



Language needs of mobile retirees

A study of linguistic challenges and strategies in international retirement migration, with a case study of Scandinavian retirees in Alicante, Spain

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RESEARCH QUESTIONS

- What **linguistic challenges** or problems arise in the context of international retirement migration?
- What **linguistic strategies** are used, and by what actors, to meet these challenges?
- What implications do different linguistic strategies have, for retirees' communicative needs, and for **inclusion and social cohesion**?
- What is reasonable to expect, or demand, in terms of **linguistic adaptation** from mobile retirees and from the host society?

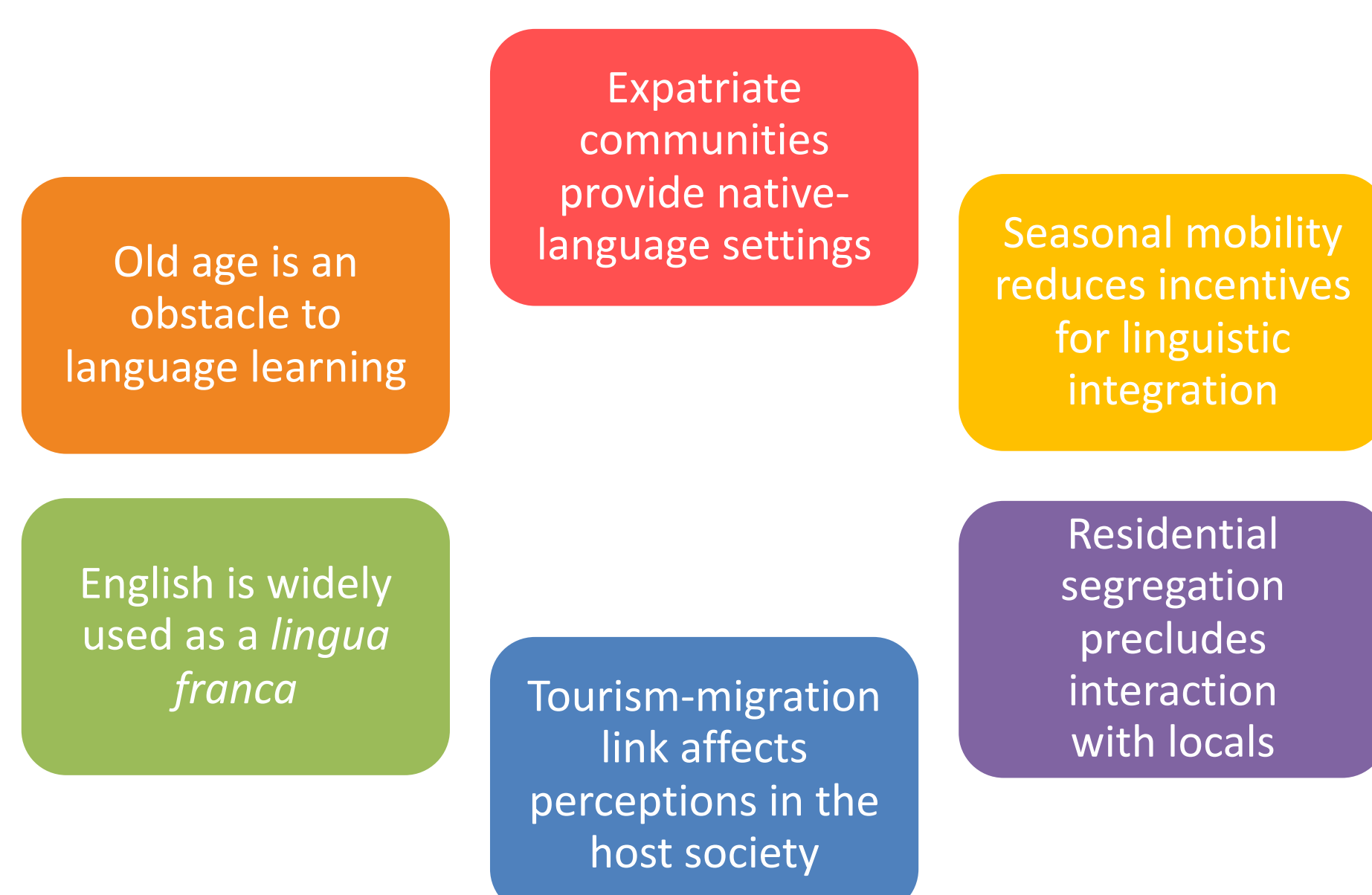


Norwegians in Villajoyosa celebrating constitution day with a Spanish marching band

RESEARCH APPROACH

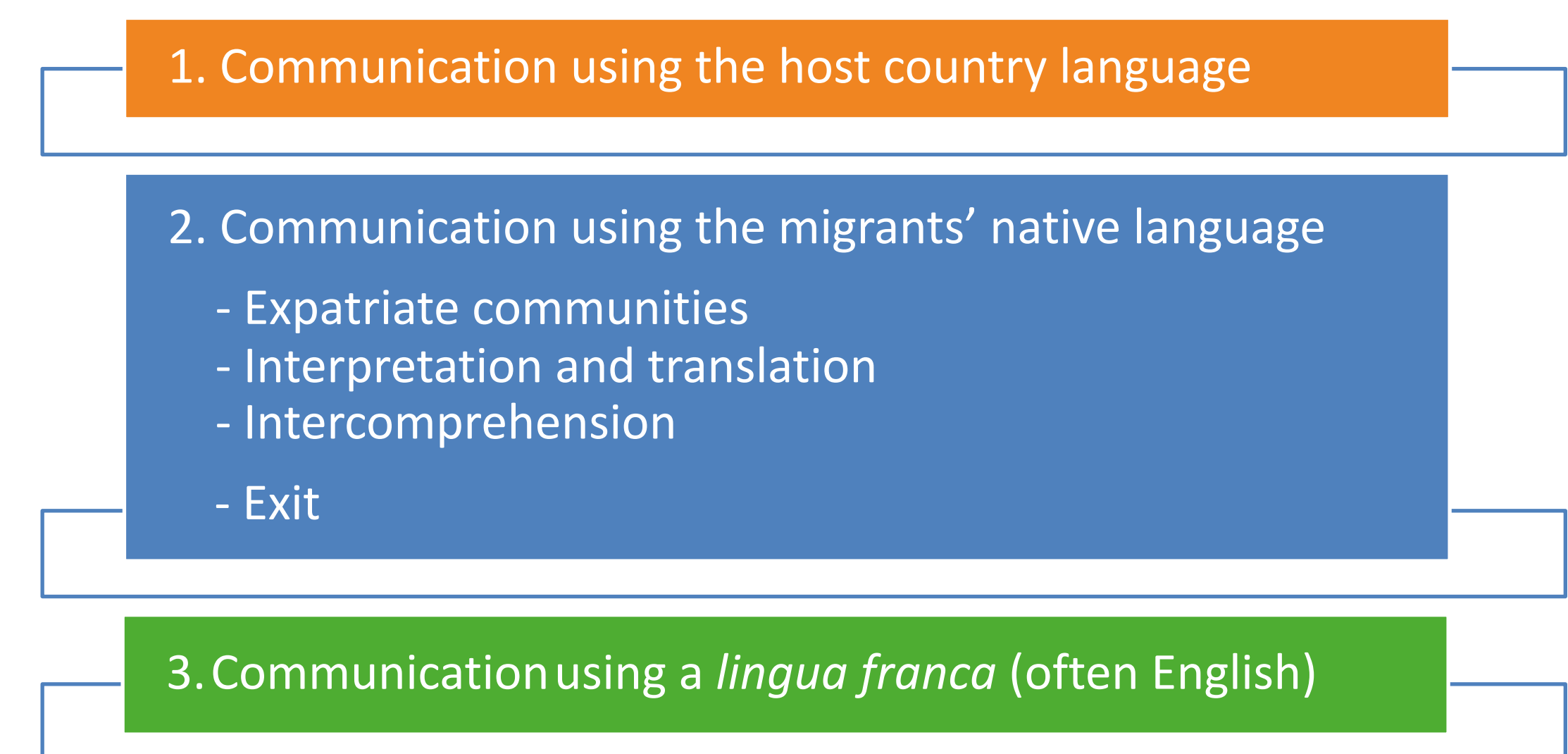
- 1) Review of previous research on retirement migration and language and the development of an analytical framework for language use in retirement migration.
- 2) Case study of Scandinavian retirees in Alicante, Spain, based on semi-structured interviews with retirees and local key persons.

Key findings I: Factors conditioning language learning and inclusion in international retirement migration



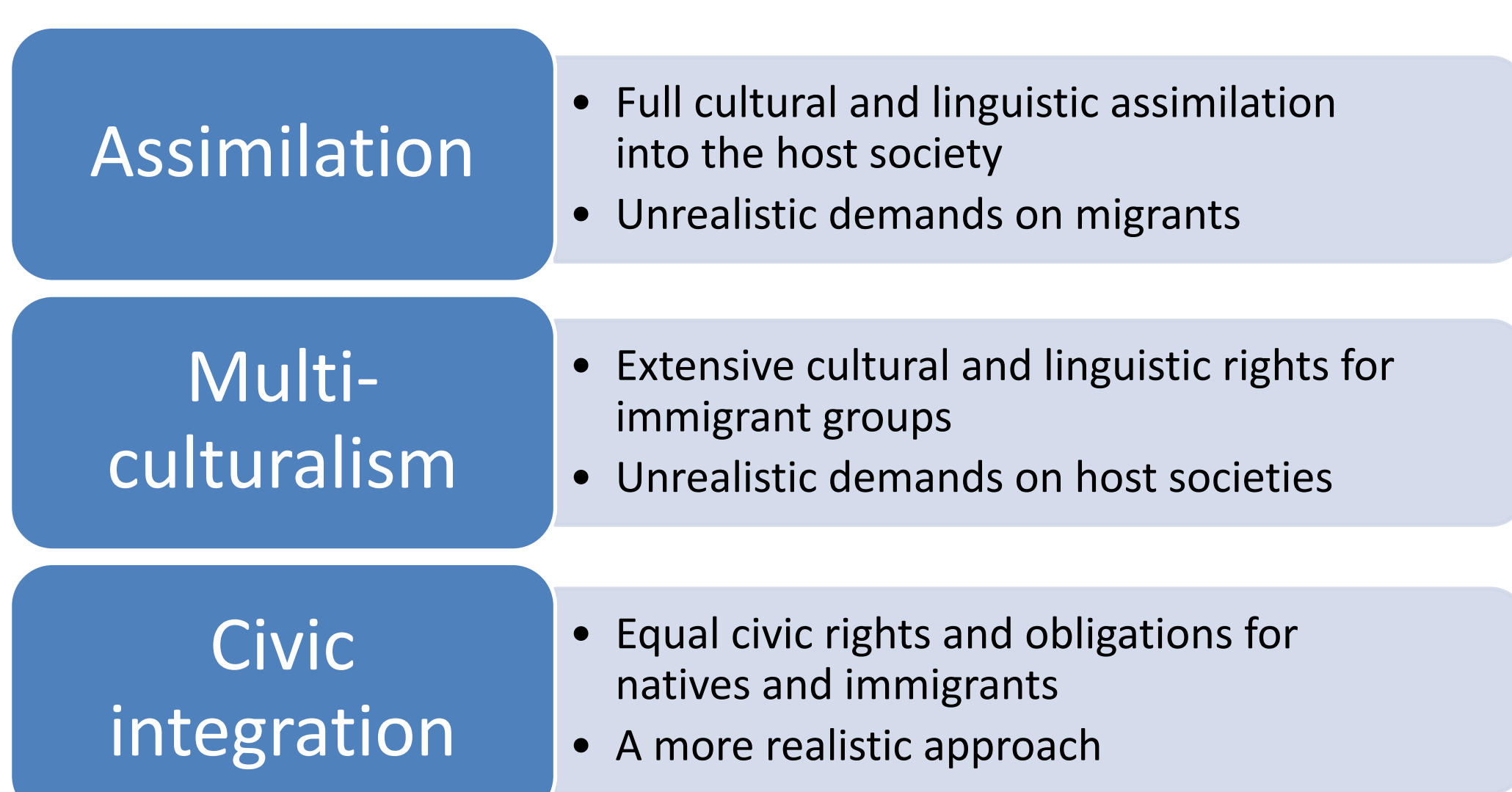
Due to these factors, retirement migration differs from other types of international migration – the linguistic challenges differ, the strategies available to migrants and host country authorities differ, and the outcomes in terms of inclusion and social cohesion differ.

Key findings II: Linguistic strategies in retirement migration



Retired migrants use a wide range of linguistic strategies in order to manage everyday communication. Policy makers need to acknowledge and accommodate this diversity, avoid 'one-size-fits-all' solutions and instead be prepared to use different linguistic approaches depending on the situation.

Key findings III: Approaches to inclusion in international retirement migration



In the specific context of international retirement migration, a focus on civic integration appears as the most realistic policy option. This approach focuses on equal rights and obligations rather than on strong demands for cultural and linguistic adaptation.



Constitution day in the Norwegian church, Villajoyosa



Clínica Noruega, Albir

Key findings IV: Social cohesion?

- Some frustration among the Spanish about foreign residents not learning Spanish
- No accounts of xenophobia, hostility or overt protests against foreign retired residents
- Probable reason: the association between retirement migration and tourism

Project outcomes

- Contribution to the MIME WP6 report
- Contributions to the MIME Vademecum
- Article in *Social Inclusion* (ed. Marász & Adamo)
- Draft chapter for the MIME book
- Conference and seminar presentations
- Workshop in Uppsala
- Input to PhD dissertation (Laksfoss Cardozo)



MIME
Mobility and Inclusion
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