
Family registers? A longitudinal perspective on self-evaluations of multilingual families

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Family language policy (FLP) research has used different approaches to capture language practices, to understand parental attitudes and to engage with child agency (Lanza & Lomeu Gomes 2020). Little attention has been paid to the family registers or familylects (van Mensel 2018) as specific forms and expressions in a family: they can be a sign of belonging and identification but they can also be perceived as a short-coming in light of standard language ideologies. While educational contexts often voice clear preferences for the standard (i.e. Oldani & Truan 2022), families' own perspectives may differ. This contribution aims to discuss the evaluations and negotiations of family registers as they happen among parents and between parents and children.

I discuss data from three multilingual families that have lived in Austria (for a time) over the last 15 years. Each family finds itself in a multilingual situation, and has managed to negotiate multilingual family life from the birth of the first child until now. In three recorded sessions per family, each 7 years apart, I used a multimodal method that centers collaborative building activities with LEGO® building blocks to understand how FLP came into being, is negotiated in everyday actions and is ultimately leading to expectations for the future. With Winnicott (2005) I see these interactions as playful spaces of development to be able to realize one's potential and to advance to next steps. Reference to the family and familylect is made in the here-and-now but also in the there-and-then and even in the there-and-now as the families have transnational ties to other places. This *rechronotopization* (Karimzad and Catedral 2021) is linked to the possibility of experiences that are connected to the immediate surrounding but also to earlier experiences and mediated experiences connected to other places.

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