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EOP Newsletter N°51

(September-October 2013)

<http://www.observatoireplurilinguisme.eu>



Editorial – Would the sun get up in the West?

In English-speaking countries, plurilingualism is more and more seen as an important stake in the Western world where monolingualism seen to be the norm. A source of personal development and creativity, plurilingualism is the condition for an openness to the world and protects against a withdrawal into oneself

Some of the actions in which the EOP is strongly committed could let think that the priority is to act defensively against the hegemony of English.

The EOP defends the linguistic diversity and freedom attached to the use of one's own language.

Then plurilingualism aims at the exchange and preferably the authentic exchange that need either to be translated, either to understand the language of the other.

Plurilingualism implies the promotion of languages. It is fundamentally an openness to the world, a world which is multilingual and plurilingual and will stay so.

This inescapable reality starts to shake the most monolingual world there is, that is the Anglophone world.

With neoliberalism, and since the 80's, the Anglophone world has been keeping closing itself, culturally speaking, to the outside world. This infernal mechanism is going on, and can be seen in the numerous closing of foreign language departments in Great-Britain and the United-States as you can read in this [article from the Guardian \(1\)](#). There is the closing of foreign languages department and the slowing down of humanities and social studies in favour of the managerial anti-culture and a cost-effectiveness opening to nothing. [Some are worried \(2\)](#). The [c figures of secondary level](#) are damning, and it seems we have reached the bottom.

Maybe it is the consequence from the feeling that English has become a world language and that the knowledge of other languages and cultures has become superfluous.

It might be the consequence of the feeling that the United-States, a country of immigration, sums up the world on its own. Some are talking about a world nation.

The fact that, besides the war in Iraq, one of the main decisions of [Tony Blair](#), then British Prime Minister, was to make the learning of foreign language optional from the age of 14 on, taking the opposite direction of the European politics which he however approved.

Since, not only the number of students learning modern languages dropped in massive number, but also the language departments are closing massively in the British universities.

Similar evolutions have been seen in the United-States which are the absolute champions in the cultural closing up, if you measure this one to the proportion of foreign novels translated and published in the United-States, which is under [3%](#). In the European countries, this figure would surprise, but it simply explains that cultural openness impacts only a very small marginal group of the American people.

This situation is obviously worrying and voices (3) can be heard today against this situation which is thought to be dangerous for the Americans and the British people themselves.

We regret the lack of ambitions of the education policies of the European countries, where, despite the European exhortations, so little progress for the languages have been done, though>>>>

Direction and redaction:
Christian Tremblay and Astrid Guillaume

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3. [The Real Language Crisis](#) By [Russell A. Berman](#)
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8. [The Multilingual Dividend](#) (by [Andrew Hill](#), [Financial Times](#))

Around the European Day of Languages

Week of foreign cultures in Paris (20-29 Sept. 2013)



One week, forty cultures, forty places and more than sixty event around the Performing Arts

In 2013, Everybody on Stage (Tous en scène!)

The 12th edition of the Week of foreign cultures invites the foreign cultural centres to show the Parisian public various events around the theme of the Performing Arts, on the programme you have drama, concerts, dance, exhibitions, conferences, etc.

The Week of the Foreign Cultures will honour under others events intended for all and the diversity of the activities presented.

[To know more](#)

Wednesday 25 September

Migrating from one language to another?



This day aims at reviewing the current state concerning the languages of immigration and bringing light on practices and representations linked to those languages. It purses a triple ambition: set up the terms for a debate, assert the positive vision of the languages of immigration and reflect on means to value them.

The languages of immigration are a contribution to the cultural diversity characteristic of France, today but also in the past, since our country welcome foreign people.

The use of many of them has diminished with time and as the concerned people integrated our country. Other, on the contrary, mostly linked to a more recent migration phenomena, is still present. In 2008, about half of the immigrant children were given another language from their parents during their childhood in addition to French, 10% of these children speak only the other language.

[To know more](#)

« What do our languages tell? »

Writer, playwrights, film makers, translators will debate around questions such as: what do our languages tell us about us, about the world? How do languages shape our way of thinking, of behaving? Are there things you can express in one language and not another one?

Friday 27 September 2013 from 18h30 to 20h30

Carrefour des Associations Parisiennes 181, av Daumesnil, Paris 12^e

Free entry, please register at contact@cafebilingue.com More information on www.cafebilingue.com

[To know more](#)



Wednesday 16 October

Linguistic diversity and scientific creativity

Study day organised by the Pôle recherche of the EOP in collaboration with the University Paris-Diderot-Paris 7

To differ from the service languages, aimed at controlling the biggest preciseness possible, the limited representations of the real, the cultural languages embrace the whole of the humane experience. Universal each has semantic resources necessary to the development of new form of knowledge. So, when a German-speaking person studies physics in German and a French-speaking person studies mathematics in French, they keep alive the technical language in their respective subjects, they also maintain the contact to their mother tongue, whose lexical richness and metaphorical power stimulate the intellectual creativity and favour the elaboration of unpublished hypothesis. In opening the specialised research to other fields of experience, historical languages play an essential role in the progress of knowledge. When the Anglicisation of university trainings at the time being all over Europe is drying creativity. It is in a service language, the international English, that we will be teaching sciences disconnected from the languages and cultures that gave birth to them in recording states congealed from knowledge, simplified results, recipes to use, which could still be operational at a technical level, but would lose their creative power.

At a time when the European universities are moving towards teaching in English, it is important to pounder on the heritage we will give to the young generations and to denounce the deadlocks into which we might lock ourselves into.

See the programme



Friday 8 November

Plurilingualism and literary creativity: writing between languages

Study day organised by par Olga ANOKHINA (ITEM, CNRS) and François RASTIER (ERTIM)

With the sponsorship the European Observatory on Plurilingualism

The idea of a national literature owes a lot to the nationalisms of the 19th century and its validity is all the more questionable that languages of culture are transnational. They attract writers of every nationality who rival fairly to introduce themselves in their corpuses. With their knowledge of languages as their translations and self-translations, writers are reaching the space of the world literature which they help to spread. These obviousness underlines, incidentally the narrowness of the notion of French literature such as the ambiguities of the Francophone label.

The plurilingualism of writers appear in the genetic files of the works where the multilingual manuscripts are not rare. Moreover, it nourishes the imaginary side of the languages which become a literary subject.

Aimed at creation more than criticism, this study day will conclude with a round table gathering writers; it aims at debating the aesthetics, the linguistics and the science of the work to illustrate the secret plurilingualism in all the literature.

[To know more](#)



Proclaimed as key abilities of the knowledge society, have been registered in some countries, the ability and the ambition to learn languages is limited to some globish. However, things are moving in English-speaking countries, and it is often said that what happens on the other side of the Atlantic arrives a few months later in Europe, even a few years later, we can ask the following question: is the clearing not coming from the Anglophone world, namely the United-States, even in the field of languages? Of course the starting point is not the fear of a linguistic hegemony. But the ideas get together with researches carried out over the last 30 years at European level under the impulse of the European Council.

There are two main sources of thinking. The first one is on the intrinsic advantage of plurilingualism. It does not without saying, as a strong prejudice, which has not fully disappear today, wants bilingualism to be associated to a social downgrading and that it is better to own one's own language before learning a foreign one. This ideology of monolingualism is out-dated though it is omnipresent in attitudes.

On the one hand, the knowledge of modern languages, even at an early age, does not weaken the mother tongue, but reinforces it. The idea of Goethe according which "the person who does know modern languages does not know his/her own mother tongue" has been scientifically proven.

On the other hand, plurilingualism has very positive cognitive and cultural impacts (4 and 5), and in particular are adapted to the world in which we have entered. How do we face the world that is, by definition, plurilingual and multicultural when we ourselves do not have a plurilingual and multicultural background? The all-in-English that is so important in the European education system, should be part of the past; it represents an old-fashioned and out-dated vision of the world; English does not have to be ignored, but English only, especially in its bastardized version of globish is not sufficient and has to be part of a plurilingual and intercultural approach. Teaching languages as merely communication tools, as it is mainly done nowadays, is a pedagogic deadlock (6).

Once those beginnings are set up, the countries whose people do not master foreign languages are in a monolingual cultural plan are putting themselves into a position of economic and political weakness (7) and (8). >>>

10 articles - not to be missed



[L'Ue utilise de plus en plus un anglais... mal compris des anglophones](#)

Les institutions européennes utilisent de plus en plus exclusivement l'anglais comme langue de travail. Mais un rapport publié en mai, qui fait la liste des termes utilisés à tort, pointe surtout l'émergence d'un jargon spécifique à la Commission. ..



[Vers une interprétation plus efficace et économique au Parlement européen](#)

Le Parlement européen observe, notamment que si les services d'interprétation du Parlement ont coûté 157 954 283 EUR pendant la période de trois ans qui s'est terminée fin 2012, une baisse de 17 % ressort de la comparaison des résultats des exercices budgétaires 2010 et 2012, et que ces économies intelligentes réalisées dans les services d'interprétation n'ont pas compromis le principe du multilinguisme...



[Use of languages other than English in the U.S. on the rise: Census](#)

WASHINGTON (Reuters) - The number of people in the United States who speak a language other than English at home has nearly tripled over the past three decades, far outpacing the overall population growth, U.S. data released on Tuesday showed.



[Englisch wird nicht Europas gemeinsame Sprache \(Deutschlandradio Kultur](#)

Wie viel leichter könnte doch vieles sein, wenn jeder Englisch als Fremdsprache lernte und man sich damit weltweit verständigen könnte? Aber was für ein Englisch wäre das dann? Das fragt sich die Dolmetscherin Vivi Bentin. ..



[Éveil aux langues et éducation au plurilinguisme](#)

Sur la base du projet EVLANG de Michel Candelier, une expérience d'Éveil aux langues a été menée dans deux classes de CE1 et CE2 bilingues afin d'observer si des effets étaient observables chez les enfants dans le domaine de l'ouverture à la diversité linguistique et culturelle et la motivation pour l'apprentissage des langues étrangères. ..



[ONU : l'AG réaffirme les principes du multilinguisme](#)

L'Assemblée générale a adopté le 24 juillet 2013 une résolution qui réaffirme les principes du multilinguisme aux Nations Unies, en insistant sur la parité entre les six langues officielles et sur la nécessité d'en assurer un traitement équitable afin de garantir à chaque État membre la possibilité de s'exprimer dans la langue qui lui convient le mieux. ..



[Les langues dans le monde : combien de locuteurs ?](#)

Dénombrer de manière fiable le nombre de locuteurs de chaque langue est une entreprise très difficile pour ne pas dire impossible. Outre les difficultés pratiques de recensement à l'échelle de la planète, les méthodes et la définition même de locuteur posent problème, la première difficulté étant que les cas de plurilinguisme sont bien plus nombreux que ceux de monolingue qui font figure d'exception. Une distinction fondamentale sera donc de distinguer les locuteurs natifs, des locuteurs non natifs qui parlent d'autres langues que leur langue maternelle. C'est la clé d'interprétation la plus importante. ..



[Dans quelle\(s\) langue\(s\) enseigne-t-on dans le monde ?](#)

Cette contribution aborde les langues d'enseignement dans le monde, et s'intéresse plus particulièrement aux langues d'enseignement des matières scientifiques. Ceci pourrait nous éclairer sur la problématique en Algérie. Etant profane en matière de linguistique, mais en ma qualité d'enseignant en sciences dites exactes, la question nécessite donc de fournir, quelques notions basiques récoltées çà et là sur la toile, et gravitant autour de la langue, fonction sociale clé de la communication. ..



[L'arabe, une « langue de France » sacrifiée \(Monde Diplomatique\)](#)

Alors que l'arabe est la deuxième langue la plus parlée en France, son enseignement dans le secondaire perd sans cesse du terrain au profit du secteur associatif. Un basculement qui date des années 1980, quand l'immigration maghrébine a commencé à occuper une part de plus en plus grande de l'espace public et médiatique. Associé depuis à l'islam et aux ghettos, l'arabe parviendra-t-il à modifier son image ?

In the United-Kingdom, the British Council, the British Academy and the British manager organisation have been worried, for a few years, about the situation in which monolingualism was putting young British people in regard to the European youth. In the job market, some young British have difficulties finding job in regard to the young Europeans who master two or three languages. This situation is aimed at developing itself in the future, which means that plurilingualism, and not just the sole knowledge of English is more and more at stake, and this will be all around the world.



[L'Inglese non basta, serve la terza lingua \(?\)](#)

Cara Letizia

Piu' leggo il tuo blog, il sito, i blog bilingue che consigli e tutti i link che vedo sparpagliati qua e la' e piu' mi sto rendendo conto che se voglio fare un ulteriore regalo per la vita alle mie bambine dovrei inserire una terza lingua...

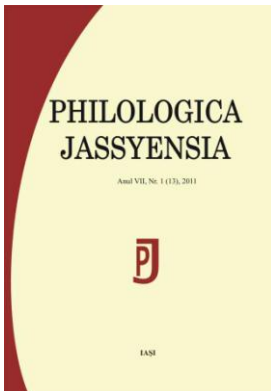


[Suisse : 10% du PIB grâce au plurilinguisme](#)

Si toute notre planète parlait « Europanto », personne ne se poserait la question de l'influence du plurilinguisme sur l'économie. La réalité étant pluriculturelle et donc aussi plurilingue - n'oublions pas qu'on parle plus de 6000 langues différentes sur Terre - il est intéressant de se pencher sur les avantages ou désavantages économiques du plurilinguisme pour les personnes et les entreprises.

..

Other announcements and publications



The journal "Philologica Jassyensia" is part of the Institute of Romanian Philology "A. Philippide" – the Subsidiary of the IASI of the Romanian Academy (<http://www.philippide.ro/>) and the Cultural Association "A. Philippide" de IASI, Romania (<http://www.philologica-jassyensia.ro/asociatia/>). It has been edited since 2005, twice a year.

It is printed on paper and can be read on line.

It is included in international data files: CEEOL, EBSCO, DOAJ, MLA International Bibliography, GOOGLE SCHOLAR, FABULA, THE LINGUIST LIST and ULRICHSWEB.

The journal is a partner of the European Observatory on Plurilingualism, Paris, France (<http://plurilinguisme.europe-avenir.com/>). It publishes each year a file: "Le plurilinguisme - entre desiderata et réalité / Plurilingualism – between desire and reality" and launches a call for communication on the theme.

[To know more](#)

Plurilingualism in businesses: a challenge for tomorrow

[SYNERGIES ITALIE](#), Numéro 9 - Année 2013, Revue du [GERFLINT](#), [SOMMAIRE](#)
Coordinated by Maria Margherita Mattioda



Learning the transmission Education against the managing ideology

François Rastier, 256 p., coll. Souffrance et théorie, PUF, mai 2013, Paris
Abilities, excellence, competition: the business ideology, both in the administration and ultraliberal, is everywhere in education. After talking about the principal of a pedagogy against the communication problems and the transmission problems, the book talks about the perspectives in school and university and from teaching to research, describing the threats on social sciences and the reasons of their frailness.

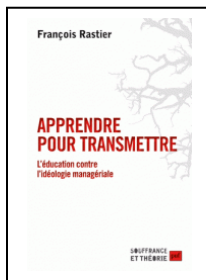
The Marnix plan for a multilingual Brussels is a collective effort to promote among the Brussels population the early learning of several languages. It gives priority to French, Dutch and English, while encouraging the transmission of all the mother languages.

In Brussels, learning languages is still more important than elsewhere, but it should also be easier. On condition that you know how to do it and have pleasure in helping one another.

[Pour en savoir plus...](#)

[In het Nederlands...](#)

[In English...](#)



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