Building Bridges: Linguistic Duality

Symposium on Research in Official Languages

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Linguistic Duality

- Advancing the equality of status and use of the English and French languages in Canada.

- Second Official Language Learning and Teaching:

  FSL - Core French, French Immersion, Intensive French, Bilingual Programs

  ESL - Regular English, Intensive English Programs

Need for Research

- Policy and Planning

- Teaching and Learning

- Advocacy and Promotion

Recap on Research

- Canadian Modern Language Review
- Studies on French Immersion - 1990's … QC
- National Core French Study - 1990
- Assessment, Technology, Time and Intensity - 1998…
- Special Issue: Intensive French in Canada - 2004
- Plan 2013 -2003 and Strategies for a National Approach in L2 Education - 2004
- Examination of Intensive French Report - 2005

Recap on Research

- Teaching FSL in Canada: Teachers' Perspectives, National Survey and Report - 2006

- OL Research and Dissemination Program - 2005-2007 Virtual Scholar in Residence and projects…

- Special Issue: French Immersion Education, Benefits for All Learners - 2007

- Sources: PCH, OCOL, SSHRC, Stats Can, University Research Centres, Associations (ACLA, ACPI, CASLT)

Past Challenges with Research

- Relevance
- Isolated
- Lack of Long Term Vision and Focus
- Access and Funding Barriers
- Lack of Focus on Impact, Follow Through
- Identified Needs, Gaps Not Addressed

Issues to Consider

- Institutional Barriers
- Changing Demographics
- Timeframes for Research
- Barriers to school based / practical research
- Lacking Networks with broader audiences
- Expertise, Value of Dissemination

Research Themes, Identified Priorities

- Linguistic Duality within a Context of Diversity
- Lifelong Language Learning
- Revitalization of Optimal Learning Methods
- Assessing, Tracking and Recognizing Language Competencies
- Training, Recruitment and Retention of Qualified Teachers
- Language Policy

Linguistic Duality within a Context of Diversity

- Changing demographics
- Relevance of L2 programs
- Intercultural awareness and plurilingualism
- Motivations of the learner, student retention
- Valuing other languages learning, impact on official languages

Lifelong Language Learning

- Language Awareness

- Literacy Development

- Differentiation

- Multiple Learning Pathways

Revitalization of Learning Methods

- Core French Focus: innovative delivery methods, increasing motivation and retention.
- French Immersion Focus: exemplary practices across Canada, recruitment and retention in secondary programs.
- ESL: Time and intensity allocations
- Innovative approaches and multiple pathways to learning.

Recognizing Language Competencies

- Need broader measures of assessment to motivate and recognize learners.
- Framework of Reference for Languages - CEFR
- Language Proficiency Tracking System - ELP
- Recognition / Certificate

Training, Recruitment and Retention of Qualified Teachers

- Clear expectations for linguistic, cultural and methodological competences for teachers.

- Effective and flexible opportunities to support teacher learning throughout their careers.

- Knowledge exchange – facilitation of information and idea exchanges.

Identifying Priorities for Research

- Criteria: Relevance, Audiences, Purposes, Impacts
- Results: Measures of Change, Evidence, Future Orientation, Improvement Focus
- Appropriate Funding Amounts, Timeframes, Recipients
- Consider Mid to Long Term Projects
- Methods to Communicate Priorities

Consider the Relevance

- Community Relevance
- International Relevance
- Relevance for affecting positive change in practices / behaviour and attitudes

Knowledge Centres, Research Networks

- Government Funders – Researchers – Institutions – Users
- Identify experts as research team leaders, establish multi-skill teams, cross-institutions
- Clear roles and responsibilities
- Consider models – e.g., Council of Europe and ECML (Graz, Austria), Centres of Excellence, Health Sciences Networks, Cdn Council on Learning
- Central coordination and staffing, creating an Official Languages Research Network.

Establishing Communication Networks, Dissemination

- Begin by valuing the communication of research and connectivity to public.
- Feature relevance and end use of research results
- Promote exchanges between researchers
- Encourage annual meetings of multi perspectives.
- Consider accessibility, clearinghouse approach.

Dissemination …

- Be inclusive and equitable in consultation networks.
- Effectively communicate existing knowledge and research.
- Effectively popularize research, socially responsive methods
- Encourage mechanisms for monitoring progress, evaluating impacts, reporting, identifying and eliminating barriers.

Importance of Linguistic Duality for Official Languages

- Strengthened bilingual allophone and anglophone majority facilitates participation in and support for French cultural activities and thus encourages the potential growth and vitality of francophone community settings.

- "Rapprochement" opportunities between communities supports and builds on prior learning completed, and recognizes the multiple pathways in developing competencies in French throughout life.