



Vitality of Urban Multilingualism (VuM)

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Plan

- Introductions & Definitions
- Age & Language Learning
- Benefits of Multilingualism
- Vitality of Urban Multilingualism (VUM) - let's VuM...!!
- Concluding Notes..



Why learn languages?

700 Reasons for
studying
languages...
(LLAS, 2005,

www.llas.ac.uk/700reasons

Barack Obama:

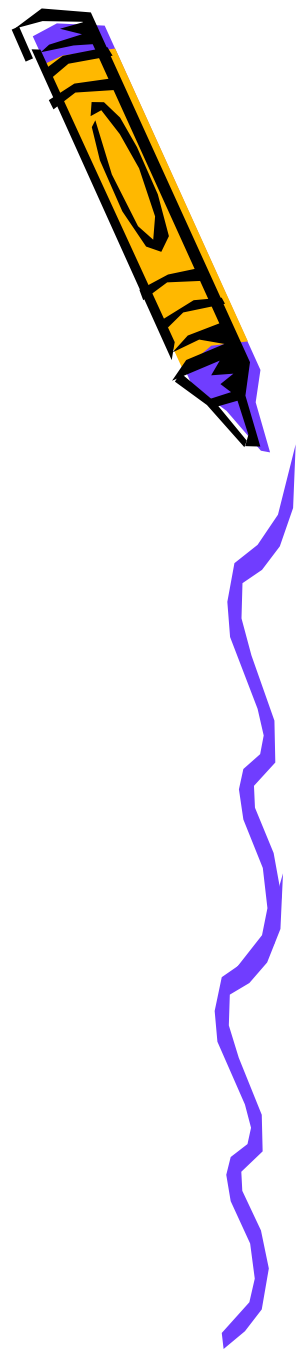
www.youtube.com/watch?v=BZprtPat1Vk



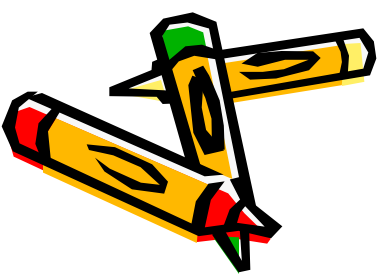
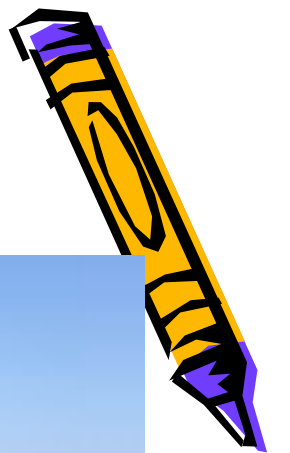
Learning Languages...?

Multilingualism/plurlingualism...?

- Is it a good idea?
- What are the benefits?
- Is it feasible & practical?
- How, What, When, Where...
-and many other questions ..



Age & Learning Languages.....?



AGE & LEARNING LANGUAGES...



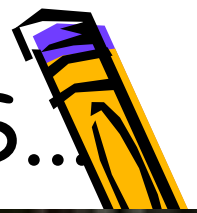
Why...?

- Sheer Time Spent on Learning...

..



AGE & LEARNING LANGUAGES...



Why....?

- Sheer Time Spent on Learning...
- Expectations of the learning of children and adults differ...



..



AGE & LEARNING LANGUAGES...



Why...?

- Sheer Time Spent...
- expectations of kids and adults differ...

IN FACT...

.. ADULTS have better memory techniques and other rules and strategies for learning..



Age & Learning Languages...the Scientific Evidence?



Adults Can Be Retrained To Learn
Second Languages More Easily,
Says UCL Scientist
ScienceDaily (June 15, 2005)

Age no excuse for failing to learn a
new language

New Scientist, 2011, C. de Lange

**"The adults were
consistently better in
everything we
measured"**



INSTRUMENTAL benefits of Multilingualism

a) 73% of employers think language skills are important (Confederation of British Industry Survey, 2011)

b) knowledge of another language can provide.. opportunities - and boost salary by 20%"

(The Independent, 2008)

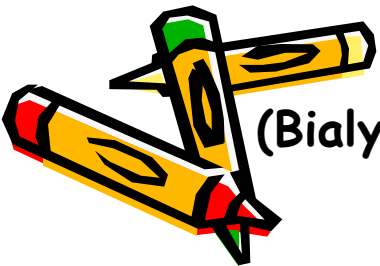
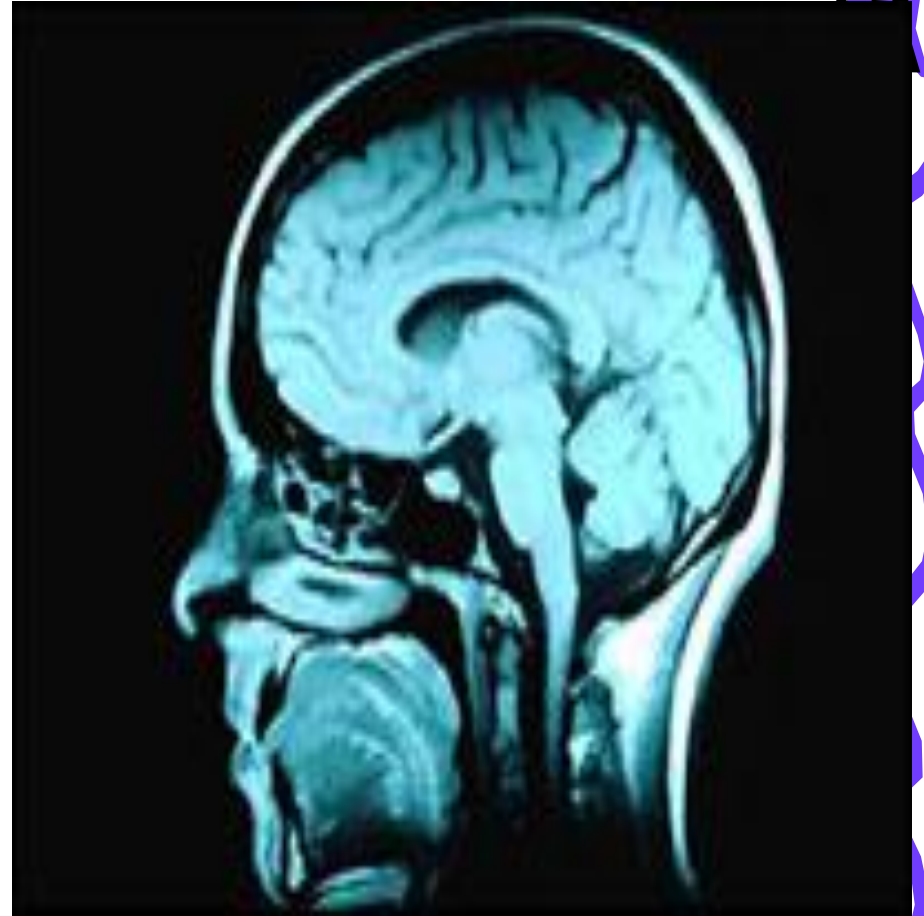


BRAIN/MENTAL SKILLS

benefits of Multilingualism

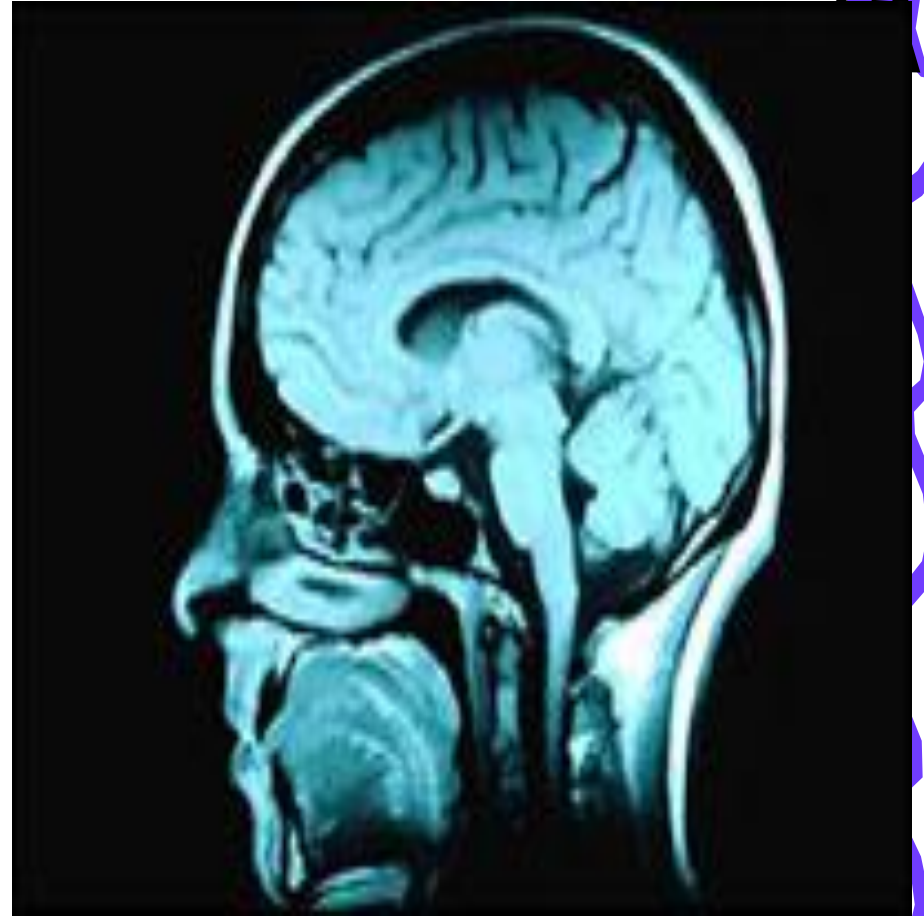
- Improves how we classify and form concepts
- Improves reasoning & visual-spatial skills,
- Increases creativity
- Makes us more aware of our and other languages

(Bialystock & Hakuta, 1994)



HEALTH benefits of Multilingualism

- ... 'protects brain' against mental decline in old age. (Bialystock, 2004)
- delays onset of Alzheimer's disease (Chertkow et al, 2010)

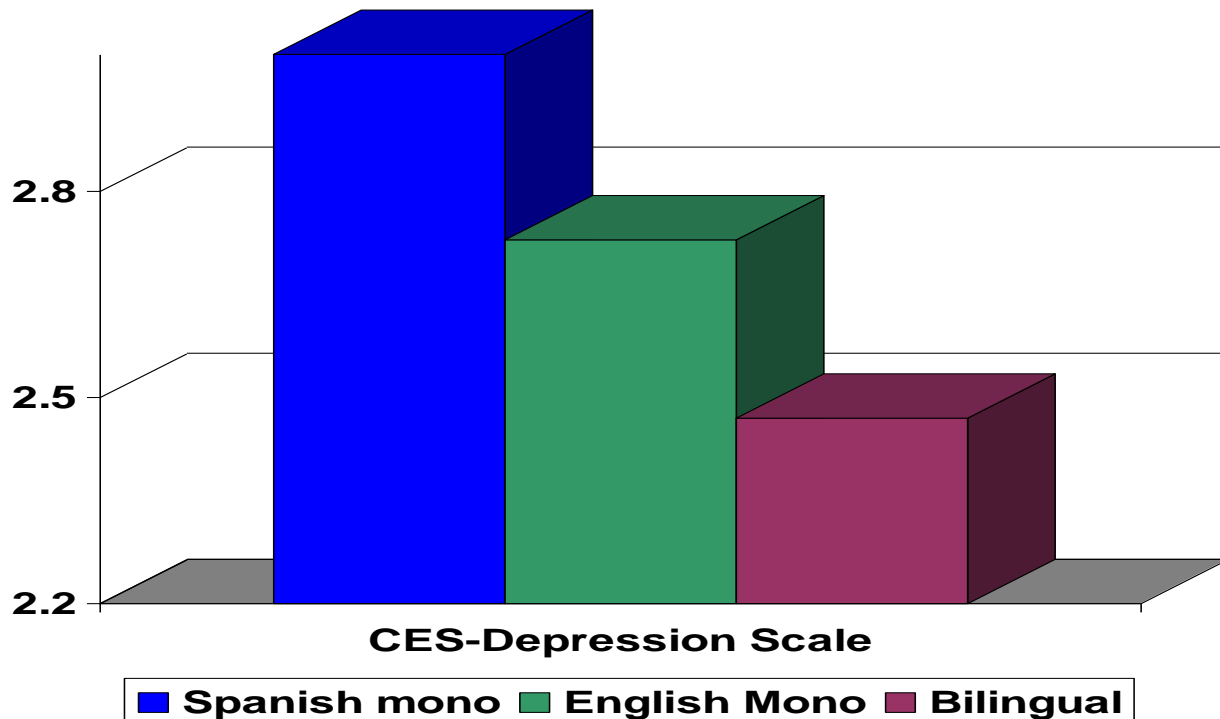


Well-Being & Bilingualism

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CULTURAL & SOCIAL benefits of Multilingualism



More social & cultural benefits...

- 'I get to go to parts of Russia I've never even heard of'

Sarah Gale, 37, a charity for vulnerable young people in Russia.

- 'It enables me to build up people's trust'

Diane Bouzebiba, 53, is MD of a technology & transactions company.

- 'I interpreted for Cristiano Ronaldo'

Marc Starr, 39, is a freelance translator and interpreter (Independent, 16.10.12)



LIVING JOYFULLY TOGETHER



Respecting each others identities:

If you talk to a man in a language he understands, that goes to his head. If you talk to him in his language, that goes to his heart.

**Nelson
Mandela**



Vitality of Multilingualism...

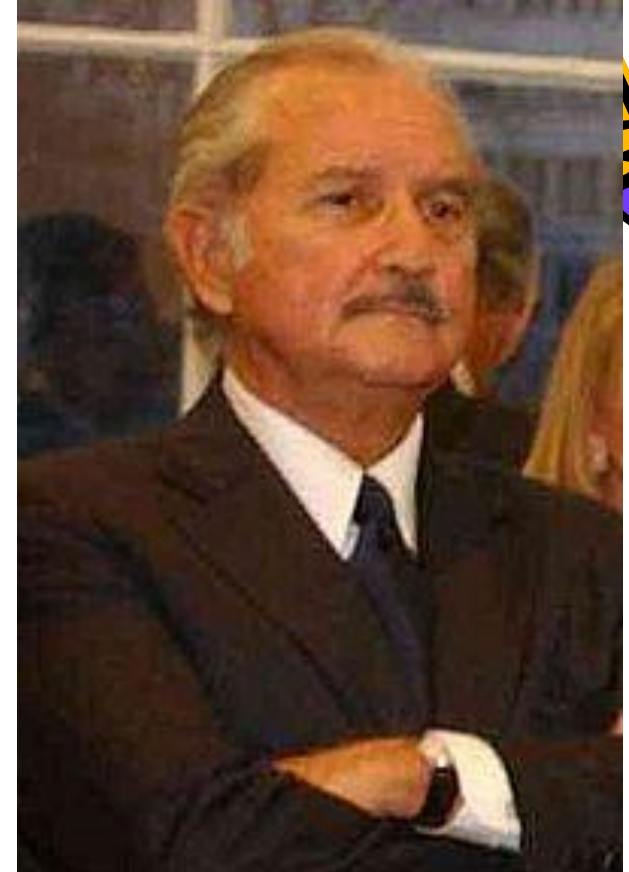
Multilinguals - a significant majority of world ...

Multilingualism is the 'norm' ...

Jednojęzyczność jest chorobą uleczalną

(Carlos Fuentes, 1928-2012)

Monolingualism is a curable disease



Since 1950....

...accelerated movement of people...

Increased migration...? From where to where...? **What is impact...?**



Since 1950....

...perhaps greatest migration is to
urban centres... within countries...

<http://www.unicef.org/sowc2012/urbanmap/>



Over last 30 years...

...Huge technology advances in/and era of 'Globalisation': increased movement and exchange of people, ideas, money, food, etc worldwide; across borders...

increased urban diversity
multi-ethnic
multi-faith
multi-community
multi-lingual ...

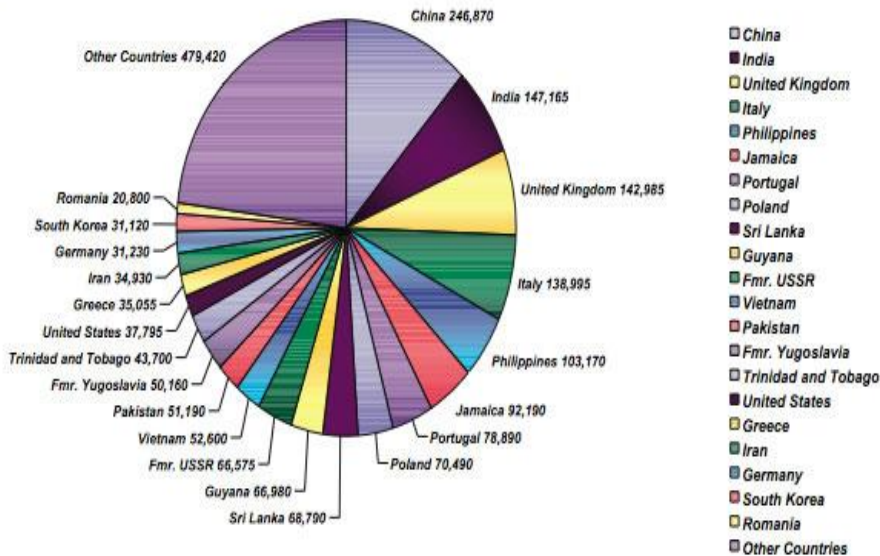


Era of SUPER/HYPERDIVERSITY



Toronto
Foreign Born
2001

Total Foreign Born: 2,091,100
Total Population: 4,647,960
Percent Foreign Born: 44.99%



Source: Statistics Canada 2001

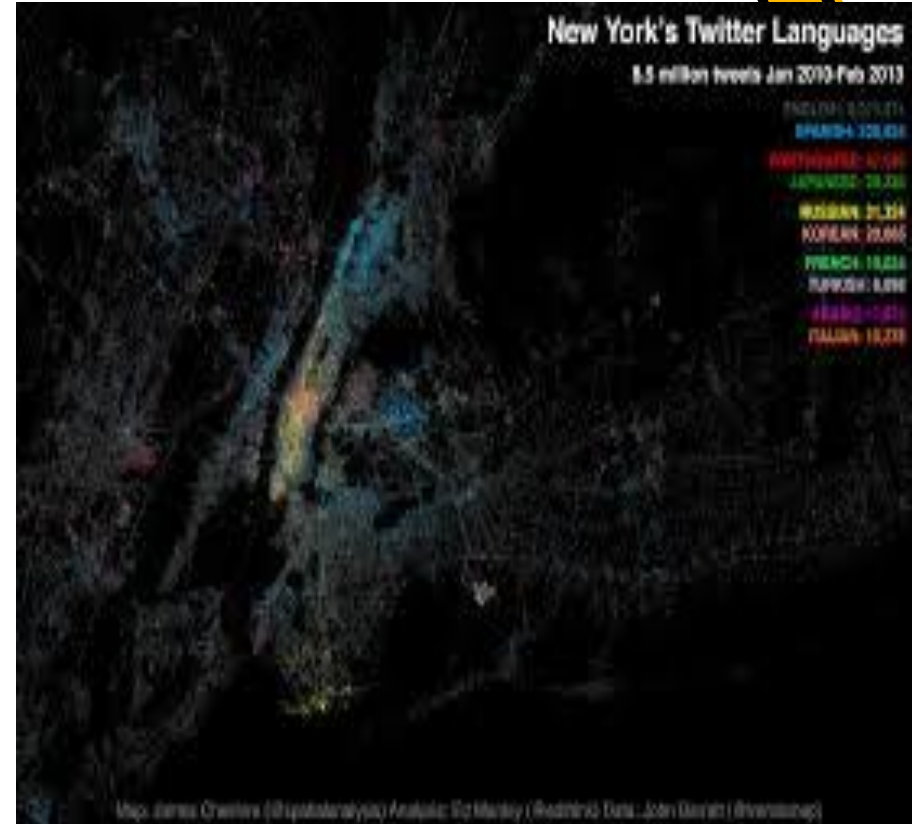
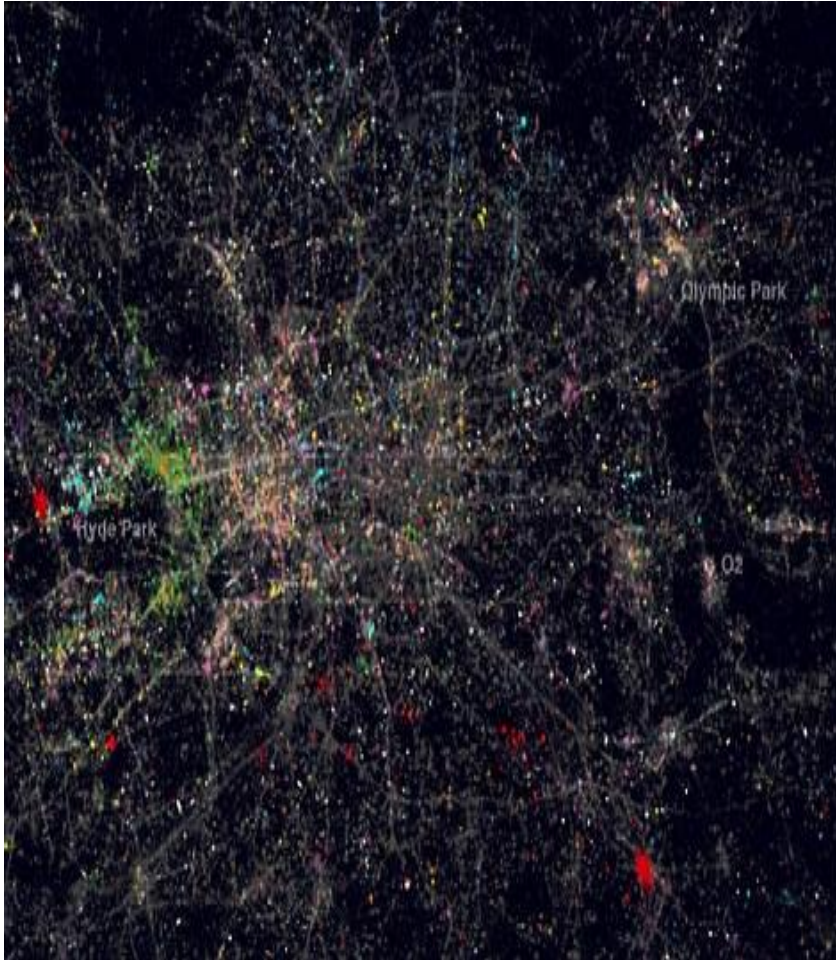
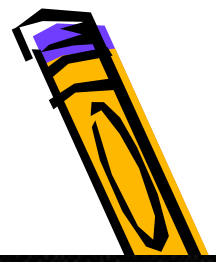
Linguistic
hyperdiversity in
Europe...

Hamburg: 150
languages of school
pupils...

London: over 200
languages of school
pupils...



London & New York Multilingual Twitter Maps



Vitality of Urban Multilingualism - VuM



VuM: the degree to which **societal multilingualism and individual plurilingualism** are able to thrive and flourish in an urban conglomeration.

3 factors (following, Giles, Bourhis & Taylor, 1977):

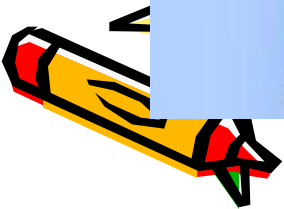
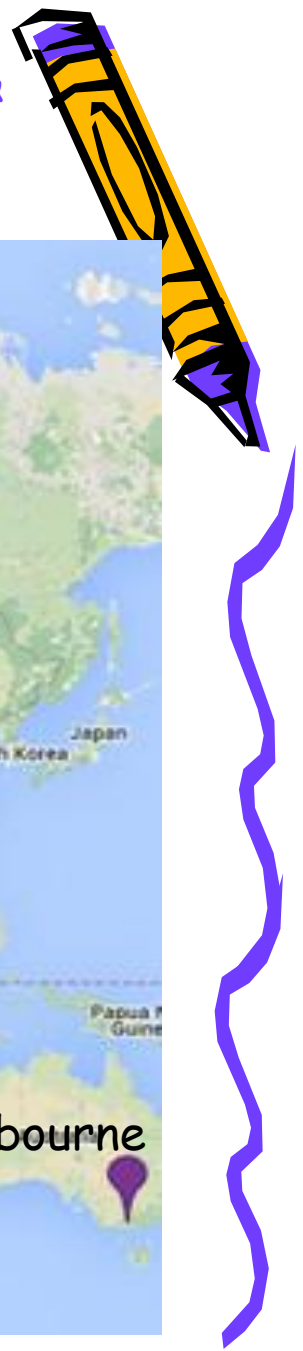
Demography (Immigration, proportion, concentration, etc)

Status (cultural, economic prestige, etc)

Institutional representation, support & control (in education, government, NGOs, business, etc)



LUCIDE Project: Language in Urban Communities - Integration & Diversity for Europe - with partners in Canada & Australia,
<http://www.urbanlanguages.eu/project-background/partners>



LUCIDE Methodology

(i) **Semi-structured interviews re multilingualism in city - city government, NGOs, individuals, social services, educators, etc**

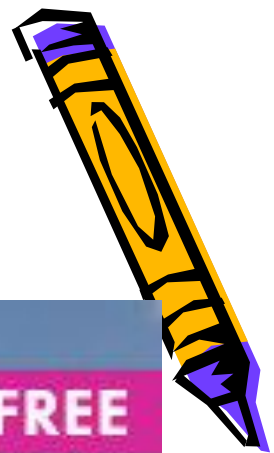
(ii) **Available Statistics (Census etc)**

(www.urbanlanguages.eu; Carson & King (eds), 2016)



VuM in LUCIDE cities

Sachdev & Cartwright (2016)



FREE

VuM in LUCIDE cities

(i) Geographical location, history of empires, colonization and regional integration are important in shaping character of VUM

(ii.i) VUM in eastern European cities (late entrants to the EU), shows influences from ancient Hellenic, Roman, Austro-Hungarian through 20C end of the Ottoman Empire.

Languages of the Roma excluded.

(ii.ii) VUM in western European cities, Australia & Canada influenced more by recent colonial histories & EU emergence after WWII.

Indigenous languages and cultures oppressed for long...



VuM in LUCIDE cities...



(iii) ALL cities officially monolingual, except Dublin (Ireland) & Ottawa (Canada); *'One language-One nation'* serious blow to VuM...!

(iv) Recent global migration - super / hyper-diversified many cities. Great boost to VuM...!

(v) Size matters: Bigger cities... increased VuM!



VuM in LUCIDE cities

(vi) All LUCIDE cities: a clear distinction between 'highly-valued' and 'less-valued' languages. **Decreases VuM**

(vii) English: special status - but not enough for VuM...

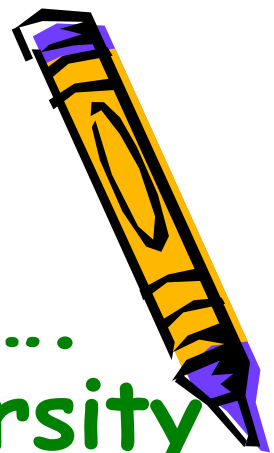
in non-Anglophone countries...

FACILITATOR for *bilingualism* but maybe *inhibitor* for VuM there.

in Anglophone countries: **VuM inhibitor** in USA, UK, Australia, Canada, Ireland...



VUM summary of LUCIDE data



(i) Despite '1 language:1 Nation'...
era of urban super/hyperdiversity
is here!

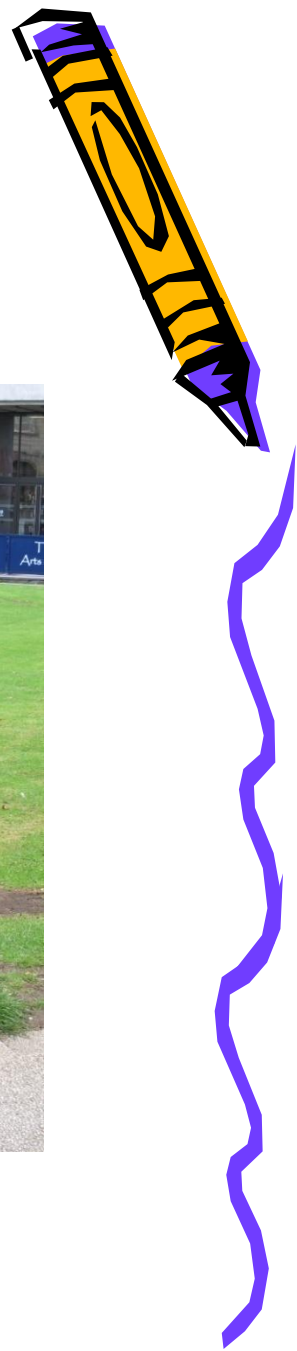
(ii) English is not enough

(iii) VUM varies as a function of
demography, mobility, history,
geography, politics, economics and
technological advance ...

PERCEPTIONS important..



(iv) Intergroup Nature of perceived VUM



- LUCIDE reported attitudes to multilingualism being associated with anti-immigrant attitudes in several cities...



A white female Irish-speaker in officially Irish-English Dublin (LUCIDE report)



- Dublin has experienced significant eastern European (and other) in last few years...



A white female **Irish**- speaker in officially bilingual **Irish**-English Dublin reported

“... Recently, I [**Irish**] was racially abused on a bus when I was speaking on the phone to my father [**in Irish**]. A[**n Irish**] woman started blasting that she was sick of us!...we were taking jobs, and her daughters were home with no work,... and it was because of the likes of us!” (LUCIDE report)



Concluding notes...

- (i) Multilingualism is THE norm worldwide with instrumental, cognitive, health and social and cultural benefits
- (ii) Though language is key dimension of group identity &...
- (iii) Relationship between language and group identity is not static and varies as a function of the power relations between groups, **WE NEED TO MOVE AWAY FROM ONE LANGUAGE-ONE NATION...**

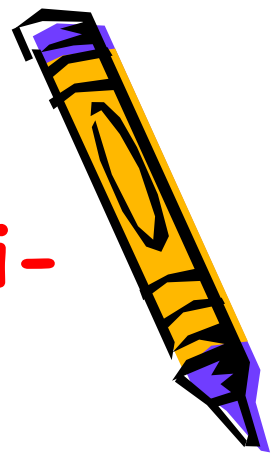


Concluding ...

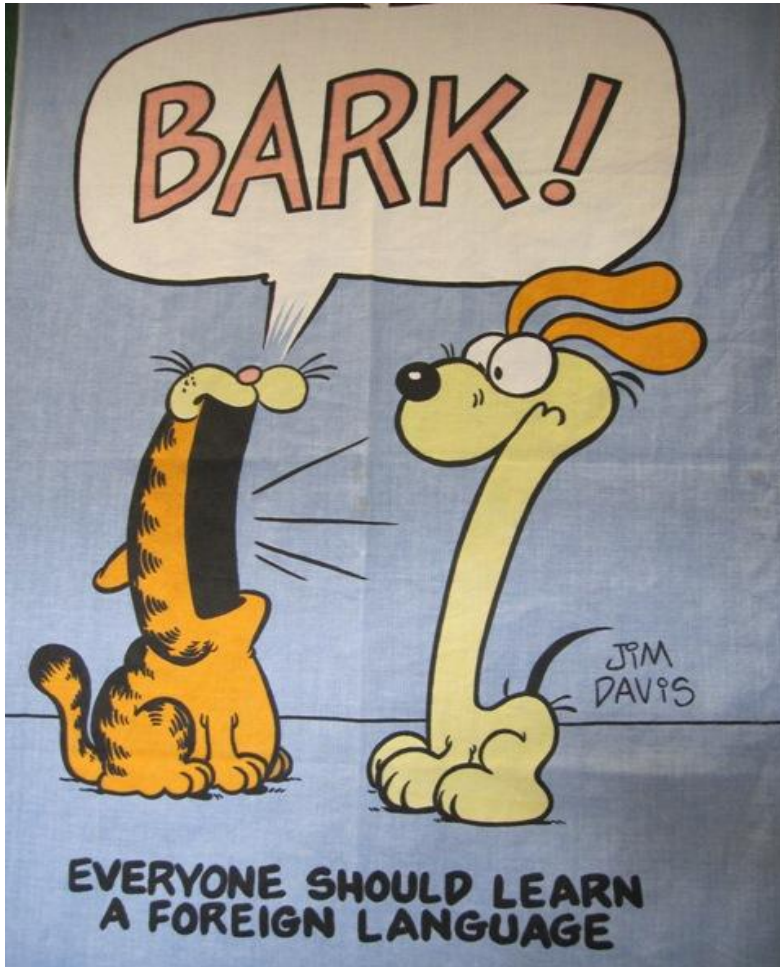
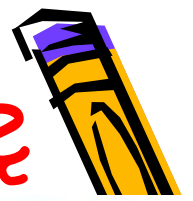
(v) Multilingual communication ... multi-factorial.. dynamically evolving throughout...

Multilingual accommodation= intergroup communication... ie. 'negotiating' group identities; balancing social inclusion and differentiation

(viii) Let's 'VuM' together.....!



... આભાર... & Dziękuję



감사합니다 Natick
Danke Ευχαριστίες Dalu
Thank You Köszönöm
Спасибо Dank Tack
谢谢 Merci Gracias
Seeé
ありがとう

Obrigado

