

OPERATIONAL PRACTICES OF INTERCOMPREHENSION IN MULTILINGUAL EUROPE: PROMOTING MOBILITY AND INCLUSION



Alice Fiorentino – MIME Research Task 4.4
 Université de Reims Champagne-Ardenne
 U.F.R. Lettres et Sciences Humaines, Laboratoire CIRLEP EA 4299
 57, rue Pierre Taittinger - F-51096 Reims Cedex
 Alice.Fiorentino@etudiant.univ-reims.fr



1. RECENT TRENDS IN TRANSNATIONAL ADOPTION

- The Hague's Convention on protection of children (1993) triggered a paradigm shift from a « clean break » with the past to the child's right to a culturally rooted identity (www.hcch.net);
- European Parliament defines adoption as a « welfare and protection measure that enables an orphaned or definitively abandoned child to benefit from a permanent family » (www.europarl.europa.eu);
- From 2004 there is a decrease of international adoption due to economical crisis in receiving countries, a greater attention on transparency and a growing mistrust towards transnational adoption in sending countries (www.commissioneadozioni.it);
- Italy is one of the first receiving countries in Europe (>2000 adoptive families per year), 41% of adopted children being school-aged (www.commissioneadozioni.it);

CROSS-SECTIONAL STUDY

Interview	Country of origin of the child	Participant	Age	Gender	Occupation	Education	L1
1	Russia	Nadia	51	F	Secretary	MA	ITA
2	Russia	Nicola	52	M	Sales Clerk	MA	ITA
3	Russia	Teresa	50	F	Winemaker	HS	ITA
4	Russia	Alessandro	51	M	Winemaker	HS	ITA
5	Russia	Patrizia	48	F	Educator	MA	ITA/FR
6	Russia	Giovanni	57	M	School teacher	MA	ITA
7	Ukraine	Caterina	56	F	School teacher	MA	ITA
8	Ukraine	Simone	57	M	Lawyer	MA	ITA
9	Colombia	Cristina	45	F	Educator	HS	ITA
10	Colombia	Giuseppe	53	M	Bus driver	HS	ITA
11	Colombia	Irene	44	F	Office clerk	HS	ITA
12	Colombia	Giorgio	48	M	Sales clerk	HS	ITA
13	Peru	Barbara	45	F	School teacher	MA	ITA
14	Peru	Sergio	44	M	Businessman	MA	ITA
15	Chili	Lorenzo	49	M	Secretary	MA	NOR
16	Chili	Giada	50	F	School teacher	MA	ITA
17	Mexico	Cristian	58	M	Office clerk	HS	ITA
18	Mexico	Simonetta	59	F	Sales clerk	HS	ITA
19	Brazil	Marina	46	F	School teacher	HS	ITA
20	Brazil	Carlo	50	M	Office clerk	HS	ITA

Table 1. Families' demographics

2. RESEARCH QUESTIONS

GENERAL QUESTIONS :

How can language strategies (and intercomprehension) help members of adoptive families:
 a. during the mobility to the country of adoption?
 b. to build up family communication from scratch?
 c. to create the conditions for an inclusive participation to family life ?

SPECIFIC QUESTIONS (RT4.4) :

- How does intercomprehension intervene in the child's transition from his L1 to his L2?
- Which are the factual criteria on which complementarity of mediation strategies rely in the adoptive parents' experience of mobility ?
- What is the role of intercomprehension in family communicative processes?

LONGITUDINAL STUDY

Participants	Family	Gender	Age	Occupation	L1	Recordings
Giovanni	Arduini	M	45	Workman	Italian	
Laura	Arduini	F	41	Restaurateur	Italian	8h
Luis	Arduini	M	6		Chilean Spanish	
Josefina	Arduini	F	10		Bolivian Spanish	
Alessio	Giuliani	M	40	Employee	Italian	
Elsa	Giuliani	F	40	Employee	Italian	16h
Juan	Giuliani	M	8		Chilean Spanish	
Jacopo	Giuliani	M	13		Italian	
Cristina	Bosco	F	43	Accountant	Italian	4h
Marcello	Bosco	M	43	Employee	Italian	
Sasha	Bosco	M	6		Russian	

Table 2. Families' demographics and recordings

3. METHODOLOGY

CROSS-SECTIONAL STUDY :

METHODOLOGY : ethnographic interviews (emic approach)
 PARTICIPANTS : 20 participants + 15 children
 TIME SPAN : February 2015
 METHOD : Interpretative Content Analysis
 STAKEHOLDER : Centro Adozioni Aulss 9 of Verona (Adoption Public Authority)

LONGITUDINAL STUDY :

METHODOLOGY : observation of interactional data (etic approach)
 PARTICIPANTS : three families
 TIME SPAN : May-July 2016 (FAMILY 1)
 September-November 2016 (FAMILY 2)
 September-November 2017 (FAMILY 3)
 METHOD : Discourse analysis
 STAKEHOLDER : Fondazione Patrizia Nidoli ONLUS (Private Agency)

4. THE CHILD

INTERCOMPREHENSION AS A BUFFER STRATEGY

NON-MUTUALLY INTELLIGIBLE LANGUAGES

CHILD'S L1 INTERLANGUAGE CHILD'S L2



MUTUALLY- INTELLIGIBLE LANGUAGES

CHILD'S L1 INTERLANGUAGE CHILD'S L2

INTERCOMPREHENSION



5. THE PARENTS

MOBILITY AND THE COMPLEMENTARITY OF MEDIATION STRATEGIES

	OFFICIAL MEETINGS (WITH INSTITUTIONS)	INFORMAL EXCHANGES (WITH LOCAL PEOPLE)	PRIVATE EXCHANGES (WITH THE CHILD)
LANGUAGE TECHNOLOGIES	X	X	✓
TRANSLATION AND INTERPRETATION	✓	X	X
LINGUA FRANCA	X	✓	X
INTERCOMPREHENSION	X	✓	✓

6. THE FAMILY

INTERCOMPREHENSION AND CHILD'S INCLUSION

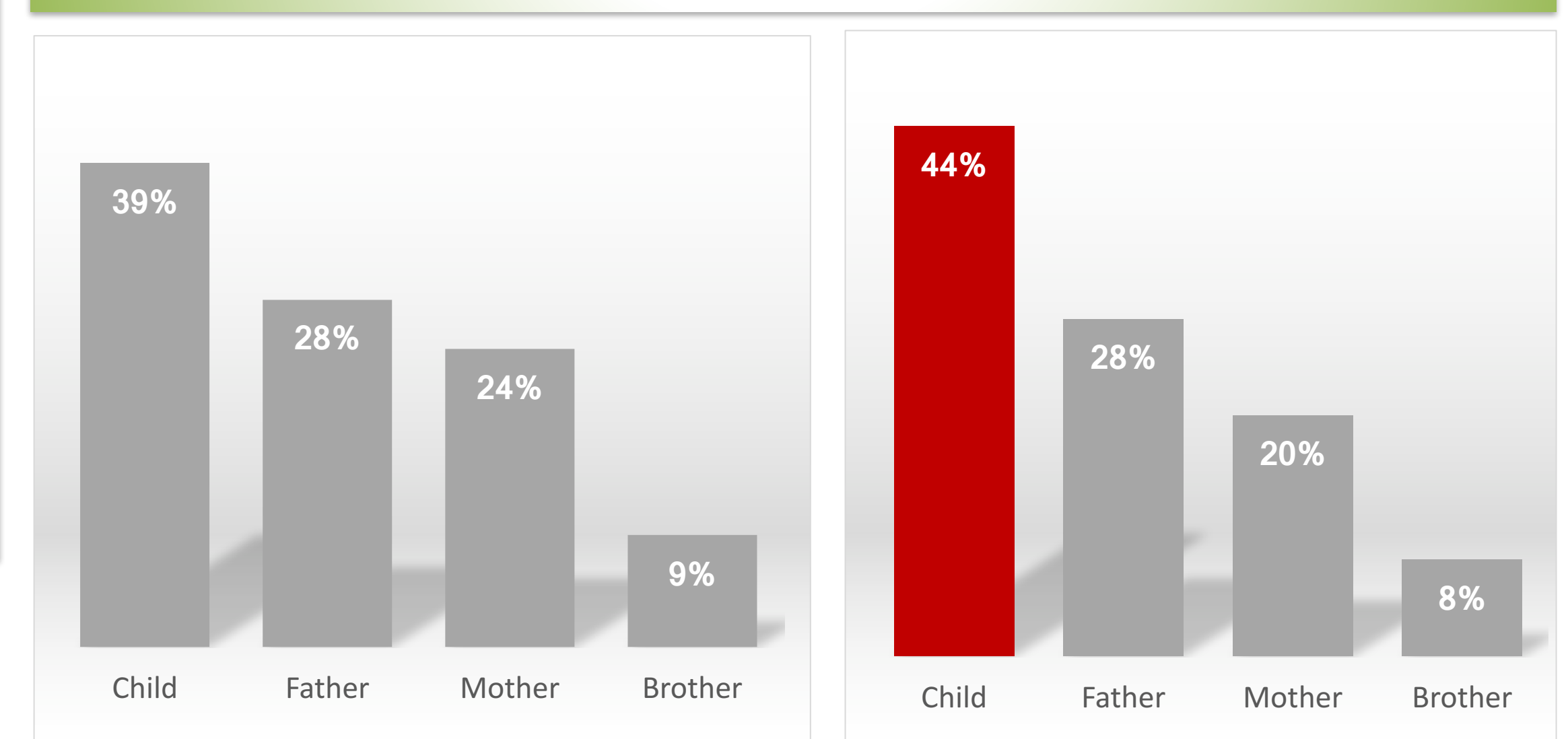


Table 3. Rate of participation

Table 4. Rate of participation during IC discourse

7. REFERENCES

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 Mobility and Inclusion
 in Multilingual Europe