

Surveys with sociolinguistic content carried out in Catalonia (1994-2002)

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Abstract

This article focuses on the quantitative surveys, totally or partially sociolinguistic in nature, and covering large areas of territory, which have been carried out in Catalonia over the last few years, and not commissioned by the Directorate General for Language Policy of the Generalitat of Catalonia. In the case of each of the surveys presented here a summary is given of its main features. Such features include the aims and objectives of the survey, the methodology used, plans for the subsequent use and exploitation of the data, and the access to the data envisaged. The most interesting result or results of the surveys will also be given. In this article we shall be looking at a total of nine such surveys - varying considerably amongst themselves both in terms of the number of sociological questions and in sample size and the extent of the analyses carried out. If we furthermore add the other surveys carried out recently, it emerges that the quantity of currently available data on the sociolinguistic situation in Catalonia is more extensive and more complete than ever before.

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1. Introduction

This article takes its place among the diverse range of different publications, in many cases published in *NOVES SL*, which present sociolinguistic research carried out in the last decade in the territories where Catalan is spoken. The present report looks at a particular type within the total range of such studies. It specifically focuses on those research initiatives not carried out under the auspices of the Directorate General for Language Policy, which have the following characteristics:

- Based on data which provide quantitative information.
- Dealing with the whole of Catalonia or a part of the latter containing a major part of the population of Catalonia.
- They are specifically sociolinguistic in aim, or alternatively they deal mainly with other aspects but include one or more questions on knowledge of Catalan or on language use.
- Carried out between 1994 and 2002.

2. Studies looked at

Nine surveys with the above-mentioned characteristics were found. These were as follows:

- a) Five studies which deal with the adult population in the whole of Catalonia, namely:
 - Three carried out by the CIS containing questions on language. Only one of these was more specifically sociolinguistic in nature. The other two contained a few questions on language.
 - A sociolinguistic survey not carried out by any institution, but done on the initiative of the authors themselves.
 - A large scale survey of the so-called information society, containing several different questions on language, and carried out by the UOC (Open University of Catalonia/ <http://www.uoc.edu>).

In the case of four of these surveys (the most significant ones) a test of the reliability of the data has been carried out consisting in taking the number of individuals included in the sample who were born outside Catalonia and comparing these with the figures given on this from the latest available census¹. In all four instances the difference between the two figures is minimal, and so the studies pass the test. In the case of the fifth survey, one of the CIS studies, containing little information of relevance, it was not possible to carry out the test because of lack of data.

b) Two of the surveys by the l'Institut d'Estudis Regionals i Metropolitans in Barcelona, one dating from 1995 and the other the year 2000. The first deals with the Metropolitan Area of Barcelona and the other with the Province of Barcelona. Here, too, the reliability test was carried out with satisfactory results.

c) Two surveys of the school population.

Below we consider the main features of each of these surveys. A file was created for each of the works in question, except in the case of the two carried out by the Institut d'Estudis Metropolitans, which were grouped together in a single file because of their similarity. In all cases the following aspects, at least, are looked at: the aims and objectives, the methodology, the planned exploitation of the information, the most significant sociolinguistic results and how to gain access to the information.

3. The basic information of each of the surveys

3.1 "Conciencia nacional y regional"

(National and regional awareness)

CIS study 2,228, 1996

Initial note

This reports a survey which covers the whole of the Spanish State, that is, both Catalonia and the rest of Spain.

Objectives

Basically to obtain information on the language affiliation and associated identity of the population and the incidence (social presence) of the coofficial languages.

Methodology

a) The sample and data collection

The initial sample of 2,500 individuals throughout Spain, was enlarged in the six Autonomous Regions with a coofficial language, so that the final sample of 4,932 subjects was not proportional, and coefficient weightings are therefore necessary. The universe in question was individuals aged 18 or over, and the data were collected at the end of 1996. The sampling

¹ The method use in this reliability test is explained in: Torres, J. (2001): "L'ús oral familiar a Catalunya", in: *Jornades d'estudi sobre l'ús interpersonal del català. Estat de la qüestió i propostes* [in press], Grup Català de Sociolingüística i Centre Universitari de Sociolingüística i Comunicació. <http://www.ub.edu/cusc/>

method used was multistage, stratified by groups, with random proportional selection of the primary units (the municipal areas) and of the secondary units (censal divisions), and of the ultimate units (individuals) by random routes and quotas of gender and age groups. The primary units were selected by constructing strata formed by the crossing of 17 Autonomous Regions with 7 categories of size of habitat. The questionnaires were administered in personal interview in the subjects' homes.

b) The questionnaire

In each questionnaire there are a series of questions which are asked in all areas and others which are asked in certain Communities (Autonomous Regions) and not in others. Questions about the language or languages used are asked only in the six above-mentioned Autonomous Regions. These relate to knowledge of Catalan, to mother tongue of speaker, and to language learning, as well as language use at home, when shopping, when talking to local or central government officials, at the workplace, with friends, with a stranger, and when answering the telephone. Another question was the language in which subjects watched television, listened to the radio and read the newspaper.

It has to be said that some of the questions on language use are confusing, such as the question "¿Habla, lee o entiende la lengua propia de su Comunidad Autónoma?" (Do you speak, read or understand the language of your Autonomous Community?). Furthermore, the study invariably distinguishes between Catalan, Valencian, and Majorcan/Balearic, which gives rise to errors, as in the case of Majorca where those who have the language of their community as mother tongue cannot include the 11% who give Catalan as the answer to the corresponding question. Only those whose response is Majorcan are included, which clearly skews the results.

Sample of the Catalonia survey

There were 747 individuals in the sample. In this instance it has not proved possible to check whether the sample passes the born-outside-Catalonia test, for lack of the relevant information.

Planned exploitation of the data relating to Catalonia

The only results that give data for all of the above-mentioned six communities and therefore for Catalonia, are those precisely relating to the language. Only the results of the questions have been made known, with no information on cross-tabulation between variables.

Sociolinguistic results relating to Catalonia

Despite the confusing items we have just mentioned, the results seem not to be totally off target, since for example the proportion of those questioned who claimed that Catalan was their initial (that is, first) language was 40%, a figure which is similar to the one arrived at in other surveys carried out soon after or not long before². At all events, this study does not offer any information of especial interest or relevance.

Gaining access to the information

The statistical findings of this survey may be found in the following CIS publications:

- Opinion poll, CIS, 9 (this publication, which contains results of the language use questions, can be consulted from March 2003 at the CIS Website).
- Opinions and attitudes, CIS, 18 and 26
- Reis 88, pgs. 155-183

What is more, as with the rest of the surveys carried out by the CIS, the data can be bought from CIS as required.

²As with the one effected by CIS in 1998, which is one of the surveys commented on in this report, and the one by DYM at the end of 1997 (DYM –1998- *Enquesta lingüística sobre l'ús oral del català entre la població de Catalunya major de 15 anys. Taules* (Linguistic survey on oral use of Catalan among the population of Catalonia, aged over fifteen). Photocopied volume. Generalitat de Catalunya. Department of Culture.

3.2 "Uso de lenguas en comunidades bilingües: Cataluña"

(Language use in bilingual communities: Catalonia)

CIS study 2,298, 10-98

Miquel Siguan

Objectives

To obtain information on knowledge, use and language attitudes, as well as information on collective identities and other social questions, in Catalonia. This work forms a part of a series of 6 similar surveys, each one devoted to one of the autonomous communities with a co-official language.

Methodology

The universe is the population of Catalonia aged eighteen or over, and the sample consists of 1,006 individuals from whom data were collected in October 1998. The sampling procedure, as before, was multistage, stratified or broken down into groups, with random proportional selection both at primary (municipal) level and at secondary level (census divisions) with quotas for gender and age. Distribution of the sample was proportional, so that there was no need for weighting coefficients. Data was obtained by means of personal interview at home.

a) The questionnaire

The questionnaire contains questions on knowledge of languages, on the way in which Catalan and Spanish was learnt, on the initial (i.e. first) language, whether there was a preference for relating socially with speakers of a particular language, on the language preferred for public events, for watching television and reading. There were also questions on use with the family, for example use at home, with parents, with one's wife or husband, with children, and children's use among themselves. Also asked of was language use in shops, when answering the telephone, writing a letter, talking to a local policeman, at the bank, taking notes, at work and with friends. In addition, there are a series of questions on language attitudes, including one on language affiliation.

Up to the present, the CIS have presented the results of the different questions in the territories, without comment. Miquel Siguan carried out an analysis of the whole of these surveys. In each case, among other issues, patterns of language use are looked at in terms of correlations with age, education, and main language.

Some of the most notable sociolinguistic findings

The survey carried out in Catalonia, and those carried out in the other territories, offer a broad spectrum of information. One of the findings coming out of this survey which had most impact was the question on what form language teaching should take, since this question made it possible to gauge the level of interest that inhabitants of each territory had in the choice of the language of education. The most interesting aspect here was that only in the Basque Country and in Catalonia were there more citizens wanting education in their own language rather than in Spanish.

Gaining access to the information

In addition to the possibility of purchasing data from the CIS, an option already mentioned above, there are different documents and articles that deal with these surveys. In the first place there is an initial report for each autonomous community, presenting the results without comment. In the case of Catalonia, the reference for the report is:

Uso de lenguas en comunidades bilingües: Cataluña. Distribuciones marginales. Estudio CIS 2298, October 1998.

In the second place the CIS produced a publication containing analysis carried out by Miquel Siguan of the 6 surveys:

SIGUAN, Miguel (1999), *Conocimiento y uso de las lenguas: investigación sobre el conocimiento y uso de las lenguas cooficiales en las comunidades autónomas bilingües, Opiniones y Actitudes*, 22, CIS, Madrid.

3.3 "Situación social y política de Cataluña"

(Social and political situation of Catalonia)

CIS study 2,410, 3-01

Objectives

Obtain information on political opinion in Catalonia, and on the sense of identity as well as knowledge and use of Catalan.

Methodology

a) Sample and the data collection

The universe consisted of the inhabitants of Catalonia aged 18 or more, the sample consists of 2,778 individuals and the data were collected in March 2001. The sampling process and the way in which the questionnaire was administered were as for the previous survey. In this instance the distribution of the sample was not proportional.

b) The questionnaire

Questions on the language were fewer than in the previous survey. Such questions as there were referred to knowledge of Catalan, asked about speakers' initial language, and about language use in the following situations: in the home, with friends, in shops, answering the telephone, when asking a stranger about something, at work and in a Government office. There were also questions on the language used in the school attended, and in the media most watched or read. Questions here were not mainly restricted to those inhabitants who could speak Catalan, unlike the previous survey.

Planned exploitation of the data

The CIS has only released, but not published, the results of the different questions.

Some of the most notable sociolinguistic findings

Perhaps the most interesting finding to emerge from this questionnaire relates to language use in the home, because it allows comparison with an analogous question in the CIS survey of 1978³, giving us insight into the change in this respect over this period (1978-2001). Comparison is made possible because both the 1978 and the 2001 survey contain three options for the reply to the question (on language use in the home): "Catalan", "Spanish" or "both", unlike the sociolinguistic inquiries carried out by the CIS in 1993⁴ and 1998.

Gaining access to the information

In addition to the option we have repeatedly mentioned here of purchasing the data from the CIS, the results derived from the questions in this survey, without cross-tabulation of the variables, can be viewed on line (this was true at least in March 2003) by visiting the CIS website (<http://www.cis.es/index.html>).

3.4 "Usos, hàbits i actituds lingüístics de la població de Catalunya" (Use, habits and attitudes of the population of Catalonia): Fabà A., Gàlvez O., Manrubia J., Simó A. i Ubach N.

Objective

Complement and fill out existing information on different aspects of the sociolinguistic situation of Catalonia.

Methodology

a) Sample and data collection

The universe was the population of Catalonia aged 15 and over, the sample contained 1,002 individuals and the data were collected during the months of March and April 2000. The

³ Rodríguez, J. (1979): "Estudios del CIS: desarrollo regional, democracia, autonomías". A: *Revista Española de Investigaciones sociológicas*, 6 (p.183-233).

⁴ Centro de Investigaciones Sociológicas (1994): *Conocimiento y uso de las lenguas en España (Investigación sobre el conocimiento y uso de las lenguas cooficiales en las Comunidades Autónomas bilingües)*, Opiniones y Actitudes, Madrid.

sample was random with territorial quotas (6 zones), and quotas for gender and age, with proportional distribution, and the questions were answered by means of a telephone interview. A very precise protocol was decided upon, and watch was kept to see that it was enforced.

b) The questionnaire

This included the classic questions typical of sociolinguistic surveys, plus some others. There were questions on competence in Catalan, on the degree of use in general of this language, on the language of the television programmes watched and on different use in the family, including language used with parents, with brothers and sisters, with one's partner and one's children. There were also questions on use with a stranger, with the neighbours, when shopping, with friends, in a bar, at work, with school friends, with a policeman, and when writing a note. The subjects were also asked what they would do if they addressed someone in Catalan and the latter replied in Spanish. Furthermore, there were questions on linguistic attitudes, one of these being on language affiliation.

Two questions were innovations. One was on language use in the last conversation the subject had with someone other than a family member, and another asked what would subjects do if they spoke to someone in Spanish and the latter replied in Catalan.

Planned exploitation of the data

As a first step, the authors produced a report that includes the results from each question, without cross-tabulation between variables and without comment. Subsequently, they carried out an analysis on a larger scale which includes different cross tabulations and a cluster analysis, and this has been published in book form by the same authors.

Some of the most notable sociolinguistic findings

One of the most interesting results here was the one indicating the last conversation with someone other than a family member (close to 50% in Catalan), since this result provides an evaluation or snapshot view of the weight given to the two languages (Catalan and Spanish) in the territory.

Means of gaining access to the information

The report with the replies presented without comment is:

FABÀ, Albert; GÀLVEZ, Olga; MANRUBIA, Joan; SIMÓ, Anna; UBACH, Noemí. (2000): *El català a Catalunya*, Unpublished report available at the Documentation Centre on Sociolinguistics (Directorate General for Language Policy):
<http://www.gencat.cat/llengua/documentacio>

The book that has a more developed evaluation of the data is:

FABÀ, Albert; GÀLVEZ, Olga; MANRUBIA, Joan; SIMÓ, Anna; UBACH, Noemí. *El català a Catalunya. Entre l'esperança i el neguit. Coneixements, usos, actituds i identitats lingüístiques*. In preparation, Editorial Empúries.

Other articles on the subject are:

FABÀ, Albert; GÀLVEZ, Olga; MANRUBIA, Joan; SIMÓ, Anna; UBACH, Noemí. (2001): "Identitat i usos lingüístics a Catalunya". *NOVES SL*, Winter 2001

<http://www.gencat.cat/llengua/noves>

FABÀ, Albert; GÀLVEZ, Olga; MANRUBIA, Joan; SIMÓ, Anna; UBACH, Noemí. "Usos, hàbits i actituds sobre la llengua catalana a Catalunya", in *Actes del I Congrés Internacional de Llengua, Societat i Ensenyament (Institut Universitari de Filologia Valenciana)*, in the journal *Symposia Philologica*. Pag.323-346 [in press].

FABÀ, Albert; GÀLVEZ, Olga; MANRUBIA, Joan; SIMÓ, Anna; UBACH, Noemí (2002) "Coneixements i usos lingüístics dels no catalanoparlants i dels catalanoparlants a Catalunya" in *Actes del III Simposi sobre l'ensenyament del català als no catalanoparlants* (in press).

3.5 "La societat xarxa a Catalunya: anàlisi empírica" (The web society in Catalonia: an empirical analysis)

Manuel Castells (UOC) i Imma Tubella (UOC)

Objectives

To analyse the use made of the Internet and the relation between this and socialising and communication in Catalonia. The research sets out to provide an X-ray picture of Catalan society and the extent to which it has adapted the organisational structures and social trends typical of the new technological and cultural contexts provided by the "Web Society". Much importance is given here to collective identity and language identity. For that reason the study provides an abundance of information on sociolinguistic questions.

The work forms part of the "Projecte Internet Catalunya (PIC)", an interdisciplinary programme on the so-called information society in Catalonia carried out by researchers from the Internet Interdisciplinary Institute (IN3) of the UOC (Open University of Catalonia) and sponsored by two departaments of the Generalitat: namely the Presidency <http://www.gencat.net/presidencia/> and the Department of Universities, Research and the Information Society <http://dursi.gencat.net/>.

Methodology

a) The sample and data collection

The universe was the population of Catalonia aged 15 and over, the sample was of 3,005 people and the data was collected from February to May 2002. The sample was constructed by means of a random multistage process and its distribution was proportional. At the first stage the sample was stratified by province and settlement size. At a second stage, the municipal areas were chosen, such that all settlements of more than 50,000 inhabitants were included while all those with fewer inhabitants were selected randomly at each stratum. Subsequently the sample was stratified according to gender and age group to select the people who were to be interviewed, and this selection was done at random, using lists from the census register. The interviews were face-to-face.

b) The questionnaire

In terms of linguistic questions, there are questions on Catalan, Spanish and English, on linguistic affiliation and on the language of the home, with children and at work. There are also questions on the language of the media usually watched or read and when using the Internet. Furthermore, a monolingualism/bilingualism variable was introduced into the study, comprising of 5 categories ranging from monolingual in Catalan to monolingual in Spanish.

Planned exploitation of the data

For the moment, what has been done is to write an extensive research report, commenting on information from the survey and the main results of the explanatory analysis of the Web Society. Now a second report is in preparation, which will deal in depth with certain limited but highly significant aspects of Catalan society.

Some of the most notable sociolinguistic findings

One of the most central conclusions of the study is that the use of the Internet is an important element in the changing nature of Catalan identity, since there is a quite close relationship between use of the Net, language perceptions and the practice and implementation of Catalan identity. Thus, for example, it emerges that the sector of society that most uses the Internet are young people with Catalan language and identity.

Means of gaining access to the data

It was decided that the information from the complete report should be made public and published on the Internet via the UOC (Open University of Catalonia). The on-line version of the first report is available at <http://www.uoc.edu/in3/pic/1/>

3.6 Two surveys by the Institut d'Estudis Regionals i Metropolitans de Barcelona

The 1995 survey of the metropolitan area of Barcelona

Director, Marina Subirats

Institut d'Estudis Metropolitans de Barcelona

The 2000 survey of the Barcelona region

Director, Salvador Giner

Institut d'Estudis Regionals i Metropolitans de Barcelona

Objective

The administrative offices in charge of managing the development of the different neighbourhoods of Barcelona, need to have statistics that will provide information on the trends now underway and need to publicise their decisions. For that reason in 1985, l'Institut d'Estudis Regionals i Metropolitans de Barcelona (formerly the Institut d'Estudis Metropolitans de Barcelona) carried out extensive surveys on different social aspects, including language. These surveys have increasingly and progressively taken in more territory, until in the year 2000 the whole province of Barcelona was included.

Methodology

a) Sample and Data collection

The methodology applied here is basically the same as in other surveys in the series. The universe was the population age 18 years and over. Selection of the sample, based on the electoral census, was effected by means of a stratified random process with non-proportional distribution. The stratification of homogenous groups was based on a series of socio-economic variables derived from the electoral census. The questionnaire was filled out in the course of a personal interview in the subjects' homes.

The main difference between the 1995 and year 2000 surveys was the geographical area covered. The first was restricted to the metropolitan area of Barcelona, which includes 7 counties (Alt Penedès, Baix Llobregat, Barcelonès, Garraf, Maresme, Vallès Occidental and Vallès Oriental), while the second included the whole of the province of Barcelona, that is, including 4 counties more (Anoia, Bages, Berguedà and Osona). In the first case, the sample consisted of 5,263 individuals and in the second there were 6,830 individuals.

b) The questionnaire

The questions on language were the same in the two editions. Language use was asked about in the following contexts: in the home, with the father, with the mother, with the children. Also asked about was knowledge of Catalan and language affiliation. Furthermore, tables were presented to obtain details of language and language use of the different types of couples (couples who were the main householders) based on the language of each member of the pair, as well as on the different types of home in terms of the language combinations of the members, and on the language transmission from parents to children in case of different language characteristics of the home.

Planned exploitation of the information

The two editions of the survey formed the basis for several different published volumes, some of which derive directly from the research of the project itself while others have been commissioned by outside bodies with an interest in specific aspects. In the case of each edition, the results of the language questions (without comment) have been published in three volumes called the Sèrie Dades Bàsiques (Basic Data Series), with the data for major subdivisions of the area covered by one (the capital, metropolitan area...), while another covers the counties and a third deals with the districts of the city of Barcelona. Sociolinguistic information can be found in each of the two surveys in question. In one this is in the general report and in the other in the volume on the lives of young people.

Some of the most notable sociolinguistic findings

Possibly the most striking finding of the two surveys is that in the Barcelona metropolitan area, carried out in 1995 and 2000, the figures show a decrease in the percentage of the population that consider Catalan to be their language, compensated by an increase in those who state they are bilingual. This finding has been taken as sounding the alarm for the Catalan language.

Gaining access to the information

Publications with sociolinguistic data or analysis relating to the 1995 survey:

NEL·LO, O.; RECIO, A.; SOLSONA, M.; SUBIRATS, M. (1998). *La transformació de la societat metropolitana*. Contains a Macintosh-PC compatible CD-Rom. Diputació de Barcelona. Institut d'Estudis Metropolitans de Barcelona.

This presents the general report arising from the 1995 survey.

INSTITUT D'ESTUDIS METROPOLITANS DE BARCELONA (1996). *Dades estadístiques bàsiques de la ciutat, l'àrea i la regió metropolitana de Barcelona, 1995. Volume 1*. Diputació de Barcelona.

INSTITUT D'ESTUDIS METROPOLITANS DE BARCELONA (1996). *Dades estadístiques bàsiques de les comarques metropolitanes, 1995. Volume 2*. Diputació de Barcelona.

INSTITUT D'ESTUDIS METROPOLITANS DE BARCELONA (1996). *Dades estadístiques bàsiques dels districtes de Barcelona, 1995. Volume 3*. Diputació de Barcelona.

BARANDA, L.; SALVADÓ, A. (1997). *Les condicions de vida dels joves metropolitans*. Diputació de Barcelona. Institut d'Estudis Metropolitans de Barcelona.

Publications with sociolinguistic data or analysis relating to the 2000 survey:

GINER, S.; CEBOLLADA, À.; DOMÍNGUEZ, M.; MASATS, M.; MIRALLES, C.; MONTAGUT, T.; NEL·LO, O.; RECIO, A.; SÁNCHEZ, C.; SOLSONA, M.; SUBIRATS, M. (2002). *Enquesta de la Regió de Barcelona 2000. Informe General*. Diputació de Barcelona. Institut d'Estudis Regionals i Metropolitans de Barcelona.

GINER, S.; BARANDA, L. (2002). *Dades estadístiques bàsiques 2000. Ciutat, Regió Metropolitana i província de Barcelona. Volume 1*. Diputació de Barcelona. Institut d'Estudis Regionals i Metropolitans de Barcelona.

GINER, S.; BARANDA, L. (2002). *Dades estadístiques bàsiques 2000. Comarques de la província de Barcelona. Volume 2*. Diputació de Barcelona. Institut d'Estudis Regionals i Metropolitans de Barcelona.

GINER, S.; BARANDA, L. (2002). *Dades estadístiques bàsiques 2000. Districtes de Barcelona. Volume 3*. Diputació de Barcelona. Institut d'Estudis Regionals i Metropolitans de Barcelona.

RIBA, A. R.; SINTES, E. (2002). *Condicions de vida dels joves de la província de Barcelona*. Diputació de Barcelona. Institut d'Estudis Regionals i Metropolitans de Barcelona.

The General Report for 2000 and the three reports with Dades Bàsiques (Basic Data) for 2000 may be consulted online at the IERMB website (<http://campus.uab.es/iermb/>)

Furthermore, any of the above-mentioned reports can be purchased from the IERMB itself, or from the Diputació book shop (Llibreria Diputació. Carrer Londres, 55, Barcelona).

3.7 "Sobre el comportament lingüístic de l'alumnat a 52 escoles de tot Catalunya"

(On the linguistic behaviour of students at 52 schools in all Catalonia)

Santi Vial (SEDEC) and F. Xavier Vila (CUSC).

Objectives

Analyse linguistic behaviour of the school population at the end of primary education in Catalonia in the late nineties.

Methodology

a) The sample

A sample of 52 schools throughout Catalonia was selected, with three selection criteria: knowledge of Catalan in the area, language usage of the school and the composition of the schools according to percentage of one language or the other spoken by the families. The authors consider that the survey gives insight into the major trends, but is not strictly representative of the universe studied. The collection of the information was carried out during school years 96-97 and 97-98.

b) Types of data

The data obtained are of three types: 1) what was stated, on use in the home, 2) what was observed, on language use in recreation time (recess), and 3) test results, from tests on language competence.

Planned exploration of the data

Up to the present, some articles have been published relating to the survey, details of which are given below. In addition, the quantitative findings of the study have been the object of exhaustive analysis by researcher Mireia Galindo (University of Barcelona) as a part of her doctoral thesis which she envisages defending at the end of 2003 or beginning of 2004.

Some of the most notable sociolinguistic findings

Probably the most useful data, since virtually no other survey provides them, are the observed data - that is, pupils' language use in the playground (recess). Information provided on this question is of two types: speech listened to and speech produced. The results indicate that the primary school students whose first language is Catalan get more input in Spanish (listen to more speech in Spanish) and make a greater use of that language than Spanish speakers with respect to Catalan. The predominance of Spanish in this sense can largely be explained by the existing norms of language selection, which favour Spanish over Catalan.

Means of access to the information

The basic quantitative data of the study are to be published in the upcoming:

Vila i Moreno F. X., Vial i Rius S.: "Les pràctiques lingüístiques dels escolars catalans: algunes dades quantitatives", (in preparation) *Escola Catalana*.

Also, the results from this work have been presented at various conferences, and the presentations in question will be appearing soon in the corresponding proceedings. References for these are as follows:

Vila i Moreno F. X., Vial i Rius S.: "Els usos espontanis de l'alumnat a Catalunya al voltant del mil·lenni: aproximació quantitativa." *3r Simposi d'Ensenyament de Català a no Catalanoparlants*. Vic, 4, 5 and 6 September, 2002.

Vila i Moreno F. X., Vial i Rius S.: "Models lingüístics escolars i usos entre iguals: alguns resultats des de Catalunya." In: *Actes del XXIII Seminari Llengües i Educació, Universitat de Barcelona*, 30 i 31 de maig 2002. Cf.: <http://www.ub.edu/cusc/bibliografia/vila.html>.

In English:

Vila i Moreno F. X., Vial i Rius S., Galindo M. (2002): "Language practices in bilingual schools: Some observed, quantitative data from Catalonia." *Segundo Simposio Internacional sobre O Bilingüismo: "Bilingüismo e educação, da família á escola"*. Vigo, 23-26 October 2002. [Soon to be published in a volume by the Europa Landom publishing house.]

3.8 "Llengua i escola a l'ensenyament primari a Catalunya"

(Language and school in primary education in Catalonia)

Imma Canals (SEDEC) and Santi Vial (SEDEC)

Objectives

The authors consider that in Catalonia the school rolls are no longer a sufficiently effective instrument in gauging the linguistic situation in the schools, and accordingly they devised and implemented a survey that could carry out this function in the current situation. This survey set out to achieve the following:

- Create instruments that could yield information on the different degrees of language normalisation in the primary schools.
- Provide an assessment of the sociolinguistic situation in the schools of Catalonia based on each of its defining characteristics.
- Determine the degree of language normalisation in the schools.
- Find out the factors that have an influence on Catalan and Spanish.
- Study the factors that have an influence of the use of the Catalan language by the pupils.

To an extent, the intention here is to carry out a diagnosis on the way in which schooling is done in Catalan and the results achieved in terms of language competence and use of the pupils.

Methodology

a) The sample and data collection

A sample of 132 schools was built up by distributing the schools across three categories, in each of which schools were chosen at random. The categories into which the schools were divided were:

- Those where all teaching was in Catalan and less than 30% of the pupils were from Catalan-speaking families - that is, schools on the immersion model.
- Those where all teaching was in Catalan and more than 30% of pupils were from Catalan-speaking families - that is, schools not on the immersion model.
- Those where teaching was bilingual. These are a minority.

Given the composition of the sample, the authors consider that the results are not fully representative from the quantitative point of view, but are indicative. Data collection took place in school years 1998-1999 and 1999-2000.

At each of the schools selected, the information was collected using the following means: 1) tests of knowledge of Catalan and Spanish given to the fourth year primary pupils, 2) a sociolinguistic study of these same pupils, 3) another questionnaire given to coordinators of the years in question (last cycle of primary), and 4) an interview with the head teachers.

b) Data looked for

The main sociolinguistic information sought was on competence in the two languages among teachers and pupils, and the language use of the teachers and pupils, both in immersion and non-immersion schools.

3.8.3 *Planned exploitation of the data*

A first report has been written which deals with the first two objectives, and work is now going forward on the presentation of the information relating to the other three objectives.

Some of the most notable sociolinguistic findings

One interesting finding is that students of the Catalan immersion schools have much greater knowledge of Spanish than Catalan, while the non-immersion schools (but with Catalan as the language of instruction) the opposite is the case. Another interest fact to emerge is that in their personal relationships students claim to speak a little more Catalan than Spanish at school, and much more in Spanish than in Catalan outside the school, which may indicate a

certain positive impact being made by the school in the use of Catalan, but not enough to further promote the use of Catalan in the wider society.

Gaining access to the information

Up until the time of writing nothing has been published on this survey, but at the *III Simposi sobre l'ensenyament del català als no catalanoparlants*, which was held in Vic (Catalonia) in 2002, the authors presented a report on the subject, entitled "Llengua i escola a l'ensenyament primari" (Language and school in primary education). To have access this report and the corresponding data, contact the authors at the SEDEC <http://www.xtec.es/sedec/ang.htm>.

4. Conclusions

Taken as a whole, the studies we have just reviewed certainly offer us a considerable quantity of up-to-date sociolinguistic information which is wide-ranging and basically reliable. In the widest sense, if we bear in mind both the surveys presented here and those commissioned by the DGPL⁵, which are also many and varied, we can say that the information available on the sociolinguistic situation in Catalonia are more plentiful than ever before. For some time now there has been a lot of information on knowledge of Catalan, thanks above all to the exploitation of the linguistic questions in the national census and local register, but until a short while ago, information on language *use* has been insufficient. Over the last few years, however, this absence of information has been steadily overcome. An ever increasing number of surveys have come available with sociolinguistic content and including questions on use, and these surveys have become progressively more reliable and, in many cases, feature large samples. What is more, the considerable period of time that has passed since data were first gathered on the subject means that comparisons can be made between surveys widely separated in time, enabling us to see trends and developments. Thus we are better informed than ever on the sociolinguistic situation, trends underway, the obstacles and shoals threatening the language and the factors that have to be borne in mind for the future. To make progress, it could be useful to carry out in-depth analysis of all aspects of the work done, based on the data from each of the surveys and their exploitation in subsequent work, and on the results of surveys whose findings are about to become available. This operation could be very useful in initiating renewed action in favour of Catalan, a necessary step to assure the future of the language in a difficult and changing environment.

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⁵ Romani, J. M. (2002): "The Studies of the Directorate General for Language Policy of the Generalitat of Catalonia (1994-2002)", *NOVES SL*, Winter 2002.
<http://www.gencat.cat/llengua/noves>