HUMBOLDT-UNIVERSITÄT ZU BERLIN

A language competition model for new minorities

TORSTEN TEMPLIN

REAL

Research group "Economics, policy analysis, and language"

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Abstract

A language competition situation between a dominant majority language and a minority language is modeled, where the minority language group is a result of a continuous and ongoing migration process. Migrants enter the society, form families and produce offspring. Children are raised in either one of the two languages or both, visit school, learn additional languages as adults and produce a next cohort with its own linguistic repertoire. Families and adults are conceptualized as utility maximizing actors, who take into account instrumental aspects of languages, as their communicative range, as well as identity related aspects.

A general macro-level model is proposed that describes how the linguistic composition of a population facing migration changes over time. Furthermore, a specific functional form of the general model is proposed and steady states are analyzed. Finally, some numerical examples are presented.

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