laborintus, 2018 Préface de Jean Lusitelli L'expression de la diversité culturelle peut-elle contribuer à redéfinir le vivre-ensemble à l'orée du XXIe siècle ou, au contraire, est-elle le masque avenant de l'ultralibéralisme pour légitimer les inégalités qu'il génère ? A-t-elle pour finalité cachée la liquidation de la civilisation, comme certains le redoutent, ou est-elle l'accomplissement de cette république universelle portée par les humanistes... Lire la suite...</p>
	<p>An Introduction to Multilingualism: Language in a Changing World (Oxford Textbooks in Linguistics)</p> <p>This book offers an introduction to the many facets of multilingualism in a changing world. It begins with an overview of the multiplicity of human languages and their geographic distribution, before moving on to the key question of what multilingualism actually is and what is understood by terms such as 'mother tongue', 'native speaker', and 'speech community'. In the chapters that follow,... Lire la suite...</p>
	<p>Languages after Brexit How the UK Speaks to the World (Ed. Kelly, Michael)</p> <p>This book represents a significant intervention into the debates surrounding Brexit and language policy. It analyses the language capabilities and resources of the United Kingdom in a new, post-referendum climate, in which public hostility towards foreign languages is matched by the necessity of renegotiating and building relationships with the rest of Europe and beyond. The authors scrutinize... Lire la suite...</p>
	<p>Langues et cultures dans l'internationalisation de l'enseignement supérieur au XXIe siècle - (Re)penser les politiques linguistiques : anglais et plurilinguisme</p> <p>Edition Peter Lang, 2018, collections Transversales, ISBN : 978-3-0343-3016-9 Edited By Françoise Le Lièvre, Mathilde Anquetil, Martine Derivry-Plard, Christiane Fäcke and Lisbeth Verstraete-Hansen Malgré les recommandations des institutions de l'Union européenne invitant les Etats à reconnaître la diversité linguistique de leur territoire et à promouvoir l'enseignement des langues... Lire la suite..</p>
	<p>Plurilinguismo: prospettive storiche, critiche, interdisciplinari / Plurilingualism: historical, critical, interdisciplinary perspectives</p> <p>Nous vous signalons la sortie du numéro thématique Plurilinguismo: prospettive storiche, critiche, interdisciplinari / Plurilingualism: historical, critical, interdisciplinary perspectives de la revue <i>Areté: International Journal of Philosophy, Human-and Social Sciences</i> Vous trouverez le sommaire ainsi que l'ensemble des contributions en suivant ces liens :... Lire la suite...</p>
	<p>Multilingua. Journal of Cross-Cultural and Interlanguage Communication 37 / 3 (2018)</p> <p>Multilingua is a refereed academic journal publishing six issues per volume. It has established itself as an international forum for interdisciplinary research on linguistic diversity in social life. The journal is particularly interested in publishing high-quality empirical yet theoretically-grounded research from hitherto neglected sociolinguistic contexts worldwide. Topics Bi- and... Lire la suite...</p>

	<p>Les Langues Modernes n°1/2018 : « Texte littéraire et enseignement des langues : enjeux formatifs »</p> <p>Ce dossier aborde la question de la formation des enseignants de langues à l'usage des textes littéraires dans leurs classes, et celle, connexe, de l'emploi du texte littéraire comme outil de formation auprès de ces mêmes enseignants. Il fait suite au dossier du 4/2018 qui s'interrogeait sur la place du texte littéraire dans les pratiques de classe. Voir le dossier sur le site de... Lire la suite...</p>
	<p>Linguistic Diversity and Social Justice - An Introduction to Applied Sociolinguistics</p> <p>Autor/a: Piller, Ingrid Título: Linguistic Diversity and Social Justice Subtítulo: An Introduction to Applied Sociolinguistics Año de publicación: 2016 Lugar de edición: Oxford Editorial: Oxford University Press Descripción en la web de INFOLING...>>></p>
	<p>Confiance, reliance et apprentissage des langues dans l'enseignement supérieur (Cahiers de l'APLIUT)</p> <p>Vol. 37 N°1 2018 En proposant de travailler sur le thème « Confiance, reliance et apprentissage des langues dans l'enseignement supérieur » Joséphine Rémon et Virginie Privas-Bréauté, coordinatrices de ce numéro 1, volume 37 de Recherche et pratiques pédagogiques en langues de spécialité – Cahiers de l'Apliut (RPPLSP) pour l'association de recherche en didactique de...Lire la suite...</p>
	<p>Giovanni Pascoli — L'impensé la poésie Choix de poèmes (1890-1911) — Procuré, présenté et traduit par Jean-Charles Vegliante</p> <p>Giovanni Pascoli (1855-1912) est l'un des poètes italiens majeurs. Représentant du Décadentisme, fin métricien, ses poèmes sont dominés par la mélancolie. Son enfance endeuillée, sa jeunesse difficile, les aléas de sa carrière ont laissé une trace évidente dans sa poésie raffinée, rêveuse, nostalgique, littéralementhantée par le souvenir du passé et des morts. Jean-Charles...Lire la suite...</p>
	<p>Zeitschrift für Erziehungswissenschaft Vol. 20, n°2, juin 2017: Mehrsprachigkeitsforschung</p> <p>ISSN: 1434-663X (Print) 1862-5215 (Online) MEHRSPRACHIGKEITSFORSCHUNG Editorial, Prof. Dr. Sara Fürstenau, Ingrid Gogolin Stichwort: Mehrsprachigkeitsforschung, Prof. Dr. Drorit Lengyel Assessing the implications of migrant multilingualism for language education, Dr. Gregory J. Poarch Ph.D Zusammenhänge zwischen mehrsprachigen Sprachkompetenzen und Sprachbewusstheit bei...Lire la suite...</p>

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