

Internationalization and Management of Linguistic Diversity In Multilingual Higher Education Institutions: Lecturers' Experience From Three Universities in Europe

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Abstract : Internationalization and management of linguistic diversity in Higher Education (HE) have gained much attention in research in the last few years. Internationalization policies in HE aims at promoting the dual role of Higher Education Institutions (HEIs), civilization and competitiveness. In the context of the European Union, the European Education Area initiative aims at "inclusive national education and training systems" through networking and exchange between HEIs. However, the use of English as a 'lingua academica' in the place of the official, national, and regional/minority languages raises questions regarding linguistic diversity, linguistic rights and concerns that have to do with the scientific weakening of these languages. In fact, the European Civil Society Platform for Multilingualism, in the Declaration for Multilingualism in Higher Education, draws attention to the use of English at the expense of other regional/national languages and the impact of English-only language policy on an epistemological level. The above issues were brought up during semi-structured interviews with lecturing staff coming from three multilingual Universities in Europe. Lecturers shared their experiences and the practices they use to manage linguistic diversity in these three Universities. Findings show that even though different languages are used in teaching across disciplines, English -or 'Globish' as mentioned during an interview- is widely used in research. Despite English being accepted as the "lingua academica," issues regarding loss of identity come up

Keywords : higher education, internationalization, linguistic diversity, teaching, research, English

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