



ISCH COST Action IS1306

New Speakers in a Multilingual Europe - Opportunities and Challenges

SUMMARY OF AIMS OF WORKING GROUPS IN SECOND PHASE OF ACTION

WG7 - Multilingual competence and new speaker varieties

We are adopting a multilingual perspective on new speakers. Within this conceptual framework we understand 'multilingual competence' to be examined as a continuum between a form and its function in society. Therefore, we find it necessary to employ an interdisciplinary outlook on new speakers' competence which includes linguistic, psycholinguistic, educational, sociolinguistic, economic and political research perspectives.

We aim to investigate and explain the concept of multilingual competence from all the above angles. We will examine the formal aspects that the different languages of a new speaker may take, i.e. focus on specific linguistic features, language processing and code-switching. We will also consider the various functions played by the different languages of a new speaker, as perceived by the individual and by the environment, i.e. focus on registers and styles, indexicalities, social consequences and values attributed to languages.

WG8 - Speakerness: Subjectivities, Trajectories, Spaces

In line with O'Rourke and Pujolar (2015: 1) we see new speakers as individuals with little or no home or community exposure to a language but who instead acquire it through formal or informal educational settings, as adult language learners, in the workplace, through revitalisation projects or as a consequence of their geographical mobility (migration). We also include speakers who have been passive bilinguals and have started to actively use a minority language through everyday interactions in the new speaker category (Walsh and Lane 2014).

Drawing from the different projects in which members of this group are working currently or are planning to work on in the near future we agreed to focus the work of this WG on three main topics:

- Language trajectories and *mudes*
- Spaces of language learning
- Subjectivities

WG9: Language policy regimes, regimentation and governmentality

The main objective of WG9 is to identify the challenges and the opportunities involved in 'new speakerness' as represented either by authorities in the management of public policies or any institution operating regimes of power: family, companies, universities, etc.

Therefore, this theme addresses language policy from top-down and bottom-up perspectives. It covers problems at different levels and in different sectors as a cyclical process from policy-making to implementation. These include the following aspects:

- New speakers and new speakerness in legal and citizenship regimes
- Policies and services addressed to and perceived by new speakers
- Multilingualism from a resources perspective in institutions
- New speakerness and governmentality
- Policy outcomes, inequalities and stratification

WG 10 - Legitimation and Power

The working group on legitimation and power will examine practices and processes of legitimation in the social lives of new speakers with special attention to identity and belonging and the role of various identities (e.g. age, gender, disability, race) in their construction. This will entail a focus on social inequalities, i.e. how they are produced and reproduced in terms of differences of position within given social fields and (linguistic) markets. This will be done through the analysis of different linguistic varieties, boundaries and dynamics (e.g. languagisation) across new speaker contexts. This overall framework can be developed in a number of directions; but we propose three basic analytical axes:

- The position of new speakers in social fields and markets
- Languagisation: The social (de)construction and hierarchisation of linguistic varieties, languages, and boundaries.
- Intersectionality: new speakers and race, gender, disability, age, class, etc.