



European observatory For Plurilingualism

Newsletter of the EOP N°82 (march-april 2020)

<http://www.observatoireplurilinguisme.eu>

Editorial – Can the state of the world change the linguistic order ?

This is a question that one can legitimately ask, even if one does not have the answer. Or rather, it is obvious, the order of languages being part of the state of the world, the question is useless and to affirm it is a truism. But it could be said of everything. So the question is not a good one, we should rather say "how can the state of the world change the order of languages". On that basis, we can tell ourselves that there are very powerful forces at work that explain the state of the world at a given time, and that is what we must try to understand. But in saying this, we have not yet said much, because are these forces inexorable, which makes us sink into absolute determinism, or do they depend on our will, a little or a lot. The question then begins to become interesting.

Let us take demographics, when we improve public health and the living conditions, we increase life expectancy, which increases the population at all ages, because infant mortality has fallen by a ratio of one to ten in 50 years. This is the product of our will. But once the movement has been launched, we must wait for what is known as the "demographic transition" to take place. We can influence it marginally. Conversely, countries that have long since completed their transition, such as the European countries, are affected by rapid ageing, which will accelerate all the more as the population ages. Some are surprised or pretend to be surprised, but they are wrong because demographic developments and especially their consequences can be predicted, decades in advance. Since 1945, France has chosen to promote the compatibility of women's work and family life. Today, France is more resistant to ageing than its European neighbours. Fifty years ago, China decided to drastically curb births. Today, China's population has almost stopped growing, but it has started to age very rapidly and the population will start to decline around 2030 slowly at first and then very rapidly afterwards. Demographics have laws that we need to know more if we want to act on them.

The same goes for global warming. It has been more than fifty years since the scientists identified the phenomenon with near certainty that it is an effect of human activities. Nothing happened for fifty years, before we began to suffer from the effects of widespread pollution and increasing natural disasters. But the machine is running at full speed and it is very difficult to deflect its trajectory.

Languages, too, have a long term horizon. David Graddol, at...- >

Direction and writing : Christian Tremblay,
Anne Bui. Heading illustration : Danielle Rivier

The EOP Newsletter is translated by volunteers in [German](#), [Arabic](#), [Bulgarian](#), [Croatian](#), [Spanish](#), [Greek](#), [Italian](#), [Polish](#), [Portuguese](#), [Romanian](#) and [Russian](#). The texts can be read on-line. Thanks to the translators. You can add other languages. [Contact us](#).

You can also find the previous Letters by clicking [HERE](#)

In this issue

- Edito – A new dictionary on anglicisms
- Articles not to be missed
- Announcements and publications

-> the request of the British Council, had carried out such an exercise for English in two reports in 1997 and 2006, *The future of English* and *English Next*.

How do we explain the rapid disappearance of the languages counted in the world?

In our last editorial, as a complement to the establishment of a New Dictionary of Anglicisms¹, we wondered about the reasons for the pressure of anglicisation that the French language (but also many other languages) is subjected to, the extent and importance of which no one can nowadays deny. Our approach was rather internal and tried to determine the social behaviours that favoured such a penetration of words and expressions that were simply tacked onto the language.

It is a truism to say that the state of the world today is very different from what it was in the seventies.

American domination is not what it used to be. Economically and technologically, China, which was ...->

1 <https://nda.observatoireplurilinguisme.eu/>

-> at the beginning of its economic revolution, is now following hot on the heels of the United States and even surpassing it in 5G mobile phone technology. Russia is not the Soviet Union. Its GDP, depending on how you calculate it, is between that of France and Germany, or is barely higher than that of Spain, between 8 and 20% of that of the United States. Above all its military budget, although it tripled between 2000 and 2016, is still 12% of that of the United States and barely exceeds that of Saudi Arabia. These simple figures alone are enough to fail to take seriously the threat that Russia could pose to Europe. No one is fooled. The demonisation of Russia through Putin has, first and foremost, a strategic interest for the United States: to delay as long as possible the moment when Europe will finally come out of a long sleep. The demonisation of Russia also has the function of making real or supposed dependence pay with a generalised right of espionage, which is a very real reality and which is greatly increased by modern means, this generalised espionage having the objective of giving itself an extremely brutal right of sanction against all those who do not accept the diktat. The thing is clear: the status of Europeans has evolved from that of "vassal" (the word, widely used elsewhere, is under the pen of Zbigniew Brzezinski, international expert and former advisor to Jimmy Carter, who died in 2017) to that of quasi-enemies, which does not prevent efforts to convince them, advice of friends.

Let's now talk about political and social systems.

At the risk of shocking many people, the United States is a very special democracy where one dollar equals one vote, as Nobel Prize winner Joseph Stiglitz put it. It was not like that in the seventies, because election spending was not as astronomical as it is today. While most European countries have passed laws to regulate election spending, in the United States, where legal entities partake as such, like any citizens, of freedom of expression, it is normal, the Supreme Court ruled in its Citizens United decision of January 21, 2010, that large and small companies alike finance election campaigns. The nature of political institutions in the United States today has changed, although this is hardly noticeable in the textbooks on constitutional law and political institutions.

With regard to social systems, the question of setting up a European-style social security system has been debated in every election since the election of Bill Clinton in 1992. We are aware of the meritorious but limited efforts of Barak Obama and the symmetrical efforts of Donald Trump to destroy its effects. But the United States is very far from having a system comparable to the European systems that are a fundamental feature of our societies.

The same could be said of inequalities. Yes, lots of things are not going well in Europe, but inequality has reached such a level in the United States that the average American lives no better today than in the 1970s.

And we say nothing about the environment, violence, firearms regulations, prisons, and endless wars, never victorious. Everything indicates that the United States as a global entity (in detail, that is something else) is moving further and further away from Europe and perhaps even from the world.

The fundamental question is whether this great changeover that is taking place can have linguistic consequences.

A very curious situation: our contemporaries, still in the midst of the "American dream", even though it the latter has been missing for decades in the United States itself, are still looking for the latest linguistic coinage that would come to us from across the Atlantic. They even invent pseudo-works such as developing co-housekeeping (Fr 2, 15 March 2020, 1:47 pm used by a minister) in the context of the health crisis, in the sense of mutualising or sharing childcare at home, whereas « housekeeping » means housecleaning service. Sorry for the anecdote, but it is significant.

We are more attracted by the larding or stuffing of our language than by learning foreign languages. One would think that there is a gap between the attraction for a culture and the reality that prevails. As if language movements were clinging to certain aspects of a culture, often marginal, based on the generally accepted idea that new ideas always come from across the Atlantic.

The idea comes from very far away. Thomas Piketty reminds us or makes us discover in *Capitalism and Ideology*² the historical role played by the American educational advance in the nineteenth century and during most of the twentieth century. At the time, the United States was more than half a century ahead of Europe in terms of universal primary and then secondary schooling, with a corollary of much higher productivity and standard of living than our own. And this lead will later be reflected at university level. Hence the immediate credibility and rapid adoption in the 1950s, in the material, intellectual and moral rubble of the Second World War, of ideas from across the Atlantic, particularly in the fields of education....->

-> Things are changing. We will take full measure of this with the climate issue that will be with us for decades to come, and today, with the health crisis. The United States has ceased to be a beacon for humanity and is perhaps even the model to be avoided at all costs. The time has come to seek within ourselves and in the dialogue with the rest of the world, the resources to overcome the enormous challenges we face. Is the future still American? We have good reasons to doubt it. This is a central question.

Let us talk about values. Let us quote George Steiner who has just died³ :

« There are no 'minor tongues'." Each language contains, articulates and transmits not only a unique load of lived memory, but also an elaborative energy of its future times, a potentiality for tomorrow. The death of a language is irreparable, it diminishes man's possibilities. Nothing poses a more radical threat to Europe - at its roots - than the exponential and detrimental growth of the Anglo-American language and the uniformity of values and world image that this devouring Esperanto brings with it. The computer, the culture of populism and the mass market speak Anglo-American from the nightclubs of Portugal to the shopping malls and fast food outlets of Vladivostok. Europe will surely perish if it does not fight for its languages, local traditions and social autonomies. If it forgets that "God resides in the detail". »

Let's pay attention to the fact that Steiner doesn't talk about English, but about Anglo-American and the values it carries with it, he who loves German, French and English. Learn English without restraint but not only, enjoy American literature but not only. Globish is not English, even if he it looks like it. But inlaying one's language indiscriminately (borrowing is perfectly acceptable, even vital to a certain extent) with so-called English words is not good practice.

Good minds will say that caring for languages is of secondary importance in the present times. Languages go hand in hand with freedom. One can die to preserve them. And we must. It's not secondary or futile. It's about survival.

In 1973, Europe had an inspiration, which soon evaporated.

On 6 November 1973, just as the Yom Kippur War had begun, the nine governments of the European Economic Community issued a joint declaration on the situation in the Middle East. While the United States had proclaimed 1973 the "Year of Europe" and invited the Europeans, as if they had been "kings of the East before the Roman Emperor"⁴ to sign a new Atlantic Charter, the assembled Europeans undertook, on the proposal of the Englishman Edward Heath, with the approval of France, who wrote the first version, the drafting of a declaration on European identity⁵. This declaration was initially intended to be only an internal document with a view to a common response to the American initiative, but in the end, the new Atlantic Charter having fallen through, it was published quietly at the European summit in Copenhagen on 14-15 December 1973.

There followed a long parenthesis that culminated in the invasion of Iraq, which was triggered on the basis of the most considerable state lie (fake news or infox) in the history of mankind, with the approval of all the European governments standing at attention except France and Germany.

It is time to rediscover the inspiration of the Declaration on European Identity, which identity is not a cult, but an idea to be built for the world of tomorrow.

... *The End* ◀

If you think that the OEP is doing good analysis and promoting good ideas, do not hesitate to support it. As announced in Letter 79, from the issue 80, the OEP Letter is only available in full for a modest annual subscription of 5 euros or membership.

THE OEP NEEDS YOU.

[It is time to subscribe to the newsletter or to the EOP](#)

[And to share](#)



3 Georges Steiner, *Une certaine idée de l'Europe*, 2005 (in : « Une certaine idée de l'Europe », Actes Sud, 2005, pages 52-53)

4 Expression of Georges Pompidou

5 <https://www.observatoireplurilinguisme.eu/dossiers-thematiques/international/39-institutions-europeennes-et-internationales/10667-document-d-archives-la-declaration-de-copenhague-sur-l-identite-europeenne-15-decembre-1973-a-relire-absolument-aujourd-hui>

Articles not to be missed



Pandémie du covid19 : Ursula von der Leyen s'adresse à nouveau directement aux Européens

L'essentiel étant d'être compris de tous, nous avons salué sa première intervention en trois langues (français, allemand, anglais). Cette fois-ci elle ajoute l'espagnol,...

[Lire la suite...](#)



C'est ça la francophonie ! Alain Mabanckou, écrivain, né au Congo-Brazzaville, vit à Los Angeles où il enseigne la littérature francophone. Dans cette lettre adressée à la France, il invoque les vertus de la solidarité

Chère France, Je suis loin de toi, pourtant plus que jamais proche de ton cœur en ces temps où le monde doute de lui-même, agressé par un ennemi imperceptible...

[Lire la suite...](#)



Pour sauver l' "Europe des citoyens", la Commission européenne doit impérativement sortir de son "entre-soi" anglophone

Dans une page de la plateforme europa.eu la Commission européenne expose sa politique linguistique. Par chance, cette page est disponible dans toutes les langues. La Commission n'a pas l'habitude de dater ses textes ni leur dernière mise à jour. C'est bien dommage. La seule introduction mérite un commentaire : ...

[Lire la suite...](#)



La présidente de la Commission européenne, Ursula von der Leyen, parle aux européens enfin en trois langues pour annoncer des mesures économiques majeures pour faire face à la crise provoquée par le coronavirus (19 mars 2020). Une première historique...

[Lire la suite...](#)



[Pour les 50 ans de la francophonie, message de Louise Mushikiwabo](#)

<https://www.francophonie.org/> La jeunesse au cœur du 50e anniversaire de la Francophonie Le 20 mars 1970 à Niamey, 21 dirigeants sur les cinq continents ont décidé d'inscrire leur pays dans un mouvement de solidarité internationale en français. Cinquante ans après, en 2020, le pari est réussi : la langue française, ciment de l'Organisation internationale de la Francophonie...

[Lire la suite...](#)



[Und welche Sprache sprichst du? – Eine Empfehlung für institutionelle Mehrsprachigkeit in Kindertagesstätten](#)

kita-fuchs.de, 18.03.20 Die meisten Bildungspläne und -programme der Bundesländer fordern mittlerweile, nicht nur deutsche Sprachentwicklung in den Blick zu nehmen, sondern auch die Familiensprachen der Kinder gezielt in den Kita-Alltag einzubeziehen und wertzuschätzen. Doch es mangelt an zweisprachigen Fachkräften und nur wenige Einrichtungen haben tatsächlich ein mehrsprachiges Konzept....

[Lire la suite...](#)



[Puerto Rico declara el español lengua oficial y relega el inglés a segundo idioma](#)

IPOL, publicado em 19/02/2020 El Senado de Puerto Rico ha aprobado este jueves el proyecto de ley que declara el idioma español primera lengua oficial y relega el inglés a segundo idioma. [Seguir leyendo... >>>>>](#)



[Quelles langues les Singapouriens parlent-ils à l'école ? \(Lepetitjournal.com\)](#)

Avec la Suisse et le Rwanda, Singapour est l'un des trois pays au monde à avoir 4 langues officielles. Les quatre langues coexistent notamment dans le système scolaire : il s'agit de l'anglais, du chinois mandarin, du malais et du tamoul. Mais seules deux sont obligatoires pour les écoliers, à savoir l'anglais et la "langue maternelle", déterminée par le pays d'origine, par exemple, le...

[Lire la suite..](#)



[L'anglais n'éclipsera pas le néerlandais dans l'enseignement supérieur en Flandre \(LaLibre.be\)](#)

par Jacques Hermans - Publié le jeudi 26 mars 2020 à 06h36 - Mis à jour le jeudi 26 mars 2020 à 06h37 Le gouvernement flamand avait envisagé avant Noël, d'augmenter le pourcentage maximum autorisé de cours en anglais dans les filières néerlandophones de bachelier de 18 à 50 % en plus de l'augmentation de la proportion de filières anglophones en bachelier, déjà prévue dans...

[Lire la suite...](#)



[Cómo el primer idioma del niño incluye más que las palabras](#)

Fuente: LovingValencia.com, 2 de marzo de 2020 Este Día Internacional De La Lengua (Feb. 21), los Canadienses celebran su herencia multilingüe mediante el reconocimiento de los usos flexibles de idiomas. Según la UNESCO, "la lengua materna o la lengua materna se refiere a un primer idioma del niño, el lenguaje aprendido en el hogar de los antiguos miembros de la familia." Lingüística...

[Lire la suite...](#)

It is time to [subscribe to the newsletter or to the EOP](#)

And to share



Announcements and publications



« 10 anglicismes par mois pour se remuer les méninges »

[Fake news](#) [Access prime time](#) [Breaking news](#) [Free lance](#) [Hit parade](#) [Le hit Média](#) [Newsletter](#) [Podcast](#) [Prime time](#) [Airbag](#) [Dressing](#) [Garden center](#) [Free lance](#) [Parking](#) [Patchwork](#) [Portable](#) [Poster](#) [Walkman](#) [Weekend](#) [Funboard](#) [Indoor](#) [Rally\(e\)man](#) [Recordman](#) [Rugbyman](#) [Tennisman](#) [Tenniswoman](#) [Windsurf](#) [Yacht\(s\)man](#) [Nominé](#) [Câbleman](#) [Cameraman](#) [Cartoon](#) [Cartooniste](#) [Perchman](#) [Remake](#) [Star](#) [Starlette](#) [Travelling](#) [Burn-out](#) [Businessman](#) [Leader](#) [Leadership](#) [Agressif](#) [Made in](#) [Promotion](#) [Start-up](#) [Tour-opérateur](#) [Accomplissement](#)

Apprende à apprivoiser les anglicismes et à se débarrasser ceux qui ne sont pas bienvenus.

Un projet de site interactif avec appel à souscription.

[Pour en savoir plus](#)

	<p>Colloque OEP-Université de Paris « Traduction automatique et usages sociaux des langues Quelles conséquences sur la diversité linguistique ? » 25 novembre 2020 Lire l'appel à communication Date limite de réponse : 30 avril 2020</p>
	<p>Ce MOOC (pardon CLOM) d'apprentissage du français est déjà un succès mondial</p> <p>Ce MOOC de français de niveau intermédiaire B1/B2, avec plus de 100 000 inscrits le 4 février 2020 est déjà un succès mondial. Conforme aux exigences du Cadre européen de référence pour les langues, il s'inscrit dans le double dispositif "former avec le numérique" et "langue et interculturalité" mis en place par l'Université Paris Saclay. Il s'adresse aux étudiants...</p> <p>Lire la suite...</p>
	<p>Language Learning and Teaching in a Multilingual World</p> <p>Author: Marie-Françoise Narcy-Combes, Jean-Paul Narcy-Combes, Julie McAllister, Malory Leclère, Grégory Miras Multilingual Matters, Series New Perspectives on Language and Education, March 2020, ISBN: 9781788927611 Summary The majority of people around the world live in multilingual societies, and so it follows that plurilingualism should be considered normal. This book proposes a flexible...</p> <p>Lire la suite...</p>
	<p>New book: The Struggle for a Multilingual Future - Youth and Education in Sri Lanka</p> <p>Youth and Education in Sri Lanka Christina P. Davis Oxford Studies in the Anthropology of Language Demonstrates the challenges of promoting peace and interethnic tolerance through multilingual language policies in post-civil war Sri Lanka Explores how power inequalities and ethnic conflict are created and perpetuated in everyday social interactions Advances studies in the ethnography of...Lire la suite...</p>
	<p>"Les Livres ont la parole" : le "Dictionnaire amoureux de la langue française" de Jean-Loup Chiflet</p> <p>Par Bernard Lehut et Capucine Trollion, Crédit Image : Bernard Lehut, Date : 15/03/2020 À partir du 16 mars 2020, c'est la Semaine de la langue française et de la francophonie à laquelle s'associe RTL. Pour l'occasion, rencontre avec l'écrivain et éditeur Jean-Loup Chiflet. Jean-Loup Chiflet est un passionné des mots. Son Dictionnaire amoureux de la langue française vient de...</p> <p>Lire la suite...</p>
	<p>La langue arabe, trésor de France (Jack Lang)</p> <p>Un plaidoyer pour la reconnaissance de l'arabe en tant que langue de culture et plus seulement comme une langue de l'immigration en vue de dépasser les polémiques et les idées reçues. J. Lang encourage son enseignement à l'école, considérant que ce serait une étape d'intégration et d'ouverture, ainsi qu'un moyen de contrôler son apprentissage. Lang, Jack - Le Cherche Midi Date de...</p> <p>Lire la suite...</p>

	<p style="text-align: center;">Traduction et linguistique</p> <p>Les sciences du langage et la traductologie Yusuf Polat (dir.) Le point d'objection concernant la relation entre la traduction et la linguistique a pour origine le fait que l'activité traduisante implique des aspects qui sont au-delà de ses aspects purement linguistiques. En effet, ses aspects culturels, idéologiques, sociaux, économiques, professionnels, etc. la rendent impossible...Lire la suite...</p>
	<p style="text-align: center;">Didactique des langues, plurilinguisme et sciences sociales en Afrique francophone Quelles places à l'interdisciplinarité ? (Collection plurilinguisme, Koffi Ganyo AGBEFLE & Pascal SOME)</p> <p>Le présent volume est le couronnement d'une franche collaboration entre le réseau ACAREF/DELLA et l'Observatoire Européen du Plurilinguisme (OEP) depuis 2016. Vous trouverez donc dans ce volume des articles qui traitent notamment des questions profondes de développement durable de l'Afrique traditionnelle, de la nécessité de sauver/sauvegarder les langues en Afrique, des questions propices...Lire la suite...</p>
	<p style="text-align: center;">Faire sens, faire science, sous la direction d'Astrid Guillaume, Sorbonne Université et Lia Kurts-Wöste, Université Bordeaux Montaigne, France</p> <p>Les sciences de la culture se réaffirment aujourd'hui comme un paradigme important pour permettre une interdisciplinarité exigeante et penser la responsabilité des chercheurs dans leurs activités. Faire sens, faire science démontre la pertinence fédérative de la méthodologie des sciences de la culture et de la sémiotique des cultures, en exploitant les principes critiques,... Lire la suite..</p>
	<p style="text-align: center;">Bilingualism: Language and Cognition Volume 23 - Issue 1 - January 2020</p> <p>Bilingualism: Language and Cognition is an international peer-reviewed journal focusing on bilingualism from a linguistic, psycholinguistic, and neuroscientific perspective. The aims of the journal are to promote research on the bilingual and multilingual person and to encourage debate in the field. Areas covered include: bilingual language competence, bilingual language processing, bilingual... Lire la suite...</p>
<p>It is time to subscribe to the newsletter or to the EOP</p> <p>And to share</p> 	