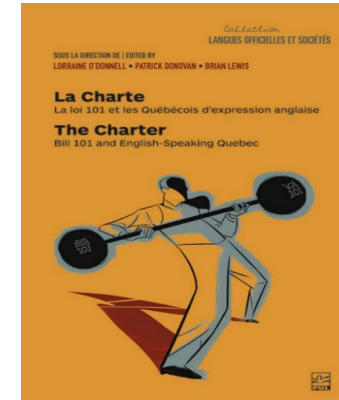
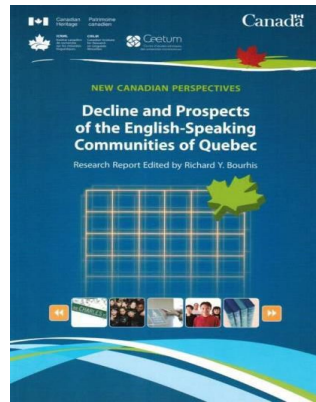


Discussion notes on six vitality clarification themes for the English-speaking communities of Quebec



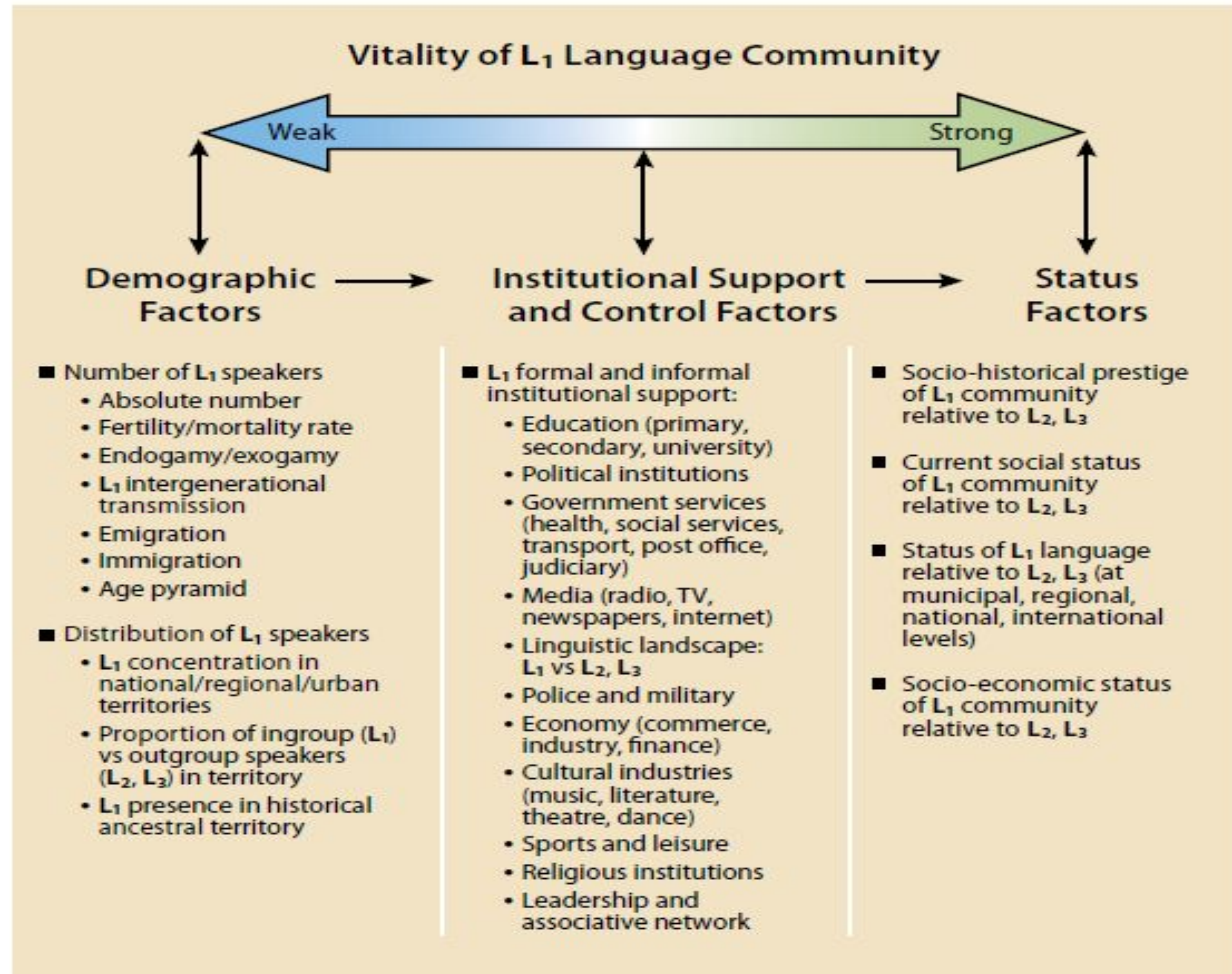
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The vitality of Linguistic Communities

- The **vitality** of a language community is defined as: «**that which makes a group likely to behave as a distinctive and active collective entity in intergroup settings**» (Giles, Bourhis & Taylor, 1977, pp 308; Bourhis et al., 2019)
- The **more vitality** a language community enjoys, the more likely it is that it will survive and **thrive** as a collective entity in the given intergroup context.
- Conversely, language communities that have **little vitality** are more likely to eventually **cease to exist** as distinctive language groups within the intergroup setting.

Figure 1
Taxonomy of Socio-Structural Factors
Affecting the Vitality of Language Community L₁
in Contact with Language Communities L₂ and L₃
 (Adapted from Bourhis, 2001a)



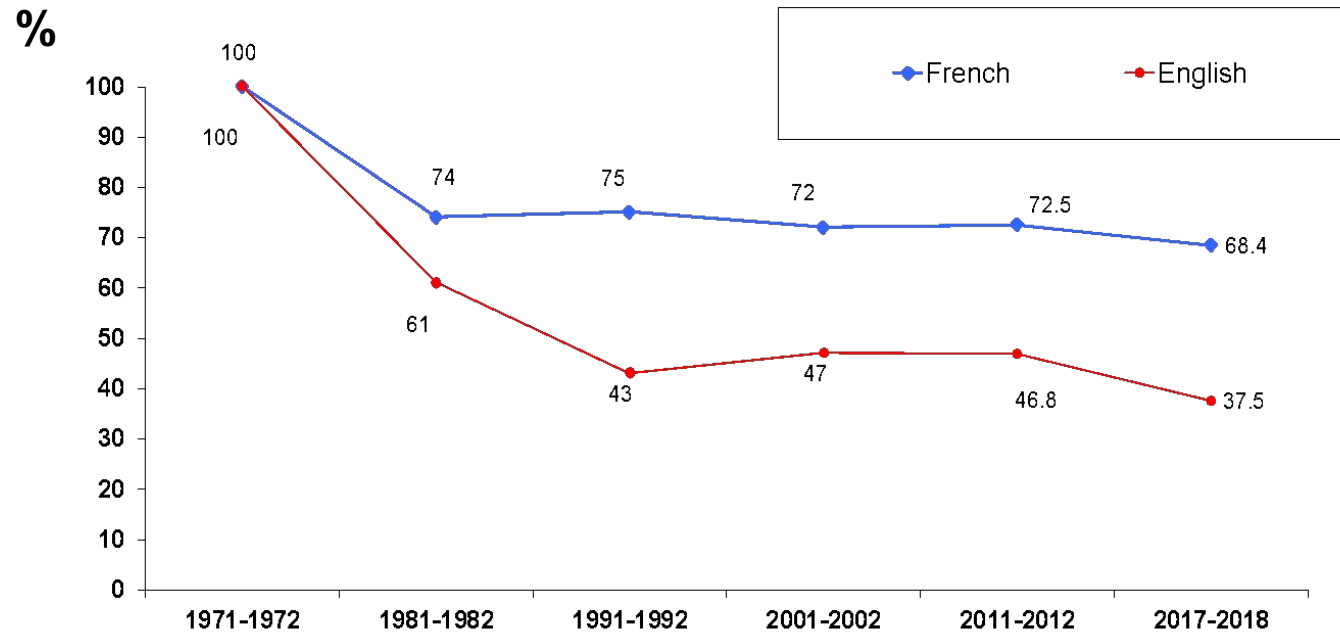
Source: Bourhis, R., & Landry, R. (2012). Group Vitality, Cultural Autonomy and the Wellness of Language Minorities. In Bourhis, R.Y. (Ed.) *Decline and Prospects of the English-Speaking Communities of Quebec*. Ottawa, Canada: Canadian Heritage

Decline of the English School system in Quebec: 1971 to 2018

Number & percentage (1971=100%) of pupils in primary & secondary *French* and *English* school systems in Quebec (public & private): 1971-2018. Future CEGEP students !

School enrollment in 1971 before Bill 101, is used as benchmark for index for subsequent years up to 2018.

Ministère de l'Éducation: MELS, 2013; Direction services à la Communauté anglophone, MEES, 2018



◆ French Schools	1,378,788	1,026,951	1,035,358	997,358	999,976	943,381
● English Schools	256,251	155,585	111,391	121,225	119,974	96,235

Economic decline of the institutional vitality of the English-speaking communities of Quebec (ESCQ) (1977 -2023)

The Provincial Employment Round Table (PERT) monitors economic circumstances of the ESCQ

1. PERT Report (2023) of the Quebec population based on the 2021 census, showed that *median employment income* of **English speakers (FOLS)** was **\$32,000 /year**, compared to the higher income of **French speakers (FOLS)** at **\$37,200/year**.
2. PERT Report (2023) showed that Province-wide, the 2021 *unemployment rate* of **English speakers** was **10.9%** compared to the lower unemployment rate of **French speakers** at **6.9%** .
3. As regards population of Quebec living *under the poverty line*, PERT (2023) report showed that more **English speakers** lived under the poverty line at **10%**, compared to **French speakers** at **5.8%**.
4. Yet English speakers had a slightly higher educational achievement than French speaking majority. Among **English speakers**, **85.5%** had a secondary education compared to **81,6%** of **French speakers** (Pert, 2023)
5. These vitality trends require Anglophone and Allophone communities to consider their vitality PROSPECTS as linguistic and cultural minorities under majority Québécois francophone governments. We can discuss 6 Vitality Clarification themes based on these considerations.

Six vitality clarification themes to discuss

1: Linguistic realities of Francophone & Anglophone communities in Quebec

1.1. **Anglophone** and **Allophone** minorities who **stayed in Quebec** have proven they **accept** the imperative of maintaining the status and use of French. **70% of Anglophones are French/English bilinguals.** In 2021 census, out of a population of 8 millions speakers in Quebec, **94% report knowledge of French** sufficient to hold a conversation .

1.2. The **English speaking communities of Quebec (ESCQ)** are **not responsible** for the substantial **status** and **spread** of the **English language** in the **world** including within **Canada & Quebec.** The drawing power of English would prevail even if 100% of Quebec population was French speaking.

1.3. In **North America**, **French** will always be a **minority language** relative to the majority **English** speaking population and Spanish speakers.

1.4. Eroding the **institutional vitality** of the **English speaking minority** will **never be sufficient** to **neutralise** the **international drawing power** of the **English language** for Francophone, Allophone and Anglophone communities in Quebec .

Six vitality clarification themes

2: Québécois Francophone Rhetorical Strategies

- 2.1. Québécois Francophone **national discourse** invoke a **threat** to the **French language** from the presence of the **English language in North America**
- 2.2. Much Québécois Francophone **discourse use** this **threat** to the **French language** as **justification** to **erode** the **institutional vitality** of the *English speaking minorities of Quebec* (ESCQ).
- 2.3. Quebec Government laws **reducing access to English schools and CEGEPS & hiking University fees of 3 English Universities but not French universities** illustrates how the **Francophone majority** can use its **minority status** at the **Canadian & USA** level, to **justify eroding** the minority **English educational system** at the **Quebec Provincial level**.
- 2.4. We note a **rhetorical shift** from Bill 101 increasing the status/use of **French as shared public language**, to Bill 96 focus on **French use at home**.
- 2.5 In democratic states, **language policies have no business regulating language use of speakers in their private home setting**. States that adopt such policy goals are basically **assimilationist** and undermine fundamental rights of minorities to maintain their own language and culture.

Six Vitality clarification themes

3. Québécois Francophones: *Paradigm Shift from « Fragile majority » to « Dominant majority »*

3.1 The majority of Québécois Francophone, Anglophone and Allophone individuals value **additive French/English bilingualism/multilingualism**, despite anti-bilingualism rhetoric within nationalist political discourses.

3.2. Quebec laws **restricting the institutional vitality of the English-speaking communities of Quebec** are *legitimized rhetorically* by invoking that **Québécois Francophones** are a « **fragile majority** » in the Province .

3.3. Can a *formerly subordinated majority* such as **Québécois Francophones** **admit** that it has **gained** linguistic, political, institutional and economic *dominance* within its own territory of Quebec ?

3.4. Can **Québécois Francophones** accept a *paradigm shift* by reframing their status position from a « **fragile majority** » to that of a **dominant majority** ?

3.5. **Québécois Francophones** are a **dominant majority** imbued with the *psychology* of a *besieged minority*, armed with **ALL** the **tools of the Quebec STATE**.

3.6. This puts **Anglophone, Allophone & Indigenous minorities** in a **precarious** situation under the **dominant Québécois majority** government.

Six Vitality clarification themes

4. Francophones can reframe Anglophone & Allophone minorities as assets, not threats

4.1. Can **Québécois Francophone dominant majority** develop the **cultural security** to view its own *linguistic minorities* as a **responsability** rather than as **threatening, suspect liabilities** ?

4.2. Can **Québécois Francophone majority** « **reframe** » Anglophone and Allophone minorities as **assets** contributing to the *economic, linguistic and cultural diversity* of Quebec? Such '**reframing**' will make **Anglophone and Allophone minorities** feel **more accepted** in Québécois majority society.

4.3. **Québécois Francophones** acting as a **secure dominant majority** could view **investment** in the **institutional vitality** of its **linguistic minorities** as building **social cohesion** and **enhancing** the **adaptability** of Québécois society within North American economy.

Six Vitality clarification themes:

5. *Rights of Anglophones & Allophones minorities to also OWN Quebec as their HOMELAND !*

5.1. **Anglophone and Allophone** minorities have the **right** to consider Québec as their **homeland** as much as **do** the **Francophone majority**. **All pay taxes and have Canadian citizenship rights.**

5.2. **Anglophone and Allophone** communities & leaders **built** many of their **own institutions in Quebec** over centuries. They have the **collective human right** to **protect and develop** the institutional **vitality** of their **languages and cultures**. This, without being « **stigmatized** » and **excluded** as « **traitors** » to « **La Nation Québécoise** ».

5.3. But CAQ Government is using a '**wedge approach**' by granting '**historical Anglophones**' priority access to English CEGEPS relative to '**categories of non historical Anglophones & Allophones**' & Francophones who will have less access to English CEGEPS.

5.4. A linguistic '**wedge approach**' is the CAQ forcing **Anglophone** undergraduates from the rest of Canada to **pay \$17k fees**, while **Francophones** from ROC & French from France & Belgium pay **\$9k.m** to attend McGill, Concordia & Bishop Universities.

Six Vitality clarification themes

6. Rights of Anglophone & Allophone communities to value & celebrate their own socio-affective language & culture

6.1. Quebec Anglophone, Allophone communities have the **human right** to fight to have their **own mother tongue and culture** as valued pillars of their **socio-affective identity** as **unique** and **universal** as the French language & culture **is** for the **Québécois francophones majority**.

6.2. Quebec Anglophones & Allophones minorities along with Francophone majority have the **right to endorse multiple national, cultural & linguistic identities**, including **to Quebec, to Canada** and other nations **without stigma or exclusion !**

6.3 Quebec **Anglophone & Allophone** minorities have the right to be considered **as much** part of '**La Nation Québécoise**' as are the **Francophone dominant majority**. **ALL have equal rights and duties as citizens of Quebec & Canada.**

6.4: The **eleven Indigenous communities** of Quebec have rights to their homelands as the first inhabitants of this continent and are developing their own institutional vitality clarification themes in Quebec, Canada and USA, which must be respected.

MERCI

THANK YOU

GRACIAS

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Obrigado

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