



OBSERVATOIRE EUROPEEN DU PLURILINGUISME



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Translated by Sylvie Aubert

Editorial : What about languages in the corporate world ?

We have a great number of surveys done over the last ten years, the first one being the ELAN survey, published in 2007, on the effects on the European economy of shortages of foreign language skills in enterprise.

Other surveys have been done since : the report “Les langues font nos affaires” (Languages do our business) published in 2009 by the Business Forum on Multilingualism, presided by Etienne Davignon ; the PIMLICO study published in 2011 about management strategies of languages in small and medium-sized European businesses ; the DYLAN research program (Dynamics of languages) whose business section was particularly large ; a survey published in 2011 by l’OREFQ (Observatoire régional des emplois, des formations et qualifications) in the Lorraine region ; an extension of the ELAN program undertaken in Catalonia ; the CELAN survey (Competitiveness and Employment by Linguistic Means) ; and finally the report LEMP (Language and Employment), to be published shortly. This list is far from complete. We should add to it the works led by Professor Claude Truchot for the British Council, particularly as part of a France-Québec cooperation, and those led by Professor François Grin at the University of Geneva.

There are thus a wealth of means to know both the linguistic practices and needs of businesses that we can cross with a great number of observations and testimonies.

What these surveys tell is that :

- languages are important for the businesses ;
- English is important, but is not enough ;
- all the company functions are concerned by the issue of language but not to the same degree and in the same manner ;
- the determining factor of the choice of language is the client, the supplier, the partner, hence the idea that the business language is the client’s language ;
- languages are a real competitiveness issue for businesses.

On this basis, we could draw up the ideal profile for the individual and for the businesses.

For an individual, it could be said that the ideal manager is someone speaking several languages, understanding the intercultural dynamics at work and knowing how to transform this understanding into a superior capacity to manage men. This kind of abilities is still underdeveloped in the management schools...->

Editing and writing: Christian Tremblay,
Olga Anokhina

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-> but it is a significant asset, also outside the professional field. For a business it is a rare ability whose beneficial effects are numerous :

- on the information flow : the flow is quicker and of a better quality,
- on the quality of work conditions ;
- on the quality of human relationships, the identity of each being respected ;
- on individual productivity : the worker who feels good works better ;
- on the relationship with partners, suppliers and clients : the business language is first of all the client’s language ;
- on the quality of decision making; it is easier to measure the costs of training than the costs of a bad decision ;

...->

<p>- on creativity because it is known that bilinguals and plurilinguals are generally more creative and more competent in negotiation, etc. All these assets have of course a value for businesses. It is thus not surprising that it should result in better remuneration. ...-></p>	<p>-> Candidates with plurilingual abilities have a significant advantage over others with only English in addition to their native language. ◀</p>
<p>The 4th European Conference on Plurilingualism is on its way !</p> <p>Ten years ago the European Observatory of Plurilingualism started to organise every three or four years the European Conference on Plurilingualism. This event gathers researchers, public and private decision-makers, and representatives of the civil society of some twenty countries, some of them beyond the limits of Europe, to analyse ever further the issues, problems and policies relating to plurilingualism and to linguistic and cultural diversity. All the fields are covered – education, culture, economy and institutions – with a special approach. The Paris Conference on 22-23 November 2005 was the first one ; in Berlin on 18-19 June 2009 the European Charter for Plurilingualism was proclaimed ; in Rome on 12-14 June 2012 the title of the Conference was “Languages across borders, plurilingualism”. For the 4th Conference that will take place in Brussels on 18-20 May 2016, the theme will be “Plurilingualism and creativity”.</p> <p>Coupling languages and creativity rather states the obvious, inasmuch as creativity is an intrinsic part of the act of language. Language and thought go with each other. It is not surprising that the diversity of the world should have as a corollary the diversity of languages.</p> <p>Yet some would find it simpler if we only had one language with a minimum number of words that would be sufficient to say everything, in the same way that we would have only one wine, one cheese, ... and one sunset.</p> <p>The debate is age old and one resorts to the Babel myth that, as expected, lends itself to opposite interpretations, some seeing the diversity of languages as a curse that we should cast off, others seeing it as the expression of wisdom and the counterpart of abandoning the omnipotence of man.</p> <p>Beside this philosophical debate, the scientific discoveries of the last years corroborate Charles the Fifth’s intuition that “ a man speaking four languages is worth four men”. Contrary to common beliefs, a bilingual or plurilingual individual, if his linguistic capital is recognised, has a psychological and cultural advantage over a monolingual person.</p> <p>But the choice of the subject “Plurilingualism and creativity” goes beyond this single aspect, however important in itself.</p> <p>In the political field, a lot of imagination is needed to ensure the functioning of a political entity such as the European Union that has no less than 24 official languages. It may sound paradoxical but there is an incompatibility-></p>	<p>-> between the fantasy of a single language and the European project. The citizens are first of all citizens of their own country and Europe could not communicate with them in any other language than their own. This linguistic challenge must be taken up. In the economical field, the ghost of the globalisation language is moving off in the same way that the horizon moves off when one moves towards it. Of course, the <i>lingua franca</i> has fine days ahead but as we have seen above, the corporate answer is more nuanced, and the diversity of languages is a challenge to be faced.</p> <p>In the educational field, the countries that are good in languages are not naturally so, their awareness of the linguistic challenge prompted them to invest early on in language teaching. For those that have bet on all-English, the time has come today to change this situation. For those who are behind, the issue is to avoid falling prey to all-English, to get on with plurilingualism, and to take up the challenge of a plurilingual and intercultural education.</p> <p>In the cultural field, at the time when TIPP is being negotiated, the matter of safeguarding and promoting the diversity of cultural expressions is more topical than ever.</p> <p>These are the guidelines of the coming European Conference on Plurilingualism. If you would like more information or if you would like to participate, you are invited to visit the OEP website where you can download the call to contributions in several languages. ◀</p>
<p>The OEP is a non-profit enterprise dedicated to the public good. Supporting the OEP is a civic act. Engage in this fight for plurilingualism, and linguistic and cultural diversity. This is a noble and useful fight. Support the OEP</p>	

Announcements and publications

L'OEP a besoin de vous. Pensez à lui apporter votre soutien. Cliquez



Call to contributions for the **Fifteenth International Conference on Law and Language of the International Academy of Linguistic Law** (Police Institute Police of Zhejiang, Hangzhou, 7-10 May, 2017)

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"La parole est moitié à celui qui parle, moitié à celui qui l'écoute [...]."
(Montaigne, *Les Essais* 3, Chap. 13, p. 1088)

Calendrier et lieu

1er octobre 2015 : date limite d'envoi des propositions

15 décembre 2015 : notification d'acceptation des propositions et diffusion du programme

15 janvier 2016 : ouverture des inscriptions

Ce colloque se tiendra à l'université Paul-Valéry Montpellier 3, site Saint Charles (arrêt de tram : Albert 1er), les 12 et 13 mai 2016.

Comité d'organisation

Caroline DAVID

Isabelle RONZETTI

Pour en savoir plus

Intercomprehension

Carried out by the General Delegation to the French language and the languages of France in partnership with OIF, this publication is a reference for intercomprehension. This plurilingual approach proposes new paths for the of languages, more particularly French. The reader will find descriptions and websites of existing methods and learn about innovating projects in the education field. The advantages of the practice of intercomprehension in the field of international relations and the professional world are also treated.

[Download the brochure](#)

New edition of the brochure **Pluralistic approaches to languages and cultures**

Pluralistic approaches to languages and cultures are educational approaches prescribing learning based on the relation between two or several languages. Contrary to traditional teaching, these methods have the advantage to develop the plurilingual abilities of the learner and allow a greater autonomy in the use of foreign languages.

This publication is designed for all persons who are interested in the teaching or learning of languages : teachers, learners, parents.

[Download the brochure](#)

Courriel
européen
des langues

L'actualité des langues en Europe

Le n° 34 du *Courriel européen des langues*

- Langues et employabilité : compte rendu du séminaire final du projet « Langues et employabilité » (LEMP) qui s'est déroulé le 18 juin 2015 au Centre international d'études pédagogiques (CIEP).

- Actualités du CELV

Lire le CEL

Associazione LEM-Italia
Partner del Portale delle Lingue
d'Europa e del Mediterraneo (LEM)



Newsletter LEM-Italia_47-48_Giugno-Luglio 2015

UFIS - Università Francofona dell'Italia del Sud

Secondo Forum Tramontana 2014-2015

39a Universitat Occitana d'Estiu, Nîmes

	<p>Primo Congresso Mondiale dei Diritti Linguistici (CMDL 2015) http://associazionelemitalia.org/attachments/article/95/Newsletter LEM-Italia_47-48_Giugno-Luglio 2015.pdf</p>
	<p>In Paris, a museum to discover the languages of the world</p> <p>The language plays a central role in our lives, even in our dreams. The 170m²-wide permanent exhibition MUNDOLINGUA invites you to discover the secrets of language during an unusual visit with many different themes.</p> <p>10 rue Servandoni – 75006 Paris - tél. +33 (0)1 56 81 65 79 http://www.mundolingua.org/ - contact@mundolingua.org Open every day 10am – 7pm</p> <p><i>Such a beautiful project is worth your support. You can be a donator to our partner Mundolingua, Musée des Langues, du Langage et de la Linguistique.</i></p> <p><i>More information</i></p>
	<p>Ética multicultural y sociedad en red Luis Germán Rodríguez L. , Miguel Ángel Pérez Álvarez, Fundación Telefonica, Ariel 11/2014</p> <p>Este libro surge de una inquietud de Fundación Telefónica por poner el foco en los retos que pasan inadvertidos para la gran mayoría de los habitantes del ciberespacio, y hacer un aporte a la investigación para identificar criterios que orienten una ética multicultural que sirva de base a la sociedad en red en la que estamos inmersos.</p> <p>Acceso abierto en http://www.fundacion.telefonica.com.ve/publicaciones/etica_multicultural_sociedad_red.pdf</p>
	<p>Les oubliés d'Internet, cultures et langues sur Internet sous la direction d'Anne-Marie LAULAN et d'Annie Lenoble-Bart, par Jean-Paul Lafrance, professeur UQAM (Québec)</p> <p>http://www.iscc.cnrs.fr/spip.php?article2047 http://www.leh.fr/edition/p/les-oublies-de-l-internet-9782848745558</p>
	<p>Traductology and Ideology (Call to contributions) Deadline : 15 October 2015</p> <p>Organisers : James ARCHIBALD (University McGill, Canada), Lynne FRANJIÉ (University Lille 3), Mathieu GUIDÈRE (University Toulouse 2), Astrid GUILLAUME (University Paris Sorbonne)</p> <p>Place : Université Paris Sorbonne (Paris IV), Maison de la Recherche</p> <p>Date : 1st February 2016</p> <p>More information</p>
	<p>To celebrate the tenth anniversary of the UNESCO Convention for the protection and promotion of the diversity of cultural expressions, the <i>Centre d'Etudes sur l'intégration et la mondialisation</i> (CEIM) of the University of Québec in Montréal (UQAM) published a study directed by Michèle Rioux named : "Pour une culture en réseaux diversifiée : Appliquer la Convention sur la protection et la promotion de la diversité des expressions culturelles (CDEC) à l'ère du numérique".</p> <p>This study has been made for the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and of International</p>

	<p>Development, and the Ministry of Culture and Communication of France. This study is the sole responsibility of the CEIM and more particularly of its authors. It can be accessed by this link . We invite to share it on your networks.</p>
	<p>Revue de droit linguistique Volume 2 – 2015</p> <p>Nicolas Schmitt, « Les droits linguistiques en Ukraine : chronique d'un naufrage annoncé » - Lire l'article Michel Bastarache, « Les garantis linguistiques : droits humains ou instrument d'intégration sociale au Canada » - Lire l'article www.droitslinguistiques.ca/revue</p>
	<p>Moreno Cabrera, Juan Carlos. 2015. <i>Los dominios del español. Guía del imperialismo lingüístico panhispánico</i>. Madrid: Editorial Síntesis (Colección: Diversos. 278 págs. ISBN-13: 9788490771259. Precio: 17,00 EUR) Compra-e: http://www.sintesis.com/diversos-75/los-dominios-del-espanol-guia-del-imperialismo-linguei... Información de: Isaac Caselles Jiménez <icaselles@sintesis.com> Información en la web de Infoling: http://www.infoling.org/informacion/NB1229.html</p>
	<p><i>Estudios de Lexicografía. Revista mensual del Grupo Las dos vidas de las palabras</i> 3 (2015) URL: http://issuu.com/ldvp/docs/elex_3-_monogr_fico_sobre_el_ndhe_ Información de: Raquel Casas <raquelcasas@lasdosvidasdelaspalabras.com> Descripción Volumen monográfico sobre el <i>Nuevo Diccionario Histórico del Español</i> (NDHE) de la Real Academia Española (RAE), dirigido por el Prof. José Antonio Pascual Información en la web de Infoling: http://www.infoling.org/informacion/R398.html</p>
	<p>Language, Culture and Mind 7 Hunan University, China, 1st-4th June 2016 The Language, Culture and Mind conference series provides an international and interdisciplinary forum for the integration of biological, cognitive, social and cultural perspectives in theoretical and empirical studies of language and communication. http://languageculturemind.org/</p>