



Effectiveness of policy measures and language dynamics

TORSTEN TEMPLIN, BENGT-ARNE WICKSTRÖM and
MICHELE GAZZOLA

WORKING PAPER No. 19-6

Updated: 2023-07-16

REAL

Research group “Economics, policy analysis, and language”



Effectiveness of policy measures and language dynamics*

TORSTEN TEMPLIN[†], BENGT-ARNE WICKSTRÖM[‡] and MICHELE GAZZOLA[§]

Updated: 2023-07-16

Abstract

The effect of a given language policy can be very different in the short, medium, and long run. In this chapter we illustrate this, looking at the effects of status and acquisition planning on inclusion by given mobility patterns. On the policy side the choice is between different status- and acquisition-planning measures, respectively. On the effect side this choice gives rise to different degrees of inclusion (in the form of bilingualism) by given linguistic environments (distribution of language use on the inhabitants) and costs. That is, in a mobility-inclusion trade-off, a higher level of inclusion can be reached for a given amount of mobility in the form of migration through a well-designed language policy. Different scenarios will require different policy measures in a cost-effectiveness analysis. This is illustrated in this essay.

The effects of status and acquisition planning are modeled in a dynamic setting, where language learning depends on compulsory measures as well as voluntary decisions of the individuals involved based on their individual cost-benefit calculations (or that of their parents). The effects on inclusion are simulated in different scenarios lasting 50 years (*i.e.* several generations) when language skills are transferred from one generation to the next. The scenarios include the migration of majority speakers into a region with a strong minority

*The essay has clearly benefited from a number of comments from the editor and from an external referee. We thank both.

Part of this work was carried out in the Research group “Economics and language” in Berlin, with which all three authors are associated. The group received funding from the European Union’s Seventh Framework Program (Project MIME – grant agreement 613344). This support is gratefully acknowledged.

[†]Humboldt-Universität zu Berlin

Research group “Economics, policy analysis, and language” (REAL)
Email: templin@math.hu-berlin.de

[‡]Andrássy-Universität Budapest

Research group “Economics, policy analysis, and language” (REAL)
Email: bengt-arne.wickstroem@andrassyuni.hu

[§]Ulster University

Research group “Economics, policy analysis, and language” (REAL)
Email: m.gazzola@ulster.ac.uk

language in a given country (Spanish speakers migrating into the Basque countries) and migration of speakers of a “foreign” language into a country with enclaves of these foreign speakers (Spanish speakers in the USA).

Keywords: language policy, language dynamics, effectiveness analysis

This essay has been published as:

TEMPLIN, TORSTEN, BENGT-ARNE WICKSTRÖM, and MICHELE GAZZOLA (2022). “Effectiveness of policy measures and language dynamics”. In: *Advances in interdisciplinary language policy*. Edited by FRANÇOIS GRIN, LÁSZLÓ MARÁCZ, and NIKE K. POKORN. Studies in World Language Problems 9. Amsterdam: John Benjamins. Chapter 16: 319–342. ISBN: 978 90 272 1015 9. DOI: doi.org/10.1075/wlp.9.16tem. URL: <https://benjamins.com/catalog/wlp.9.16tem>.