The present annotated bibliography seeks to sketch a general picture of the nature and scope of the research on multilingualism supplied in Spanish. A number of authors writing in this language have taken interest in a wide variety of aspects of multilingualism. The areas that seem to be more outstanding so far are Education, Linguistic Policies, (Foreign) Language Acquisition and Sociolinguistics.

Most research has been furnished with works reporting on a range of situations of multilingualism in Spanish speaking countries, above all Spain and Latin-America. A smaller body of research has dealt with situations of multilingualism in other European countries, or with some theoretical foundations.

With the purpose of providing a complete overview, the papers, articles and books listed in this annotated bibliography are divided into sections depending on the focus of investigation, in spite of the absence of a clear-cut boundary between these. Sections I to IV discuss different aspects of multilingualism in the context of Spanish-speaking countries. Section V is concerned with multilingual situations in non-Spanish-speaking countries, and Section VI makes some general remarks on psycholinguistics. The two final sections are slightly different from the others. They focus on current research on the acquisition of a third language by bilingual learners in Spain. Specifically, Sections VII and VIII discuss the acquisition of English by learners bilingual in Spanish and Catalan, and Spanish and Basque, respectively.

I. Educational Aspects of Multilingualism
II. Political Aspects of Language
III. Socio-Cultural Considerations
IV. Linguistic Diversity in Multilingual Contexts
V. Multilingualism in non-Spanish-speaking countries
VI. Psycholinguistic Aspects of Multilingualism

VII. L3 Acquisition in Bilinguals. Research in Catalonia
VIII. L3 Acquisition in Bilinguals. Research in the Basque Country

If you have additional titles to add to this list, please contact us!
I: EDUCATIONAL ASPECTS OF MULTILINGUALISM

A salient research area in the Spanish literature on multilingualism is education. The works discussed in this section focus on educational, pedagogical or didactic aspects in multilingual contexts in Spain and Latin-America. In those contexts, the Spanish language co-exists with other aboriginal languages or dialects, or with the languages of migrant population. The efforts to implement the teaching and learning of languages in these situations of cultural and linguistic change are the main topic in almost all of the works.

In order to facilitate the contextualization of the discussed situations, in this and the following sections a further distinction is made between works in Spain and works in Latin-America.

Some relevant titles in Spain:


The issue of multilingualism is addressed from the perspective of migration and language minorities.

CANTERO, F.J., C. ROMERA and M. MENDOZA (eds.) 1996. ‘Didáctica de la lengua y la literatura para una sociedad plurilingüe del Siglo XXI’ [Language and literature didactics for a multilingual society of the XXI Century]. *Actas del IV Congreso Internacional de la Sociedad Española de Didáctica de la Lengua y la Literatura*.

The proceedings edited by Cantero and his colleagues are of an interdisciplinary nature and collect several works of a variety of topics, as for instance: semantics and semiotics, anthropology and sociology of language, linguistic theory, phonetics and phonology, grammar and grammar didactics, pragmatics, text linguistics and cognitive linguistics, linguistic typology and coexistence of languages, discursive psycholinguistics, or (especially) foreign language teaching and learning.


The linguistic situation in Spain is explored in this book. Specifically, the situation in some autonomous communities where Spanish is spoken along with a community language is explored. On this basis, the author’s account of multilingualism highlights the identity of the individual as a definitory trait in the linguistic plurality depicted, while advocating for the application of a set of measures that allow multilingualism to get rid of its label as socially conflicting element.

The central topic of this book, as appropriately indicated in the title, is the issue of multiculturalism, and more specifically, intercultural assimilation. This topic is treated throughout a series of conferences and papers. The authors analyze the evolution of ethnic minorities, which are discussed from different approaches, above all, multicultural education from a psychological perspective, or the so-called “compensatory” education.


Lovelace reports on a multicultural educational experience in the EUA. She studies the concept of multiculturality at a cultural and linguistic level. The study of this concept is carried out as a function of certain social and school factors, among which a number of variables related to both the teacher (attitudes, methodology, etc.) and the learner are to be found. Bilingualism or the relationship between the sociocultural context and the role played by the school in the development of multiculturality are in the foreground.


The scenery of Martin’s work is the learning context of the Spanish language on the part of migrant population in Spain (Arabic population, above all). The present work deals with a number of pedagogical measures adopted to solve the learning problems these learners are felt to face. The final goal of the aforementioned measures is the development of a linguistic politic based on integration promoting learning.


Morales elaborates on a proposal of intercultural education for adolescents, built on a series of principles that aim at promoting multilingualism and multiculturality. For the former, he raises values based on respect, tolerance, as well as social and cultural integration. For the latter, a didactic proposal is made on the basis of several activities.

A cornerstone of the promotion of multilingualism in Europe is the application of the so-called “AICLE” Method, that is, a second and foreign language teaching method designed from a content-based approach. This method intends to impulse language learning through the teaching of extra-linguistic contents in the target language. The present article presents AICLE within the framework of second language acquisition and stresses its close link with multilingualism, as such a method is the result of and is developed in multilingual contexts.

Some relevant titles in Latin-American:

In this piece of research the author exposes the multilingual situation lived in Argentina, and the political and linguistic efforts made in order to achieve an equilibrium in the use of the different languages spoken in that region. In particular, such efforts centre around the practical aspects of various proposals for the teaching of the first and the second language, the aboriginal and community languages, respectively. This teaching is aimed to foster the necessary changes in the educational system so that it can cope with multilingualism, i.e. with the difficulties derived from the unequal treatment of the various languages in contact. Some linguistic notions that apply directly to the situation described are provided, such as for instance monolingualism, bilingualism, multilingualism, code-mixing or code-switching, etc.


Maitena Etxebarria is an expert on sociolinguistics, and has extensively researched multilingualism from the perspective of linguistic politic. In the present paper she reflects on the social and multilingual reality in the Colombian Caribbean.

Some relevant titles in Latin-America:


Some reflections on globalization and multilingualism are rendered in this article, where Goddenzzi discusses several situations of social interaction. He pays some attention to the situation in Peru, described by means of the “diglossic pattern” observable in the model of bilingual intercultural education and linguistic politic adopted in this country.


The two publications by this author result from the programme of formation in Intercultural Bilingual Education financed by the Centre Bartolomé de las Casas. They
are fundamentally sociolinguistic, and present the educational situation of the aboriginal population in South America. Specifically, they deal with multilingualism and the education of bilingual population.


In spite of the absence of the word “multilingualism” in the title of this long piece of research, its main goal is to provide contextual and historical information about the multilingual situation in Latin-America. In particular, the authors state their intention of setting the bases for the establishment of educational policies in multilingual, multicultural and multiethnic contexts. They discuss the improvements achieved via the application of bilingual educational programmes, as well as the (to date) unresolved questions.


The author collects the contributions of a number of researchers. The lines of research are particularly relevant for the study of multilingualism in terms of didactically-related information, as well as information about the languages and dialects spoken in this country.


Warleta provides a complete view of the linguistic situation in South America. He describes the use of official and aboriginal languages in each country. He traces different linguistic families and discusses the political, social and cultural consequences of this linguistic diversity. Of particular interest for the study of multilingualism are the notions of bilingualism and educational politics. Terms such as “bilingualism”, “biculuralism”, “bilingual bicultural education” or “second language acquisition” are applied to the situation analyzed. The author points out some on-going research and the results are discussed in the light of language integration and normalization.

II: POLITICAL ASPECTS OF LANGUAGE

Linguistic Policies are another relevant area. The complicated co-existence of official and non-official languages tends to be the common ground of the works commented in the present section. The most frequent issues are the co-officiality of Spanish with other linguistic varieties, the situations of linguistic equilibrium (or lack of it), and the attempts to normalize the use of all these languages.

As stated in the previous section, a distinction is made between Spain and other Spanish-speaking countries.
Some relevant titles in Spain:


López sets out the linguistic situation in this autonomous community in Spain. From the perspective of linguistic policy, the author describes the linguistic regulation held in the region. He also compares this situation with that of other bilingual (or multilingual) communities in this country.


The chapter by Mackey, which focuses on the linguistic diversity and the situation of Catalan in this autonomous community, is concerned with language contact, linguistic ecology, linguistic change, and processes of linguistic normalization. Special emphasis is placed on the legislative regulation of language use in Catalonia.


This article deals with a diversity of topics concerning linguistic policies in Spain. A number of situations (in Spain and Europe) where more than one language co-exist in one and the same region are described and compared with each other. The author, who focuses in particular on the situation in Spain, highlights situations of linguistic conflict. He discusses some measures to be adopted in order to, firstly, maintain the co-officiality of the Spanish language with other languages in autonomous communities with an own language, and, secondly, to normalize the use of these languages.


Vidal-Quadras presents the controversy experienced in Catalonia as a result of the difficult co-existence of the national language (Spanish) and Catalan. The relationship between language and politics is explored by means of the simultaneous discussion of two topics. Firstly, the author holds a theoretically-based discussion on the definition of language as a function of some social, national and political factors. Secondly, he describes the changes that language use in this region has undergone over the last thirty years. Both discussions come together in the concept of identity, or as the author himself suggests, “multiple identities”.


The authors tackle a number of aspects related to the linguistic legislation adopted by the United Nations.
Some relevant titles in Latin-America: At this point the high degree of overlapping between the sections on education and linguistic diversity must be underlined. The works mentioned here are essentially political.


The work by Yrigoyen presents the sociolinguistic reality in Guatemala and discusses the different linguistic policies that have been adopted, as well as the treatment of the aboriginal languages as a result of these policies. The situation of multilingualism in this region is approached from a political perspective. Under this perspective is shaped the model of bilingualism and linguistic legislation. The author closes the articles by putting forward some suggestions for the successful institutionalization of multilingualism.

**CERRON-PALOMINO, R. 1987.** Multilingüismo y política idiomática en Perú [Multilingualism and linguistic policy in Perú]. Lima: IEP.

The situation of multilingualism in Peru is analyzed by Cerron-Palomino from the perspective of linguistic policy.

### III: SOCIO-CULTURAL CONSIDERATIONS

The bibliography cited in this section analyzes multilingualism from the perspective of either sociolinguistics, cultural anthropology, or ethnography.

**ARDENER, E. 1976.** Multilingüismo y categoría social [Multilingualism and social category]. Paidos: Buenos Aires (Spanish versión by César Tomás Aira).

The author examines multilingualism from an anthropological perspective.


The occurrence of bilingualism and multilingualism in the Catalan-speaking context is presented.

**FERNÁNDEZ, M. 2000.** ‘Cuando los hablantes se niegan a elegir: multilingüismo e identidad múltiple en la modernidad reflexiva’ [When speakers refuse to choose: multilingualism and multiple identity in modern reflexives. Estudios de Sociolinguística 1,1.

This article focuses on the concept of identity and explores the relationship between the constructs “language” and “identity”, analyzed from the point of view of social identity. The main assumption in this article is that languages result from social identity, but they are simultaneously a source of social identities.
In these two articles the concept of multilingualism is approached from a sociolinguistic perspective.

IV: LINGUISTIC DIVERSITY IN MULTILINGUAL CONTEXTS

One of the most defining features of multilingualism is the linguistic diversity it involves. That is why several works echo it in a direct or indirect way. The works cited in this section focus on such diversity. They describe several linguistic varieties, and refer to the use of different languages and the contexts associated to each of them. Furthermore, some works speculate on the role played by some factors believed to be key to the understanding of the present-day situation in these countries.

- Some titles in Spain:


In this book, Siguán describes the linguistic variety in Spain in terms of the use of different languages, dialects or linguistic varieties in the different autonomous communities in the country. This description presents the uses of each language in several contexts (family, education, politics, etc.). Different cultural and social measures designed to promote the use and development of every language are discussed along with the reactions to these measures.

SOTO, BEATRIZ 2000. ‘El fenómeno de la inmigración desde una perspectiva lingüística. La población marroquí escolarizada como ejemplo’ [The phenomenon of immigration from a linguistic perspective. Moroccan population in school as an example]. Paper presented at the II Congress on Immigration in Spain, under the title España y las migraciones internacionales en el cambio de siglo, Madrid.

Soto is concerned with problems related to the acceptance and adoption of linguistic and cultural diversity in Spain, originated by the increasing influx of migrant population arrived to Spain in the last years. In particular, the author analyses the case of moroccan immigrants, focusing on the effect that the linguistic diversity and diglossia in the society of their home country exerts on the learning of Spanish.

Linguistic diversity in Spain is also discussed in these works:


- Some titles in Latin-America:


*In this book, Cifuentes examines some of the factors that have determined the present multilingual situation in Mexico, from a cultural point of view. Among these, he stresses the importance of education and evangelization, as well as the role played by latin musicians and their lyrics.*


*Díaz-Couder portrays the linguistic situation in Mexico. The author comments briefly on the history of the linguistic evolution of this country, underlining the great variety of languages and the structural differences between them. Demographical data are provided on the use of these languages and their distribution among the population. The author mentions different situations of language maintenance or dislocation and discusses some conditioning factors of their use.*

*More general titles describing similar situations in the above cited countries are listed next.*


STEWART, W.A. 1962. ‘Un bosquejo de tipología lingüística para describir el multilingüismo’ [A draft on the linguistic typology to describe multilingualism]. In Garrin, P. and Y. Lastra (eds.): *Antología de etno-lingüística y sociolingüística*. México: UNAM.

**V: MULTILINGUALISM IN NON SPANISH-SPEAKING COUNTRIES**

Even though a great deal of literature on multilingualism in Spanish presents situations linked to the use of this language, it is also true that situations of multilingualism in other countries have drawn the attention of some authors. Some instances of this are found in the works discussed in this section.

Barajano expounds the situation of multilingualism in present-day Israel, emphasizing the weight and political decision in this situation.


This article reports on the educational system in Luxemburg, a country where multilingualism is impelled by formal education. This model of education is based on an instrumental use of the language. The situation in this country is compared with that of other European countries, which serve the author to theorize about the improvements that might be suggested in the Spanish educational system to optimize foreign language teaching and learning.

Further references on works on European multilingualism are the following:


ZACHARIEW, Z. 1978. *Lengua materna, bilingüismo y multilingüismo a través de los programas de la UNESCO* [Mother tongue, bilingualism and multilingualism through the UNESCO programmes]. Barcelona: Ediciones CEAC.

VI: PSYCHOLINGUISTIC ASPECTS OF Multilingualism

As is the case in the preceding sections, the major body of literature on multilingualism is published in English. Notwithstanding, it is in this section where the scarcity of titles in Spanish becomes more evident. The two works cited approach multilingualism from a psychoanalytical perspective.


This is a short article on the advantages and disadvantages entailed by the knowledge of more than one language, analyzed from a psychological point of view. Several contexts for foreign language acquisition (above all acquisition on the part of migrant population) and their immediate implications for the multilingualism of the speakers are discussed.
Particularly relevant for the scientific study of multilingualism is the empirical research carried out by the BAF-Project (Barcelona Age Factor) on the acquisition of English as a foreign language by Spanish/Catalan bilingual learners. This group is coordinated by Dr. Carmen Muñoz and counts in the contributions of several teachers from the University of Barcelona, the Autonomous University of Barcelona and the Pompeu Fabra University. The main research line of this group is the effect of age on the formal acquisition of a foreign language on the part of primary, secondary and university students in Catalonia, who have began learning the target language (L3 English) at different ages (8, 11, 14 and after 18). Longitudinal and cross-sectional data have been collected at different stages of the acquisition process. The data have been gathered by means of the administration of a questionnaire and a battery of tests. The different tests aim at measuring different skills, whereas the questionnaire makes feasible the study of issues of great importance in Second Language Acquisition, as for instance motivation, learning strategies or attitudes towards the foreign language and the learning of this language, all of them prevalent issues in the literature on multilingualism and multilingual acquisition.

The first analyses of these data allowed the members of the BAF-Project to evaluate the efficiency of the learning process in the different groups. The relevance of these results is theoretical (in that it permits a discussion of the critical period hypothesis in the acquisition of a language) as well as applied, in that it allows an analysis of the pedagogical practices in public schools in Catalonia and the proposal of a number of measures to implement the learning and teaching of these learners.

Some of the most elucidating results of this on-going research are mentioned in the forthcoming titles, which account for the findings thrown by the qualitative analysis of the battery of tests. These results are related to the development of oral and written skills, the stages or processes of acquisition of diverse linguistic forms, and the effect of the age factor in the above-mentioned processes. They have been presented in different congresses and published in several articles or chapters.


FULLANA, N. 1998. ‘El efecto de la edad de inicio de aprendizaje de la lengua extranjera (inglés) y cantidad de exposición a la LE en la percepción de los fonemas del inglés por hablantes de español y catalán’ [The effect of age of onset in the learning of a foreign language (English) and the amount of exposure to the TL in the perception of English phonemes by speakers of Spanish and Catalan]. Paper presented in AESLA, Universidad de Lleida.


The results of the qualitative analysis of the questionnaires have revealed some tendencies in relation to a set of dependent variables closely linked to the learner. This analysis has further explored the relationship of the age factor with these variables. Some of these results are reported in the works cited below.

CORTÉS, C. and NAVÉS, T. 1996. ‘Diseño, pilotaje y explotación de cuestionarios sobre las variables edad, metodología y gramática’ [Design, piloting and exploitation of
questionnaires on age, methodology and grammar]. *Actas del XIV Congreso de AESLA*, Tarragona.

**MUÑOZ, C. 2000.** ‘La edad y otras variables individuales en el aprendizaje de una lengua extranjera’ [Age and other individual variables in the learning of a foreign language]. *Actas del Curso de Verano de la Universidad del País Vasco: “El factor edad en la adquisición de lenguas extranjeras”.* San Sebastián.

1998. La adquisición formal de la lengua inglesa por escolares de diferentes edades’ [The formal acquisition of the English language by learners of different ages]. Paper presented in the I Simposio sobre enseñanza y aprendizaje del inglés: el método comunicativo.

**TORRAS, M.R. and TRAGANT, E. 1996.** ‘Estudio de las creencias sobre el aprendizaje de una lengua extranjera antes de los 8 años’ [Study of beliefs on the learning of a foreign language before the age of 8]. *Actas del XIV Congreso de AESLA*. Tarragona.


**VICTORI, M. 1999.** ‘Las estrategias de aprendizaje en la enseñanza de lenguas’ [Learning Strategies in language teaching]. Hizpide, 44.


**VIII: L3 ACQUISITION IN BILINGUALS. RESEARCH IN THE BASQUE COUNTRY**

Research in the Basque Country, similar to that described in the Catalan context (Section VII) as regards scientific aims and explored areas, is coordinated by Dr. Jasone Cenoz. A great deal of research done by this group results from the comparison of diverse educational models in primary and secondary school. These models differ from each other in amount and intensity of formal instruction in all the languages, namely, the two official languages of the Basque Country (Spanish and Basque) and the third language (English). The most recurrent issues are the effects of the advancement of the age of onset in the acquisition of English as a foreign language (in relation to different linguistic skills), and the attitudes towards the learning of this language. Of particular interest are the similar findings obtained in the projects in Catalonia and the Basque Country in spite of the different linguistic typology in each context.

*The main findings of this research are set out in the following works:*

**CENOZ, J. 2003.** ‘El aprendizaje del inglés desde educación infantil: efectos cognitivos, lingüísticos y afectivos’ [The learning of English in primary school:
cognitive, linguistic and affective effects]. Eduling. Revista-fòrum sobre plurilingüisme i educació 1.


