

# Linguistic skills and language use in the Balearic Islands. A review of the studies carried out by institutions and other organisations

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## Abstract

This article reviews several studies on the subject of linguistic skills and language use in the Balearic Islands carried out by public institutions from the second half of the eighties onwards. We also refer to several studies carried out by universities as well as to work currently in progress. Detailed references for these studies can be found in the technical records in the appendix and in the bibliography.

## Summary

1. Demographic trends in the Balearic Islands
2. Introduction
3. Population censuses and data from municipal records
4. Surveys made throughout the Balearic Islands
  - 4.1 The surveys carried out by the CIS
  - 4.2 The sociolinguistic survey of the Catalan-speaking countries
  - 4.3 The *Tercera encuesta básica* [Third basic survey]
5. Surveys with a smaller scope
  - 5.1 Sociolinguistic survey of the population of Majorca
  - 5.2 Surveys on young people
    - 5.2.1 *La llengua dels joves* [The language of young people ]
    - 5.2.2 *Estudi sociològic sobre els joves de les Illes Balears*. [Sociological study of young people in the Balearic Islands]
    - 5.2.3 *Joves Balears* [Young people of the Balearic Islands]
    - 5.2.4 *Usos i representacions socials del català a les Balears*. [Usage and social representations of Catalan in the Balearic Islands]
    - 5.2.5 Knowledge of Catalan among people of school age in the Balearic Islands
6. Work in progress
7. Appendix
8. Bibliography

## 1. Introduction

Most of the studies reviewed are quantitative studies based on closed question questionnaires through which the interviewees provide information about their linguistic skills and their use of languages in different domains. This type of study presents several problems that cannot be ignored. It should be stressed that thanks to these techniques we obtain more information on users' perception of their own linguistic skills and habits of use than reliable data about actual linguistic knowledge and use. Furthermore, although these works share a common methodology and set of objectives, they only very occasionally manage to fully coincide in the criteria employed (for example, the items of the questionnaires or the treatment of variables such as the first language of those interviewed, etc.). This is why the results of the different studies are not fully comparable.

On the other hand, the authors often have to face problems when establishing truly representative samples of the whole of the populations in question given the legal impossibility of obtaining access to population censuses, they have to rely on electoral censuses that do not include people under the age of eighteen or immigrants who do not have the vote - that is, two highly relevant groups in the demolinguistic environment. Nevertheless, these studies are interesting, insofar as they give a description of the sociolinguistic situation. If the data provided are not mutually contradictory and the researcher takes into

account the above-mentioned methodological problems, such studies are a useful source of information that allows us to observe general trends.

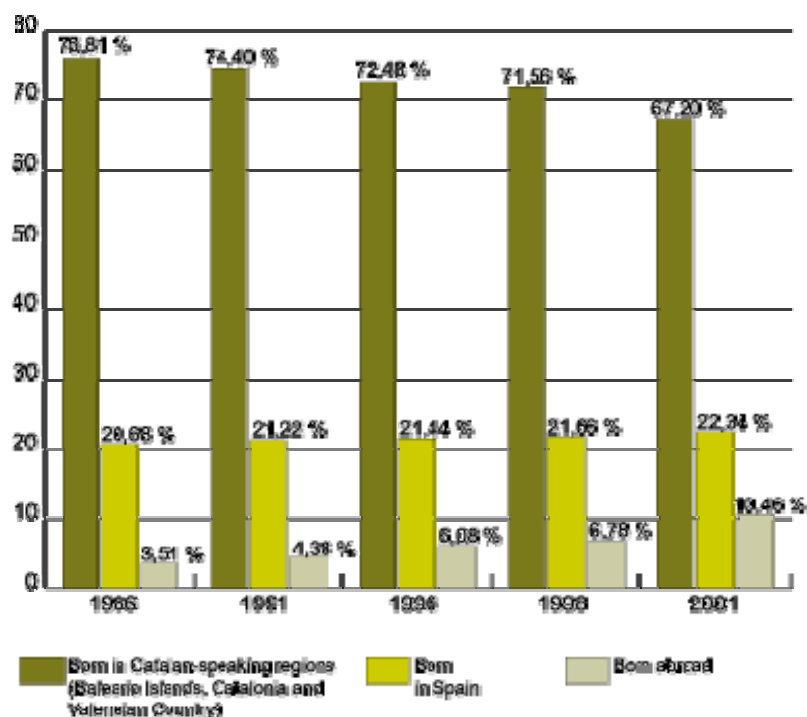
## 2. Demographic evolution of the Balearic Islands

In order to set in context the information given in the following pages we must take into account the demographic trends of Balearic Islands over the past 15 years, which is characterized by a strong and still ongoing increase in the presence of people born outside Catalan-speaking regions. Table 0 and graph 1 show this trend. We have moreover to bear in mind that a part of the locally born population are children of first generation immigrants and in many cases reproduce the linguistic behaviour of their parents.

**Table 0. Evolution of the population of the Balearic Islands 1986-2001 (absolute figures)**

|      | BORN IN THE BALEARIC ISLANDS | BORN IN CATALAN-SPEAKING REGIONS | BORN IN THE REST OF SPAIN | BORN ABROAD | ORIGIN UNKNOWN | TOTAL   |
|------|------------------------------|----------------------------------|---------------------------|-------------|----------------|---------|
| 1986 | 484,862                      | 515,207                          | 140,568                   | 23,848      | 342            | 679,965 |
| 1991 | 494,866                      | 527,586                          | 150,480                   | 31,072      |                | 709,138 |
| 1996 | 515,030                      | 551,136                          | 162,992                   | 46,251      |                | 760,379 |
| 1998 | 530,974                      | 569,992                          | 172,518                   | 53,973      |                | 796,483 |
| 2001 | 545,739                      | 590,441                          | 196,253                   | 91,933      |                | 878,627 |

**Graph 1. Evolution of the proportion of autochthonous and alloctons in the Balearic Islands. Source: IBAE/INE**

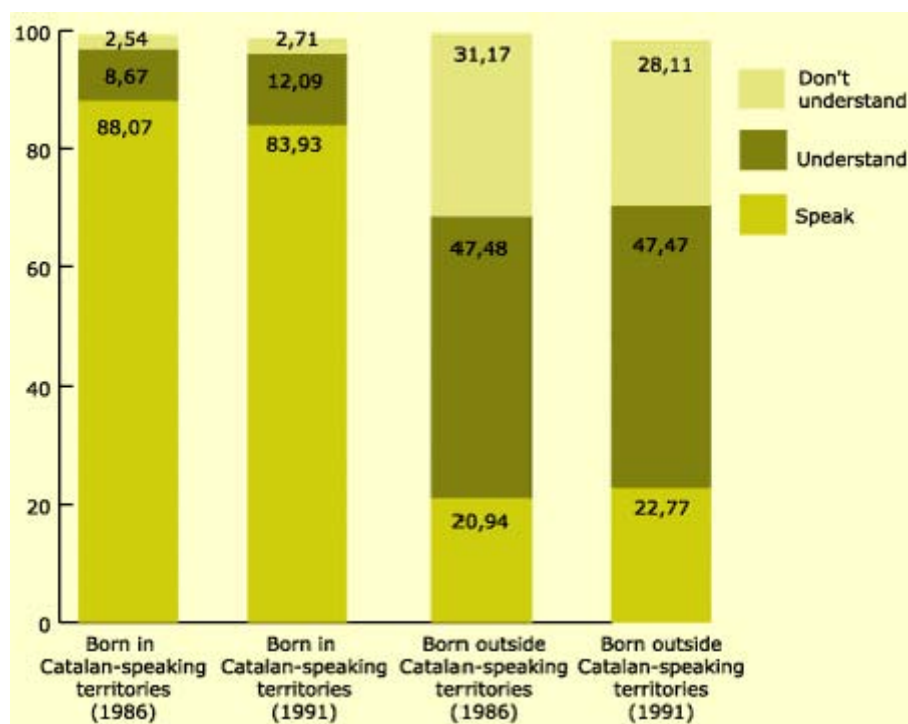


Source: IBAE/INE

### 3. Population censuses and the data of municipal registers

The inclusion of questions related to linguistic knowledge in population censuses and municipal registers would have provided highly relevant information updated every 5 years about the linguistic skills of the residents of the Balearic Islands. Unfortunately, up to now the only reliable data available are those of the 1986 update of the municipal register. The data gathered by the 1991 census show considerable skewing (mainly those referring to speaking ability) due to the use of the term *Catalan* in the question (this caused that many people replied negatively as they did not identify their language with that name).<sup>1</sup> There was no question about languages in the 1996 update of the municipal register. Finally, this question was introduced once again in the 2001 census but framed in a different way compared to 1986 and 1991 (see further details below). Both the municipal register and the census provide information about the four linguistic abilities: understanding, speaking, reading and writing. Graphs 2 and 3 show the data from the 1986 municipal register and the 1991 census.<sup>2</sup> The first states distribution according to geographical origin of the interviewees; the second states distribution in the different islands. (Discrepancies in adding up to 100% are due to people for whom there is no available answer).

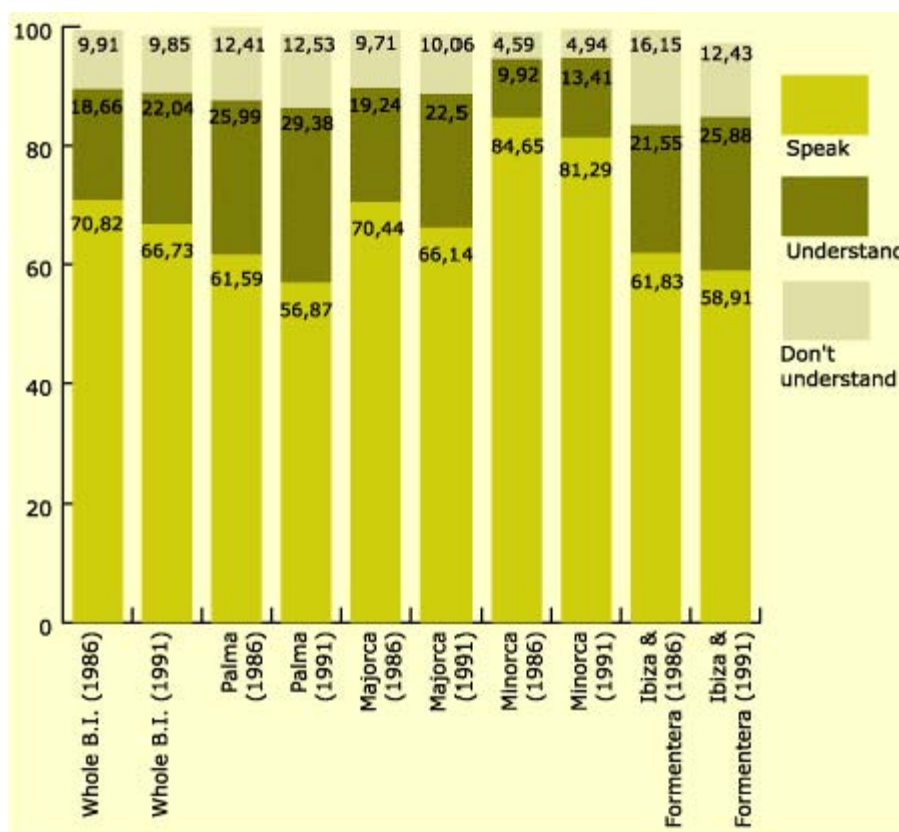
**Graph 2. Linguistic competence according to the place of residence (%). Evolution 1986-1991**



<sup>1</sup> For this issue, see Melià (1993) and Ginard (1995).

<sup>2</sup> From the data of the 1991 census, Antoni I. Alomar (1994) prepared a report about the linguistic skills of Palma's inhabitants. The author analyzes the distribution of the linguistic skills by districts and points out that immigration has a strong influence. Where Catalan-speaking people predominates the level of literacy is Catalan is higher as well as the integration of immigrants (at least in terms of the ability to understand Catalan). He also stresses the existence of some districts which received many immigrants and where there is almost no contact with the local language.

**Graph 3. Linguistic competence according to the place of birth (%). Evolution 1986-1991**



#### 4. Surveys made throughout the Balearic Islands

##### 4.1 The surveys of the CIS

We have at our disposal three surveys of the Centro de Investigaciones Sociológicas (CIS) providing information about linguistic skills and language use in the Balearic Islands, i.e. surveys #2052, 2228 and 2300. The first and the last survey used the same questionnaire so that the data are comparable. In the case of the second, both the questionnaire and the sample were reduced.

Let us look first at study 2228, carried out in 1996. It gives information about linguistic skills, the mother tongue of the interviewees and language use in several domains, as well as gathering the opinion of the informants towards the language and its social extension. According to the survey, Catalan is the mother tongue of 58.2% of the interviewees; 37% have Spanish as mother tongue; 3% claim to be bilingual (Catalan and Spanish as mother tongues), while 1.4% have another mother tongue. As for knowledge of Catalan, 91% understand it and 62,3% speak it fluently.

We review now the surveys 2052 and 2300 taken together. 67% of the interviewees in 1993 were born in the Balearic Islands; 30% in the rest of Spain; the remainder were born in another country. The results for 1998 are as follows: 63.6% were born in the Balearic Islands and 36.2% outside the Islands. Unlike the former, these latter surveys did not ask for the mother tongue but for the main or predominant language. The replies to this question as well as the information on linguistic competence are showed in table 1. It is worth noting the decrease of the percentage of people claiming Catalan as main language in favour of the bilingual group. As for linguistic skills there are no relevant differences between the two surveys, except the increase of people able to write in Catalan.

**Table 1. Information about the main language and linguistic skills according to 1993 and 1998 CIS Surveys**

|  | <b>CIS 1993 (%)</b> | <b>CIS 1998 (%)</b> |
|--|---------------------|---------------------|
| People claiming Catalan as main language             | 50                  | 41                  |
| People claiming Spanish as main language             | 45                  | 46.3                |
| People claiming Catalan and Spanish as main language | 4                   | 12                  |
| Can not understand Catalan                           | 6                   | 7.6                 |
| Can understand Catalan                               | 94                  | 92.4                |
| Can speak Catalan                                    | 71                  | 71.7                |
| Can read Catalan                                     | 54                  | 55.8                |
| Can write Catalan                                    | 22                  | 31.1                |

These CIS surveys also gather information about linguistic uses in several domains and with different interlocutors. Table 2 compares the replies given in 1993 and 1998. Broadly speaking, we observe a decrease of the use of Catalan in all domains, except in two cases which require formal abilities: to write a letter to a friend who knows Catalan and to take personal notes (but in this case the difference falls within the expected margin of error). On the other hand, the increase of the use of Catalan with the partner or children has to be carefully examined as we have to take into account the low number of people making up the subgroups of people with a partner and /or children.

**Table 2. Information about linguistic uses (data referring only to those able to speak Catalan)**

|   |         | <b>TOTAL 1993 (%)</b> | <b>TOTAL 1998 (%)</b> |
|---|---------|-----------------------|-----------------------|
| At home   | Catalan | 77                    | 71.7                  |
|   | Spanish | 22                    | 26.5                  |
| In shops  | Catalan | 78                    | 72.1                  |
|   | Spanish | 20                    | 26.7                  |
| To answer the phone                             | Catalan | 70                    | 59.9                  |
|   | Spanish | 26                    | 36.9                  |
| To write a letter to a friend who knows Catalan | Catalan | 19                    | 28.0                  |
|   | Spanish | 68                    | 66.1                  |
| To ask for information in the street            | Catalan | 65                    | 55.9                  |
|   | Spanish | 32                    | 42.3                  |
| To ask information to local police              | Catalan | 73                    | 67                    |
|   | Spanish | 26                    | 31.6                  |
| In banks  | Catalan | 77                    | 71.4                  |
|   | Spanish | 20                    | 27.1                  |
| To take personal notes                          | Catalan | 23                    | 26.3                  |
|   | Spanish | 68                    | 68.3                  |
| At work or study centre                         | Catalan | 70                    | 55.8                  |
|   | Spanish | 22                    | 34.8                  |
| With friends                                    | Catalan | 72                    | 61.4                  |
|   | Both    | 13                    | 17.4                  |
|   | Spanish | 15                    | 21.2                  |
| With father                                     | Catalan | 78                    | 71.9                  |
|   | Both    | 0                     | 1.2                   |
|   | Spanish | 21                    | 24                    |

|   |              |       |      |
|---|--------------|-------|------|
| With mother   | Catalan      | 77    | 72.6 |
|   | Both         | 0     | 0.9  |
|   | Spanish      | 22    | 23.9 |
| With partner People with partner: 1993, N= 207; 1998: N=215 | Catalan      | 62    | 63.5 |
|   | Both         | 2     | 3.9  |
|   | Spanish N.A. | 20 16 | 29.6 |
| With children People with children: 1993: N=99; 1998: N=217 | Catalan      | 48    | 72.8 |
|   | Both         | 20    | 8.3  |
|   | Spanish N.A. | 9 23  | 18   |

These surveys also provide data about the linguistic background of the interviewees, the preferences related to the language (reading habits, mass-media consumption, etc.) and about their opinion towards the use of languages in the school system, public services, etc.

#### 4.2 The sociolinguistic survey of the Catalan-speaking countries

In 1991 the Institut d'Estudis Avançats de les Illes Balears (Institute of Advanced Studies of the Balearic Islands) undertook a survey of linguistic skills and language use which was intended to include all Catalan-speaking areas, although it was finally carried out only in Catalonia, the Balearic Islands and Valencia. We review below the most relevant results referring to the Balearic Islands. Among people born in the Catalan-speaking territories (78.6% of whole the population),<sup>3</sup> 92.2% spoke Catalan; among people born outside these territories (21.4%), only 12.9% spoke it. As for ability to speak Catalan, the researchers determined this by looking at the language used to answer the questions. On the other hand, allocation to each linguistic group was made according to the language claimed by the informants as main language. Table 3 shows the distribution of replies in the Balearic Islands.

**Table 3. Language used in the replies (%)**

|         | Balearic Islands | Majorca | Palma | Rest of Majorca | Minorca | Eivissa and Formentera |
|---------|------------------|---------|-------|-----------------|---------|------------------------|
| Catalan | 75.2             | 74.5    | 68.0  | 81.5            | 92.5    | 66.7                   |
| Spanish | 24.8             | 25.5    | 32.0  | 18.5            | 7.5     | 33.3                   |

The survey also provides information about linguistic uses in several domains. As for the intergenerational transmission of language (see table 4) we observe a decrease of the percentage of grandparents and parents (i.e. the interviewees themselves) who claim Catalan as own language and a decrease of the percentage people speaking Catalan with the children. This decrease can be partially attributed to mixed marriages and couples.

**Table 4. Intergenerational transmission of language (%)**

|                     | Language father | Language mother | Language of parents fi interviewee | L1 interviewee | Language interviewee fi partner | Language interviewee fi children |
|---------------------|-----------------|-----------------|------------------------------------|----------------|---------------------------------|----------------------------------|
| Catalan             | 68.17           | 67.65           | 64.8                               | 69.7           | 63.1                            | 63.1                             |
| Catalan and Spanish | 0               | 0               | 2.3                                | 5.5            |                                 |                                  |
| Spanish             | 31.82           | 32.34           | 32.9                               | 24.8           |                                 |                                  |

<sup>3</sup> This survey does not match the reliability test proposed by Joaquim Torres (in press). According to this author, due to the importance of the origin of individuals in linguistic data, the only studies to be taken into account should be those based upon samples which, within determined margins of error, show a rate of autochthonous and allochthonous people similar that of population censuses. In this survey, the rate shows a slant towards the autochthonous group.

#### 4.3 The Tercera encuesta básica [Third basic survey]

This is a public opinion survey on different domains of the social reality carried out in Spring 2002 and commissioned by the Presidential Ministry of the Balearic Islands Government. The linguistic information is crossed with such variables as place of residence, geographic origin, gender, age, knowledge of the two official languages, self-identification in the political domain, level of instruction, etc.<sup>4</sup> Table 5 provides information about the linguistic skills of the interviewees compared to the results of the 1998 CIS survey. The ability to speak in Catalan increased 5 points compared to 1998 and that of writing, 20 points.

**Table 5. Knowledge of Catalan**

|                                 | 2002                         |                                   |        | 1998   |
|---------------------------------|------------------------------|-----------------------------------|--------|--------|
|                                 | BORN IN THE BALEARIC ISLANDS | BORN OUTSIDE THE BALEARIC ISLANDS | GLOBAL | GLOBAL |
| Understand ("well" or "fairly") | 98.4                         | 84.4                              | 92.9   | 92.4   |
| Speak ("well" or "fairly")      | 95.9                         | 47.2                              | 76.7   | 71.7   |
| Write ("well" o "fairly")       | 68.6                         | 24.7                              | 51.3   | 31.1   |

Tables 6, 7 and 8 show the rate of people who speak more Catalan or both languages in different situations and with different interlocutors: global percentages (table 6), by place of residence (table 7) and by age groups (table 8). We would like to stress the difference between the frequency of use of Catalan on the one hand between Minorca, and the towns of Majorca and Formentera, and on the other, Palma and Eivissa, on the other. As for the distribution according age groups, we observe a decrease of the frequency of use of Catalan which decreases with decrease in the age of the interviewees. This is a worrying indicator. We have nevertheless to bear in mind that the decrease in the use of Catalan is not correlative to the decrease of the linguistic skills of youngsters, who are as competent (if not even more so for certain abilities) as their elders. Young people could therefore activate this competence whenever the environment was favourable. On the other hand, it is positive that the frequency of use of Catalan is increasing outside the family circle (with friends, at work, in public places) as it shows a growing linguistic vitality (in language situations where there is serious minoritisation, the use within the family circle is higher than in public domains).

**Table 6. Speak more Catalan or both official languages (% of those who speak both languages). By origin**

|                  | TOTAL | BORN IN THE BALEARIC ISLANDS | BORN OUTSIDE THE BALEARIC ISLANDS |
|------------------|-------|------------------------------|-----------------------------------|
| At home          | 64.7  | 77.6                         | 24.5                              |
| With parents     | 62.7  | 75.8                         | 21.6                              |
| With partner     | 59.3  | 71.5                         | 26.1                              |
| With children    | 70.8  | 82.9                         | 35.4                              |
| With friends     | 73.8  | 83.8                         | 43.1                              |
| At work          | 70.2  | 80.4                         | 40.1                              |
| In public places | 74.4  | 84.3                         | 43.0                              |

<sup>4</sup> For an in-depth analysis of the survey's results see Melià (2002).

**Table 7. Speak more Catalan or both official languages (% of those who speak both languages). By place of residence**

|                  | TOTAL | PALMA | TOWNS OF MCA | MINORCA | EIVISSA | FORMENTERA |
|------------------|-------|-------|--------------|---------|---------|------------|
| At home          | 64.7  | 52.1  | 75.3         | 85.7    | 50.3    | 81.9       |
| With parents     | 62.7  | 51.1  | 72.6         | 84.6    | 46.5    | 83.1       |
| With partner     | 59.3  | 48.1  | 68.6         | 80.9    | 43.3    | 80.4       |
| With children    | 70.8  | 55.0  | 79.7         | 92.9    | 65.2    | 86.8       |
| With friends     | 73.8  | 62.4  | 83.7         | 92.1    | 60.1    | 88.2       |
| At work          | 70.2  | 60.9  | 80.5         | 85.3    | 51.1    | 82.7       |
| In public places | 74.4  | 62.7  | 83.1         | 93.9    | 65.7    | 82.2       |

**Table 8. Speak more Catalan or both official languages (% of those who speak both languages). By age groups**

|                  | TOTAL | 18-29 | 30-44 | 45-59 | >60  |
|------------------|-------|-------|-------|-------|------|
| At home          | 64.7  | 54.5  | 58.0  | 65.9  | 79.3 |
| With parents     | 62.7  | 57.1  | 62.7  | 68.4  | 78.9 |
| With partner     | 59.3  | 46.5  | 50.8  | 61.2  | 82.0 |
| With children    | 70.8  | 50.9  | 62.0  | 66.6  | 84.3 |
| With friends     | 73.8  | 67.0  | 67.9  | 73.1  | 86.2 |
| At work          | 70.2  | 66.0  | 71.0  | 73.4  | 78.1 |
| In public places | 74.4  | 67.7  | 69.1  | 75.1  | 84.5 |

## 5. Surveys with a smaller scope

In this section we will refer to studies that do not deal with the whole territory of the Balearic Islands but with a part of the population, either in terms of geographic origin (a specific island) or social factors (a specific age group).

### 5.1 Sociolinguistic survey of the population of Majorca

According to this survey commissioned in 1986 by the Consell Insular de Mallorca (Council of Majorca) and undertaken by the University of the Balearic Islands, 74,71% of the interviewees spoke Catalan. Among those born in Catalan-speaking territories (75.19% of whole the population), 93.29% spoke Catalan; among those born outside Catalan-speaking territories (24.88%), 18.39% spoke it.

Individuals were assigned to linguistic groups according the language used to reply to the questionnaire, even though it was recognised that a part of the interviewees who spoke Catalan did not have it as first language. This is shown in the table below on the intergenerational transmission of the language. Without this, it is difficult to explain the difference of 14 percent between the language of the interviewee and the language spoken with their children.

**Table 9. Intergenerational transmission of the language**

|                     | Language of the parents of the interviewee | Language parents fi interviewee | L1 interviewee (language used in replies) | Language interviewee fi children |
|---------------------|--|---------------------------------|---|----------------------------------|
| Catalan             | 68.64%                                     | 66.08%                          | 74.71%                                    | 60.91%                           |
| Catalan and Spanish | 0%   | 3.18%                           | 0%  | 0%                               |
| Spanish             | 31.35%                                     | 30.73%                          | 25.28%                                    | 39.08%                           |



## 5.2 Surveys on young speakers

The importance of young people for the future evolution of our linguistic community has led many organisations and researchers to carry out sociolinguistic studies on this sector of population. In this section we will refer to five of these studies which used different methodologies and had different scopes.

### 5.2.1 *La llengua dels joves* [The language of young people]

It is a monograph showing the results of a survey made among pupils in Majorcan secondary education in 1991 (Melià 1997). The author provides information on linguistic knowledge, attitudes and representations. The survey indicates that almost 100% of the young interviewees are fluent in Catalan in each of the four language skills. Nonetheless, there is a decrease of the group of individuals who have Catalan as first language compared to the number of individuals who have Catalan as first language in their parents' generation (see table 10a). This is mainly due to mixed couples, where the Catalan-speaking member often does not transmit the language to the children. When both parents are of local origin, the rate of intergenerational transmission is high, mainly in small towns or villages, where it reaches almost 100% (see table 10b). However, if we look at children of mixed marriages (24.6% of the whole), we observe a noticeable breakdown in the transmission of the language. This phenomenon is especially evident in Palma, where we find more than 70% of the children from mixed marriages (see table 10c), and among whom only 13.4% have Catalan as first language.

The author concludes that two factors have a strong influence upon the knowledge, use and attitudes of the interviewees: on the one hand, the geographic and linguistic origin of student's families and the place of residence on the other. Those pupils living in small towns or villages have a less Spanish-minded attitude than those living in Palma. As for the use outside the family circle, those pupils living in small towns or villages with one or two immigrant parents give answers more favourable towards Catalan than those pupils living in Palma with none or only one immigrant parent.

**Table 10a. Intergenerational transmission of language. General figures (speakers of other languages are not included)**

|                     | Language father | Language father fi pupil | Language mother | Language mother fi pupil | Language father-mother | L1 pupil |
|---------------------|-----------------|--------------------------|-----------------|--------------------------|------------------------|----------|
| Catalan             | 60.1%           | 52%                      | 59.9%           | 52.6%                    | 52.5%                  | 51.70%   |
| Catalan and Spanish | 0.2%            | 2.2%                     | 0.1%            | 2.2%                     | 2.8%                   | 4.10%    |
| Spanish             | 36.3%           | 42%                      | 36.8%           | 41.7%                    | 41%                    | 42.20%   |

**Table 10b. Intergenerational transmission of language. Children of indigenous couples (55%). Speakers of other languages are not included**

|                     |             | Language father | Language father fi pupil | Language mother | Language mother fi pupil | Language father-mother | L1 pupil |
|---------------------|-------------|-----------------|--------------------------|-----------------|--------------------------|------------------------|----------|
| Catalan             | Small towns | 96.9%           | 96.8%                    | 97.7%           | 96.9%                    | 97.6%                  | 95.8%    |
|                     | Palma       | 87.9%           | 72.3%                    | 82.1%           | 71.4%                    | 80.8%                  | 69.0%    |
| Catalan and Spanish |             | 0.0%            | 2.0%                     | 0.2%            | 2.2%                     | 1.4%                   | 1.8%     |
| Spanish             |             | 7.5%            | 12%                      | 9.6%            | 13.0%                    | 8.8%                   | 15.1%    |

**Table 10c. Intergenerational transmission of language Children of mixed couples (24.6%). Speakers of other languages are not included**

|                     |             | Language father | Language father fi pupil | Language mother | Language mother fi pupil | Language father-mother | L1 pupil |
|---------------------|-------------|-----------------|--------------------------|-----------------|--------------------------|------------------------|----------|
| Catalan             | Small towns | 43.3%           | 47.5%                    | 56.7%           | 55.2%                    | 37.9%                  | 52.5%    |
|                     | Palma       | 41.0%           | 38.9%                    | 19.6%           | 20.6%                    | 12.1%                  | 13.4%    |
| Catalan and Spanish |             | 0.0%            | 0.0%                     | 4.0%            | 4.4%                     | 8.0%                   | 11.6%    |
| Spanish             |             | 55.3%           | 68.6%                    | 50.4%           | 63.4%                    | 71.4%                  | 63.8%    |

### 5.2.2 *Estudi sociològic sobre els joves de les Illes Balears [Sociological study of the younger generation in the Balearic Islands]*

In 1997, the Directorate General for Youth and Family of the Ministry of the Presidency (Balearic Islands Government) commissioned the University of the Balearic Islands (UIB) to undertake a study of young people in the Isles. 9 of the 108 questions of the questionnaire referred to language. In charge of that part of the study was Jordi Vallespir, professor at the UIB. Detailed information is given by age groups (15-19, 20-24, 25-29) and place of residence. 55.7% of the interviewees have Catalan as first language, while for 44.3% the first language is Spanish. 73.1% of the whole speak Catalan more or less fluently. The distribution according to place of residence is as follows: in Palma 62.75% can speak Catalan; in Majorca (except Palma), 75.63%; in Eivissa, 75.55%, and in Minorca, 82.35%. Among those who can speak Catalan, 49.03% claim they express themselves better in this language, 24.31% both in Catalan and Spanish, while 26.65% claim to feel more comfortable speaking in Spanish.

Table 11 shows some linguistic uses in different situations. The percentages were calculated for those interviewees who can speak Catalan. By adding together the percentage of those using Catalan and those alternating Catalan and Spanish, the highest frequencies of use are to be found within the family (74.56%), with friends (74.97%), in shops (70.80%) and with schoolmates (63.37%).

**Table 11. Linguistic uses in different situations**

|  | Catalan | Catalan or Spanish | Spanish |
|--|---------|--------------------|---------|
| Language used to address people                      | 34.07%  | 16.88%             | 49.03%  |
| Language used within the family                      | 68.36%  | 6.20%              | 25.43%  |
| Language used with friends                           | 51.88%  | 23.09%             | 25.02%  |
| Language used with schoolmates                       | 42.42%  | 20.95%             | 36.62%  |
| Language used at work                                | 39.47%  | 17.70%             | 42.82%  |
| Language used to take school notes                   | 31.84%  | 13.53%             | 54.62%  |
| Language used to write essays or examination answers | 31,53%  | 17,29%             | 51,16%  |
| Language used in shops                               | 41.81%  | 28.99%             | 29.19%  |

### 5.2.3 *Joves Balears [Young Balearic people]*

The survey *Joves Balears* (Elzo *et al.* 2002), was commissioned by the Foundation "SA NOSTRA" and studied the younger generation of the Islands, ranging from 15 up to 24. It is a general study which deals with other aspects in addition to the linguistic situation. According to the survey, 42% of young people speak Catalan at home, 49% speak Spanish and 8% both languages. Table 12 shows the percentage distribution by place of residence. The authors point out that the vast majority of those speaking Spanish at home understand Catalan and many could speak it.<sup>5</sup>

<sup>5</sup> Even if not specified, we guess these percentages were calculated upon the whole population (and not upon the group of individuals who know Catalan like in the survey reviewed above –§ 5.2.2).

**Table 12. Language spoken at home**

|                            | <b>Majorca</b> | <b>Minorca</b> | <b>Eivissa</b> | <b>Formentera</b> | <b>Whole the Balearic Islands</b> |
|----------------------------|----------------|----------------|----------------|-------------------|-----------------------------------|
| <b>Catalan</b>             | 40%            | 64%            | 36%            | 29%               | 42%                               |
| <b>Catalan and Spanish</b> | 7%             | 9%             | 11%            | 14%               | 8%                                |
| <b>Spanish</b>             | 51%            | 26%            | 48%            | 57%               | 49%                               |

Catalan, on this evidence, is used by the upper middle class while Spanish is used by the lower middle class and working class, especially by the latter. Regarding the social situation of the languages, 76% fully or largely agree that the necessary conditions should be provided for those wanting to live their lives in Catalan. The majority do not want either Spanish or Catalan to be imposed as the only official language of the Balearic Islands and to relegate the other language to private use. It seems that young people and those living in Minorca are the most favourably disposed to Catalan. Older people and people living in Majorca are broadly speaking more favourable to Spanish.

#### *5.2.4 Usos i representacions socials del català a les Balears [Usage and social representation of Catalan in the Balearic Islands]*

A survey of young people commissioned by the Directorate General of Language Policy of the Balearic Government and carried out by Ernest Querol. The author proposes a new theoretical model to be used in the study of language use (dependent variable) based upon three independent variables: the representation of languages, the social network and the reference group. He provides descriptive results (about linguistic skills, language transmission, etc.) and explanatory results based on correlations, discriminate analysis, multiple regression analysis and graphic induction techniques, which allow us to predict the value of a variable according to other variables. Parallel to Melià (1997), he observes that almost all individuals are competent in Catalan and almost all Catalan-speaking couples transmit the language to their children; in contrast only 46% of mixed couples transmit Catalan to their children.

Girls have higher scores in Spanish, especially regarding the representation of language, the social network and the level of use. There are also differences according to the social class: the upper middle and middle classes emerge as more favourable to the use of Catalan; the low-middle class is more favourable to the use of Spanish. On the other hand, it seems that the linguistic orientation of schools and other centres of education has an influence on all the variables taken into consideration: representation of languages, social networks and level of use. It is obvious that pupils attending schools more oriented to Catalan show higher scores than those studying in more Spanish-oriented schools. It has also been found that pupils attending schools in theory with a balanced orientation are more favourable to Spanish. The differences according to the ownership of schools are not much relevant, even though the pupils of public schools have a higher representation and use of Catalan while those of state schools have a higher Spanish social network.

The variables are influenced by the geographical location of the schools. Scores more favourable to Catalan are to be found in schools located in city centres or in the countryside, while scores more favourable to Spanish are in coastal urban environments and in the outskirts of Palma.

The author concludes there is a positive correlation between the representation of each language and the social network of that language, and between these two variables and the use of languages. The representation of each linguistic group towards its own language is higher than that of the other language in contact. That is, the use of Catalan has a very high positive correlation with the representation and social network of Catalan, and an equally high negative correlation with the representation and the social network of Spanish. On the other hand, the interaction between the social network and the representations of languages is influenced by the social group of reference, which determines the perception of the linguistic groups and the willingness for convergence or divergence towards one's own group.

Finally, according to the multiple regression analysis applied, the main variable in the prediction of use of Catalan is the representation of Spanish, followed by the Catalan social network and the group of reference.

### 5.2.5 Knowledge of Catalan by the pupils of the Balearic Islands

During the 1999-2000 and 2000-2001 school year two studies were undertaken to evaluate the knowledge of Catalan language attained by pupils when they receive their school diplomas at the end of secondary education. The objective was to determine whether their linguistic skills were comparable to those required to be awarded certificates B or C of the Junta Avaluadora de Català (Catalan Evaluation Board). The results were useful in achieving homologation (equivalence) between the language courses of the regulated school system and the Catalan Evaluation Board certificates. Table 13 shows the equivalencies which were established after this study.<sup>6</sup>

**Table 13. Equivalencies between the level of knowledge reached during regulated education and the CEB certificates**

|  |                            | EQUIVALENT CERTIFICATE  |
|--|----------------------------|---|
| Final score of language at 4th grade of ESO        | C (Aprovat-Bé)             | Certificate A, of oral knowledge of Catalan                     |
|  | B (Notable) A (Excel·lent) | Certificate B, of basic knowledge of Catalan, oral and written  |
| Final score of language at 2nd year of high school | 5, 6 o 7                   | Certificate C, of middle knowledge of Catalan, oral and written |
|  | 8, 9 o 10                  |   |

## 6. Work in progress

In conclusion, we will refer to two studies in progress. The first is the 2001 census of population and housing in which the question on linguistic skills was reintroduced. The experts of the Directorate General for Language Policy took active part in the phrasing of this item in the questionnaire. The initial idea (to retain the use of the term *Catalan language*, and to complete it with an explanation of the identity of the language) was rejected due to the limited space the INE (National Institute of Statistics) left for this question in the official form. Finally, the question was asked in the following terms: "Knowledge of Catalan language (Balearic or other varieties): don't understand; understand; understand and read; speak; speak and read; speak, read and write". Clear instructions were given to interviewers about this question so that they could dispel any doubt or misunderstanding.

The second study is the survey of the sociolinguistic map of the Balearic Islands. Scholars are now working on the questionnaire aiming to compile information about the linguistic background of the interviewees, their linguistic skills and usage in different situations, their attitudes towards the language issue and their subjective perception of the vitality of Catalan. The first results are expected to be available in early 2003.

## 7. Appendix

Technical files of the surveys and studies reviewed in this article and bibliographic references where results have been published.

|                          |   |         |  |
|--------------------------|---|---------|--|
| Name of study:           | 1986 Municipal Census list  |         |  |
| Bibliographic references | IBAE 1989; Melià 1993; Alomar 1995a; Ginard 1995  |         |  |
| Institution in question  | Each of the municipal areas. On the overall processing of the data: Instituto Nacional de Estadística. On the processing and tabulation of data relating to the Balearic Islands: Institut Balear d'Estadística |         |  |
| Fieldwork date:          | 1986  | Scope : | All population of Balearic Islands over six. (N=626.956) |

<sup>6</sup> See the Directive of the minister of Education and Culture, of May 14, 2002, regulating the homologation of language studies in compulsory secondary education with the certificates issued by the Board (*Butlletí Oficial de les Illes Balears*, 64, 28/5/2002).

Linguistic skills and language use in the Balearic Islands. A review of the studies carried out by institutions and other organisations, by *Joan-Albert Villaverde i Vidal*

|                           |   |         |   |
|---------------------------|---|---------|---|
| Name of study:            | <b>1991 Census</b>  |         |   |
| Bibliographic references: | IBAE 1993; Melià 1993; Alomar 1995 <i>a</i> and 1995 <i>b</i> ; Ginard 1995 |         |   |
| Institution in question:  | Instituto Nacional de Estadística Institut Balear d'Estadística             |         |   |
| Fieldwork date:           | 1991  | Scope : | All population of Balearic Islands over six (N=661.306) |

|                           |  |         |  |
|---------------------------|--|---------|--|
| Name of study:            | <b>Estudio CIS 2052. Bilingüismo. Baleares</b> [2052 CIS Survey. Bilingualism. Balearic Islands]         |         |  |
| Bibliographic references: | CIS 1993; Siguan 1994  |         |  |
| Institution in question:  | Centro de Investigacions Sociològiques   |         |  |
| Fieldwork date:           | 16-26 April 1993   | Scope : | Population aged 18 or more in the Balearic Islands (and other communities with two official languages) |
| Sample:                   | 473 individuals (Balearic islands only). Level of confidence: 95.5% (2 sigmas), p=q; accurate to: □4.59% |         |  |

|                           |   |         |   |
|---------------------------|---|---------|---|
| Name of study:            | <b>Estudio 2228: Conciencia nacional y regional (Baleares)</b> [2228 Survey: National and Regional Awareness. Balearic Islands] |         |   |
| Bibliographic references: | CIS 1996  |         |   |
| Institution in question:  | Centro de Investigaciones Sociológicas  |         |   |
| Fieldwork date:           | November-December 1996  | Scope : | Population of Spanish state aged 18 or more<br>Sample widened to include non Castillian regions, as well as Andalusia and the Canary Islands. |
| Sample:                   | 300 individuals (Balearic Islands only). Level of Confidence : 95.5% (2 sigmas), p=q; accurate to : □5,77%                      |         |   |

|                           |   |         |  |
|---------------------------|---|---------|--|
| Name of study :           | <b>Estudio CIS 2300. Uso de las lenguas en comunidades bilingües: Baleares (Islas)</b> [2300 CIS Survey. Language use in bilingual communities: Balearic Islands] |         |  |
| Bibliographic references: | CIS 1998; Siguan 1999   |         |  |
| Institution in question:  | Centro de Investigaciones Sociológicas  |         |  |
| Fieldwork date:           | 8-21 October 1998   | Scope : | Population of the Balearic Islands aged 18 years (and other communities with two official languages) |
| Sample:                   | 473 individuals (Balearic Islands only). Level of Confidence: 95.5% (2 sigmas), p=q; accurate to: □4,60%  |         |  |

|                            |  |         |   |
|----------------------------|--|---------|---|
| Name of study:             | <b>Enquesta sociolingüística als Països Catalans</b> [Sociolinguistic survey in the Catalan countries]   |         |   |
| Bibliographic references : | Argente and Bibiloni 1998  |         |   |
| Institution in question:   | Institut d'Estudis Avançats de les Illes Balears – UIB   |         |   |
| Fieldwork date:            | 1991   | Scope : | Population of Catalonia the Balearic Islands and Valencia, aged 18 or over. |
| Sample:                    | N=1742. Total no. of individuals interviewed in the Balearic Islands: N=575. The level of confidence and the percentage level of accuracy are not mentioned, but, from the sample size, we can take it that, for a level of confidence of 95.5% (p=q), the margin of error is a little broader □4% (specifically □4.17%). Sample compiled from the electoral roll. |         |   |

|                           |  |         |  |
|---------------------------|--|---------|--|
| Name of Study:            | Tercera encuesta [Third basic survey]  |         |  |
| Bibliographic references: | De Zàrraga [unpublished]   |         |  |
| Institution in question:  | Conselleria de Presidència del Govern de les Illes Balears [Presidential Ministry of the Balearic Islands Government] Carried out by the SonlyMark company   |         |  |
| Fieldwork date:           | 8 May – 5 June 2002  | Scope : | Balearic Islands inhabitants aged 18 years or more, with Spanish citizenship |
| Sample:                   | 1,600 individuals: 400 in Palma, 400 in the rest of Majorca 400 in Minorca and 400 in Eivissa and Formentera. Sample stratified by municipality. Sample balanced in terms of political leanings of the population. Sample weightings based on the 1999 electoral census. Level of confidence: 95%; accurate to different percentages depending on the source of the sample: ( 50%): □7.1% (N=200); □5.0% (N=400); □3.5% (N=800); □2.5% (N=1600). |         |  |

|                           |   |         |                       |
|---------------------------|---|---------|-----------------------|
| Name of study:            | Enquesta sociolingüística sobre la població de Mallorca [Sociolinguistic survey on the Majorcan population]                 |         |                       |
| Bibliographic References: | UIB-CIM 1986  |         |                       |
| Institution in question:  | Consell Insular de Mallorca [Council of Majorca] Universitat de les Illes Balears   |         |                       |
| Fieldwork details:        | November1985 – June1986   | Scope : | Population of Majorca |
| Sample:                   | Sample obtained by stratified random sampling (strata: municipal areas). N=1.052. Confidence interval 95%; accurate to: □3% |         |                       |

|                           |  |         |   |
|---------------------------|--|---------|---|
| Name of study:            | La llengua dels joves. Comportaments i representacions lingüístics dels adolescents mallorquins. [The language of young people. Behaviour and linguistic representations of adolescent Majorcans]. |         |   |
| Bibliographic references: | Melià 1997   |         |   |
| Institution in question:  | [Universitat de les Illes Balears; Universitat de Barcelona]   |         |   |
| Fieldwork date:           | 1991   | Scope : | Majorcan middle school education students |
| Sample:                   | 936 individuals. Level of Confidence: 95.5%; accurate to : 3.03%   |         |   |

|                           |  |         |   |
|---------------------------|--|---------|---|
| Name of study:            | Estudi sociològic sobre els joves de les Illes Balears. [Sociological study on young people in the Balearics].   |         |   |
| Bibliographic References: | Leal <i>et al.</i> 1997  |         |   |
| Institution in question:  | Direcció General de Joventut i Família (Conselleria de Presidència). [Directorate General for Youth and Family. Presidential Ministry of the Government of the Balearic Islands]. Work carried out by: Universitat de les Illes Balears  |         |   |
| Fieldwork details:        | 7 March – 18 April 1997  | Scope : | Young people aged 15 to 29 in the Balearic Islands. |
| Sample:                   | 1344 interviews with people aged 15 to 29. Level of Confidence : 95.45% (2 sigmas); accurate to : □ 2,75% for the overall data. Proportional representation by municipal areas. Subsamples by districts per zones (Palma, Majorca without Palma, Minorca, Ibiza and Formentera). Accurate, for the overall data from each district, to a level of : □5%; (Level of confidence: 95.5%; 2 sigmas). |         |   |

|                           |  |         |   |
|---------------------------|--|---------|---|
| Name of study:            | Joves Balears [Young people of the Balearic Islands] |         |   |
| Bibliographic references: | Elzo 2002  |         |   |
| Institution in question:  | SA NOSTRA Foundation                                 |         |   |
| Fieldwork details:        | 11 January – 18 February 1999                        | Scope : | Population of the Balearic Islands aged between 15-24 |
| Sample:                   | 1,000 young people in the Balearic Islands           |         |   |

|                           |  |         |   |
|---------------------------|--|---------|---|
| Name of study:            | Usos i representacions socials del Català a les Balears [Usage and social representation of Catalan in the Balears Islands]. |         |   |
| Bibliographic references: | Querol [unpublished]; Querol 2002  |         |   |
| Institution in question:  | Direcció General de Política Lingüística   |         |   |
| Fieldwork details:        | October 2001   | Scope : | Pupils in the 4 <sup>th</sup> year of ESO d'ESO in the Balearic Islands |
| Sample:                   | 384 students; level of confidence < 95.5% (2 sigmas); accurate to: □2%   |         |   |

|                           |   |         |  |
|---------------------------|---|---------|--|
| Name of study:            | Estudi del grau de coneixement de llengua catalana assolit pels alumnes de les Illes Balears en obtenir el graduat en educació secundària obligatòria. [Study of degree of knowledge of Catalan shown by the students in the Balearic Islands when obtaining a diploma at the end obligatory schooling] |         |  |
| Bibliographic references: | Defior [unpublished]  |         |  |
| Institution in Question:  | Direcció General de Política Lingüística  |         |  |
| Fieldwork details:        | School year 1999-2000   | Scope : | Students doing the fourth year of ESO in the Balearic Island |
| Sample:                   | 760 pupils in 35 groups (Majorca: 24 groups; Minorca: 5 groups; Eivissa: 5 groups; Formentera: 1 group). Level of confidence: 95.5% (2 sigmas); p=q; error: 3%  |         |  |

|                           |  |         |   |
|---------------------------|--|---------|---|
| Name of study:            | Estudi del grau de coneixement de llengua catalana assolit pels alumnes de les Illes Balears en obtenir el batxillerat. [Study of the degree of knowledge of Catalan. Shown by students in the Balearic Islands, upon obtaining the school leaving certificate]. |         |   |
| Bibliographic references: | Defior [unpublished]   |         |   |
| Institution in Question:  | Direcció General de Política Lingüística   |         |   |
| Fieldwork details:        | School year 2000-2001  | Scope : | 2 <sup>nd</sup> year batxillerat students in the Balearic Islands |
| Sample:                   | Compiled from two samples: one of 422 students (23 groups) and one of 452 students (23 groups). Level of confidence: 95.5% (2 sigmas); p=q; accurate: 2% (maximum: 2.5%)   |         |   |

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