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Modelling language competition for new minorities

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Abstract

In this paper we model a language competition situation between a dominant majority language H and a minority language L, where the minority language group is a result of a continuous and ongoing migration process. Migrants enter the society as monolinguals in L or already as bilinguals, form families and produce offspring. Offspring are raised in either one of the two languages or both, are formally educated primarily in the dominant language and will produce a next cohort with its own linguistic repertoire. Furthermore, adult language learning is considered. Since properly designed language competition models allow predictions on the future development of the linguistic composition of a population, we scrutinize the possibility of using language competition models as tools for ex ante policy evaluation.

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