



MIME

Mobility and Inclusion
in Multilingual Europe

WP 4.3: Lingua franca as a mediation strategy

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Main research projects and their results:

(1) The use of English in migration

- Semi-structured interviews with twenty English-speaking migrants in Germany, analyzed using the methods of qualitative content analysis. 2016.
- Whether and how well migrants learn German depends on factors such as the planned length of stay, the demand for the language in their professional field, previous migration experiences, and personality.
 - The use of English as a lingua franca can both facilitate and constrain social interaction and the acquisition of the local language.

(2) The language choices of exchange students

- Data collected by means of on-line questionnaires and semi-structured interviews among mainly Erasmus+ students (from/going to Germany). More than 550 participants. 2015–2018.
- Countries with popular languages, especially English and French, perform very well in raising linguistic proficiency and including their guest students, while the results in other countries, especially those with less widely-spoken languages that are often not the first choice of the students, vary significantly.
- In our questionnaires only 5% of the exchange student disagreed that learning the host language is an important incentive for their stay.
- In practice, however, the students' enthusiasm is often stymied due to the lack of adequate language courses and organisational convenience making the students spend most of their time with other exchange students, not with locals.

(3) Mobility by means of a planned language

- Field work with participating observation, semi-structured interviews, and more than 200 recordings analyzed using the methods of Conversation Analysis. 2014–2018.
- Esperanto functions as the dominant means of communication in an international NGO we studied. There it serves both for professional tasks and for casual conversation during breaks, but the use of other languages is not excluded. In interviews and blogs, interns and volunteers reported that the use of Esperanto allowed for a high degree of inclusion.
- Research on Esperanto as a language in professional settings and its long-term use is still in its infancy, and further studies are needed in order to validate the findings. However, everything thus far points to Esperanto being a valid option as a lingua franca outside the private sphere, where it has predominantly been used until now.

Publications:

- Brosch, C. 2015. On the conceptual history of the term Lingua Franca. *Apples – Journal of Applied Language Studies* 9(1). 71–85.
- Brosch, C. 2018. Esperanto als Mittlersprache bei längerfristiger Mobilität. In Brosch & Fiedler (eds.) 2018, 69–90.
- Fiedler, S. 2017. Lingua-franca-Kommunikation – wirklich ein Fall des Let-it-pass?. *Jahrbuch der Gesellschaft für Interlinguistik 2017*. 57–71.
- Fiedler, S. & Brosch, C. (eds.). 2018. *Flucht, Exil, Migration – Sprachliche Herausforderungen*, . Leipzig: Leipziger Universitätsverlag.
- Fiedler, S. & Brosch, C. 2018. Esperanto – a lingua franca in use. A case study on an educational NGO. *Language Problems and Language Planning* 42(2). 195–221.



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