



MIME

Mobility and Inclusion
in Multilingual Europe

Should minority languages be taught to majority language speakers?

Linguistic domination and the risk of linguistic assimilation of the minority by the majority language in linguistically mixed societies is an injustice. Linguistic domination takes place when: (1) one of the groups needs to adapt linguistically to the other, but not the other way round; (2) a frequent repetition of this pattern exists; and (3) the members of the dominated group have no real alternative, apart from eschewing interaction with majority speakers altogether. To solve this, minority languages should be taught to majority language speakers.

Should English as a lingua franca come in many varieties?

Yes! To both stimulate and recognize these Englishes, the EU should erect a language academy for Euro-English, coordinating various European Englishes (such as German English, Polish English, Spanish English and so on) because cosmopolitan ownership for English is to be the norm.

Is a common language necessary to have a viable democracy?

Deep language diversity is a challenge for democracy. But it is not insurmountable. Societies that do not share a common lingua franca need other institutions – that is, not only federalism and consociationalism – in order to become and/or remain viable democracies. In particular, they need *centripetal institutions* based on majority rule (such as direct, popular election of the president and a frequent use of bottom-up direct-democratic instruments such as popular initiatives and referendums). Switzerland is a good example of this.

LINGUISTIC JUSTICE IN EUROPE

How can the principles of territoriality and personality be combined?

The principles of linguistic territoriality and personality should be combined to improve mobility and inclusion in linguistically mixed societies (such as Wales, Catalonia or Brussels) following two basic principles: (1) the equal recognition of autochthonous languages, giving more support to the weakest ones; and (2) pursuing non-segregation policies within the territories in order to bring people together instead of separating them.

Mobility and inclusion may best be combined in societies where everyone has the right to speak their own language and the duty to understand other languages of the territory.

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