

SECTION 14. ACTUAL PROBLEMS OF MODERN SOCIETY

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MULTILINGUALISM NOWADAYS – WHERE TO?

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The Multilingualism is a very important aspect for preserving the cultural and linguistic diversity in Europe. There are different facets when we speak about multilingualism: we can speak about multilingual education policies, about scholar's beliefs regarding the multilingualism, about language learning and language awareness, about multilingualism and assessment, about multilingual identity development, about multilingualism and global development, about multilingualism and intercultural understanding, about multilingualism in higher education or in families or about creative methods for researching multilingualism.

In this study we will touch the aspect regarding the trends in multilingualism, or, in other words, we will analyse where to is going multilingualism in a world so globalised.

AI and multilingualism

The AI is a domain with a rapid development in all spheres of activity. This Artificial Intelligence can contribute to preserving multilingualism in the digital sphere by using some special techniques like natural language processing, speech recognition or machine translation [5, p. 363]. Creating AI models for more languages is essential to bridge the language gap and to ensure the non-English-speakers that they are not left behind.

The AI can also foster the multilingualism in different ways. The AI techniques, such as natural language processing is used to analyse the text written in different languages. By processing and analysing multilingual data, AI helps to improve knowledge of different cultures and language patterns. So, AI can make it easier for non-native speakers to use the internet by offering real-time language translation services. Any kind of

content, text, audio or video, may all be translated using language processing models and making the online information more accessible to users who might not understand the original language [2, p. 1].

During the time, one of the interests of Europe was also the endangered languages. In according with UNESCO, many languages and dialects are in danger to be extinct [6, p. 2]. But, AI can also preserve these endangered languages, by building digital archives and linguistic databases. In this way, not only the endangered languages and dialects can be saved, but also the minority and regional languages that are every day less used.

There are also challenges when we speak about AI and multilingualism. First is related to the fact that AI it is primarily trained on a large corpus of English databases. This is a strong challenge, given the predominance of online content in English, compared to other languages. Thus, the prioritisation of widely spoken languages, given the lack of or limited training datasets in other languages, impedes the potential of AI to foster linguistic diversity [2, p. 2]. Other challenge is the quality issues in existing multilingual resources. AI still struggle with accurately capturing the nuances, the cultural contexts, the idiomatic expressions of different languages. The results of AI in less-used languages can occasionally be unreliable, deceptive or lacking in the nuance of human language.

If the Internet is to be used by everyone, the content needs to be accessible in more languages. In this sense, multilingualism is an important aspect of the promotion and development of cultural diversity on the Internet, as well as digital inclusion [2, p. 2]. Although major breakthroughs have been made, limitations still remain.

Multilingual identity development

Nowadays, multilingual skills are vital for effective communication and collaboration in this globalised world. In order that the students develop these skills, schools may need to focus on fostering a multilingual identity. Forbes at all. (2021) demonstrates that if students view themselves as multilingual, they may exhibit higher motivation to learn more languages [3, p. 1]. On the other hand, if students identify themselves as monolingual, chances are they become less confident in using and expanding their multilingual repertoire due to having a fixed mindset towards their language abilities. In the first case, the students are more confident because of the sense of ownership and connection to the languages they identify with. In the second case, the students are less confident.

In addition to improving individual additional language learning, students with a multilingual identity may also contribute to preserving linguistic diversity. One reason is that such students are more aware of the

values of all languages they understand. In countries that are struggling with maintaining their linguistic diversity, having young generations with such a sense of self is critical [4, p. 1].

Multilingual identity development is important in a world where we are so globalized, where there are many bilingual or multilingual persons. These personal assets must be explored and used.

In conclusion, developing a multilingual identity in students through the creation of a multilingual classroom environment and identity-based interventions can lead to higher language learning motivation, preservation of linguistic diversity, and a deeper sense of self as multilingual. Teachers can play a crucial role in fostering multilingual identity by creating a multilingual space and engaging students in multilingualism.

Multilingualism in a changing EU

European Union has never been a fixed framework. Even though, in this space, always, the multilingualism was protected, encouraged and present, doesn't matter the changes. This linguistic landscape is a proof of the fact that our continent has a rich and complex history of languages marked by the presence of different civilizations and cultural influences over the centuries.

The language is very important in the establishment of state and national identities in contemporary Europe. Language has become an essential marker of national identity because it may be used to distinguish one ethnic group from others or to improve communication within one ethnic group. European Union, being able to gather so many countries and languages together is a proof that multilingualism is alive and it's an important part of the new or old political order.

With these various languages spoken by members of different ethnic groups, the European Union is no stranger to multilingualism. Despite this, the application of the multilingualism policy is a different reality that will touch the continent once other countries will be accepted as full members. The new linguistic reality formed into the European Union will be the territory for deeper analysis and researches in the field. Though multilingualism policy is one of founding principles of the European Union, the EU will rethink also its approach to translations, if and when other countries will accede or will leave [1, p. 203].

In conclusion, the Multilingualism remains an important policy at the level of the European Union and in Europe in general, that will change and adapt in function of the challenges that exist at the political, economic, social level. The Multilingualism is going in the same direction as the society is.

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