



Multilingual Map of Europe: identity and diversity

First assignment: my multilingual profiles

Professor: Magdalena Wrembel et al.

Course code: AMU1500

Date: 9/3/21

Name: Batsiou Dafni

1) DYNAMIC MODEL OF MULTILINGUALISM

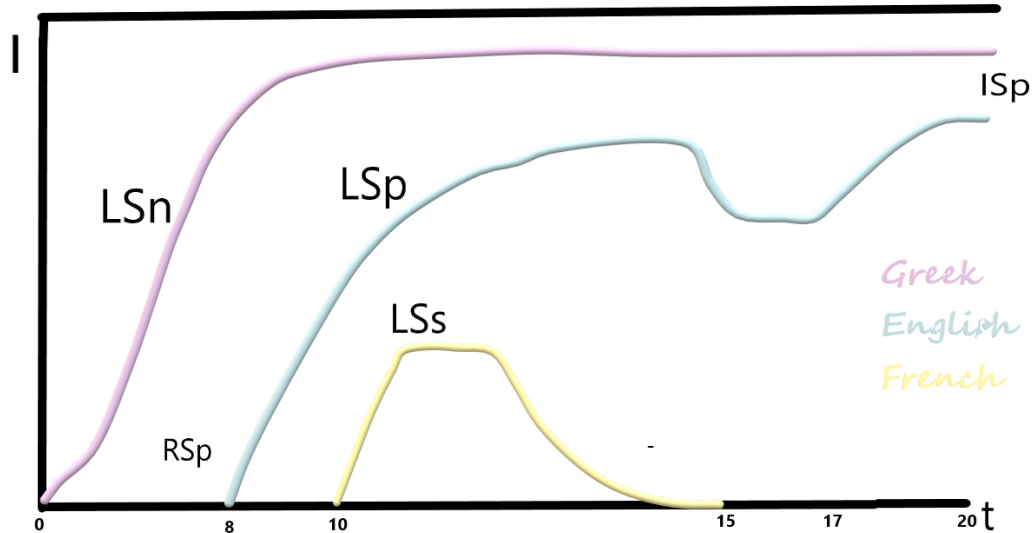


Figure 1: Dynamic model of multilingualism

Notes: LSn= prior language system, LSp= secondary language system, LSt= tertiary language system, ISp= ideal native-speaker proficiency, RSp= rudimentary speaker proficiency, t= time, l= language

My multilingual profile based on the dynamic model of multilingualism (DMM):

LSn: As a prior language, I consider Greek. Greek is my mother tongue, so I made the line begin as early as it could, as it is the language I used since I started speaking. I made the line steady after a point (around 17) because I believe that from 17 until now I have been steady on my Greek, it is not that I do not learn new words but they are not many. So, I think that I have proficiency in the Greek language.

LSp: As a primary foreign language, I consider English. I started learning it since I was 8 years old with a private tutor and then we started learning English at school too. In school they are teaching us basic B2 level English until the last year of high school, a I got the proficiency degree at 15 years old, after the degree I was not using the language or hear it somewhere besides 2 hours in school so I think that that is when my English started to go down a little due to the fact I was not practicing them and as

a consequence, I forgot some things and I made the line go down a little. But the line goes up again, when I started practicing English regularly because of the English exams I needed to pass to go to the university (I had as a second choice of majors the English department). From the age of 17 to 18, I got into the university of my first choice which is psychology but I have to say that all the bibliography, the videos that the professors show us regularly, the articles, the researchers are in English. All that, along with a program I participated in which we had to talk with people from Michigan university, the course my university has in the last semester, but also series and videos I watch every day in English (also when I watch something on another language, I put English and not Greek subtitles and I have my phone in English too). Lastly, I have downloaded an app in which I speak through texts, audios and videocall with people all over the world made my English “grow” again and this time they are better than ever and due to that, I consider myself having proficiency in that language and thus being a late bilingual. By all that, I made the line go up from 17 until 19 and steady at the age of 19-20.

LSs: As a secondary foreign language, I consider French. I started French at the age of 10 at elementary school and I continue in high school until the age of 14. After that, I stopped, I never had proficiency in that language so that is why the line goes to the bottom of the diagram.

2) DOMINANT LANGUAGE CONSTELLATION

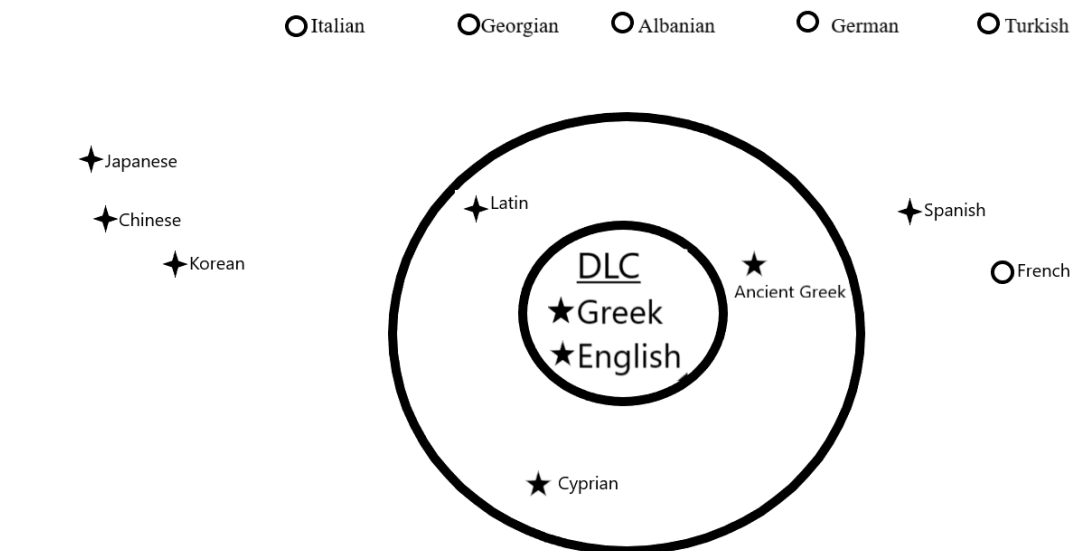


Figure 2: Dominant language constellation

Notes: five-point stars= languages I speak like native or native (proficiency level), four-point stars= languages I am exposed to every day, I understand some things but I speak just a few words, circles= languages I might hear from people near me when I get outside, I do not understand them but I can recognize them and I am familiar with hearing them

My multilingual profile based on dominant language constellation

(DCL):

As for my multilingual profile based on the dominant language constellation, I have placed Greek (my mother tongue) and English (a language I think I speak like a native) in the circle in the middle. As I previously said, Greek is my native language and I believe that at 20 years old (my current age) my Greek is fully involved and that I have proficiency in them. As for English, I think that they are like a native language to me and it is not the fact that I have a degree in them, but the fact that I can communicate and fully understand them. In addition, I practice them every single day by watching series, movies or educating videos that have to do with my major or not, songs (I love English songs, maybe more than Greek ones) and I speak every day with my foreign friends (by texts, audios, video calls) or with other people I meet as I have an app, I am very happy I discovered. Hence, I strongly believe that I have the

qualifications to call myself proficient in that too. So, I consider myself a late bilingual and so in figure 2 I placed these languages there.

In the circle around them, I have placed ancient Greek with a five-point star too. I started learning them at the age of 12 at school until the age of 17 and at the 15-17, I had many more hours because it was one of the four subjects I would give exams to go to college. Besides that, I listen to them from the very start of my age at church. Moreover, I have placed Latin with a four-point star. I learned Latin at school like ancient Greek, but only the last two years in high school, for the entrance exam but not so fluent like ancient Greek. Lastly, in that circle, I have Cyprian with a five-point star as it is very similar to Greek. I hear them almost every day from my Cyprian friends and I can fully understand them. Although, I might not be able to speak them, fully at least. I have to say that, am not very sure if ancient Greek or Cyprian are considered as "languages" but because Latin is considered in the model in the book, I placed them too.

Out of the circle, there are five languages. Spanish is the nearest one due to the fact that I consider it an easy language, I have learned some words from an app (Duolingo) which I use it for some months, and from soap operas or other shows that I have watched in Spanish. Korean, Chinese, and Japanese are also not too far from the circle. That's because I have been watching dramas in that languages from my 17 years old and I think that I can understand some phrases and words, although I cannot speak so much. I watch Korean dramas more often, then Chinese and lastly Japanese that why the distance among them. All that languages are with a four-point star for that reason (i can understand them or maybe speak a little and I am exposed to them frequently but I cannot say that I master them or take exams for a degree in them). French, is near too because I had been learning French for five years in school but not with a tutor. Last but not least, Italian, Georgian, Albanian, German, and Turkish are inside the frame because I know a few words and phrases from people around and I can recognize the languages if I hear them. French and the last five languages are with a little circle since I am familiar with them and I do not hear them for the first time or I might be able to recognize some words or some phrases but I am far from understanding them or even speaking them. They are just languages I am exposed to because of the people that live in my country or of videos I might have watched.