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Journal of Pragmatics

Volume 43, Issue 5, April 2011, Pages 1173-1184

Urban multilingualism in Europe: Mapping linguistic diversity in multicultural cities

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<https://doi.org/10.1016/j.pragma.2010.10.007>

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Abstract

The focus of this paper is on urban multilingualism in Europe. Crossnational and crosslinguistic perspectives are offered on both the distribution and the vitality of immigrant minority languages among primary school children in six multicultural cities across European nation-states. Going from North to South, these cities are GÃ¶teborg, Hamburg, The Hague, Brussels, Lyon and Madrid.

The paper comprises eight sections. The first two sections offer the demolinguistic background against which the project was carried out. Section 1 deals with the European constellation of languages and population groups, section 2 with the importance of the language criterion for identifying population groups. The next sections focus on the rationale and goals of the *Multilingual Cities Project*, carried out under the auspices of the *European Cultural Foundation* (section 3), the method of research in the MCP (section 4), the distribution of languages in the six cities (section 5), the vitality of languages in the six cities (section 6), the vitality of languages in the six cities (section 7) and the vitality of languages in the six cities (section 8).

(section 4), the distribution of languages across cities (section 5), the specification of language profiles and language vitality (section 6), crosslinguistic perspectives on language vitality (section 7), and conclusions (section 8).



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Keywords

Crosslinguistic perspectives; Data collection and processing; Distribution of languages; Language profiles; Language vitality; Multilingual Cities Project

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Prof. Guus Extra holds the Chair of *Language and Minorities* in the Department of Culture Studies of the Faculty of Humanities at Tilburg University. In 1999, he was appointed Director of *Babylon, Centre for Studies of the Multicultural Society* (www.tilburguniversity.nl/babylon). Guus Extra has an extensive record in research and publications on second language acquisition, first language use/maintenance/loss by immigrant minority groups, and multilingualism and education, both at the national (Dutch) and European level. He has also an extensive record in coordinating research in these domains, both at the national and European level.

these domains, both at the national and European level.

Kutlay Yağmur is an Associate Professor of Multilingualism in the Department of Culture Studies, Tilburg University, The Netherlands. In his current research, he investigates the relationship between the integration ideology of receiving societies and the acculturation processes of immigrants in four national contexts. He has published extensively on Turkish immigrants in Australia, Germany, France and The Netherlands. Apart from his contributions to a variety of international journals, his co-edited book *Urban Multilingualism in Europe. Immigrant Minority Languages at Home and School* (with Guus Extra, Multilingual Matters, 2004) has been a major conceptual and methodological contribution to the study of multilingualism.

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