

2002 Annual Report

Research Unit for Multilingualism and Cross-Cultural Communication

School of Languages
University of Melbourne

1 Activities

1.1 Raising children in more than one language

A workshop on raising children in more than one language was held at the University of Melbourne in August 2001, with a total of 80 parents from a range of backgrounds. Four workshops have been held in 2002, with funding from the Victorian Multicultural Commission. Two of these were in Darebin, one for professionals working with NESB (non-English-speaking background) clients and one for parents. While the former was poorly attended (and most of those present were staff from the Darebin Library), the latter was attended by 67 parents and was well received. A very successful workshop was also held in Shepparton, a regional centre with a significant multilingual population, with an attendance of 125. Simultaneous interpretation into and from Arabic was provided, and the workshop received local media attention. The University of Melbourne also hosted a workshop in 2002, and this was attended by 115 parents. Although workshops are typically attended by families using the 'one parent one language' approach, there are also families where both parents are second generation speakers of a particular language (usually one parent with better language skills than the other) and more recent migrants. Michael Clyne and Susanne Döpke spoke at all of the workshops.

Future directions: the Chinese churches and the Greek, Ukrainian and Filipino communities have all expressed interest in workshops, and the Victorian Multicultural Commission is also interested in sponsoring workshops in Geelong, the Western suburbs and the South-eastern suburbs (centred on Dandenong).

1.2 SPIRT project

This project is being conducted with funding from the ARC in collaboration with industry partners: Department of Education and Training, Catholic Education Office. The Victorian Multicultural Commission provided some funding for the project for 2001 only.

The project examines the role of the secondary school in the maintenance of community languages, as well as their proliferation beyond the community groups. It also considers the ways in which schools can and do develop models to cater for the diversity of backgrounds and generations in language classrooms, as well as the ways in which community resources can be harnessed for the teaching of community languages. The long-term viability of community languages in secondary schools will also be addressed. The project involves four languages: Greek, Mandarin, Spanish and Arabic. Focus groups with parents have been held for all language groups, and the quantitative part of the study is more or less complete.

Two new aspects to the study introduced in 2002 are:

- A subproject on third language learners (Spanish and Greek program schools). It has been noted that by Year 11 there is an excellent rate of retention for L3 learners, who are also performing better than L2 learners in the schools concerned.
- A study on the ways in which proficiency in Cantonese and regional varieties of Arabic can be used to develop the linguistic capital needed to acquire Mandarin and Standard Arabic (Arabic and Mandarin program schools). Contrastive analyses are being developed for Cantonese/Mandarin and Lebanese/

Standard Arabic, as it has been noted that a large proportion of the Arabic students at the school are from one rural area in Lebanon.

1.3 Macedonian, Filipino and Somali - language maintenance and language shift

This study comprises one part of the ARC-funded 3-year project 'Dynamics of Language Contact'. Data collection and analysis are now complete and Michael Clyne and Sandra Kipp are in the final stages of writing a monograph on the maintenance of Macedonian, Filipino and Somali in Melbourne. Each language has its own special points of interest, and together they contribute to an understanding of the factors operating in language maintenance and language shift in an immigrant context, taking into account such issues as size, vintage, motivation and concentration of migration, pre-migration experience and developments and treatment in the host country.

1.4 ARC Discovery Grant (2002-2004) - Community Languages in 21st Century Australia

During 2002, data from the 2001 Census has been received and analysed, both in terms of language distribution (including the concentration of languages at the LGA level in Melbourne, Sydney, Adelaide, Brisbane and Perth) and the linguistic retentiveness of different community language groups. An inventory of provision for community languages in the public sector is also being undertaken, and includes such areas as school programs, radio, television, print media, library holdings and public notices. This data will be compared with that from the 2001 Census in order to ascertain to what extent provision is keeping pace with Australia's changing language demography.

Another component of the study is examining 'period of residence' as a factor in language maintenance, particularly in so far as it relates to the multicultural 'climate' in Australia at the time of migration (rather than length of residence per se). For this purpose, the Hungarian-speaking community has been selected, as it encompasses a number of 'vintages' - from the 1930s to the late 1940s and early 1950s to 1956/7 to the 1970s and beyond. Hungarian speakers have also come from countries such as Serbia, Rumania and Slovakia, and have brought with them a wide range of language maintenance experience from the homeland. A focus group for Hungarian speakers has been held, and a survey form is being prepared for individual informants.

1.5 Caulfield Montessori School Italian-English Bilingual Program

This project is of particular interest in that it includes 3-6 year olds, a group which has not to date been included in programs of this sort in Victoria. RUMACCC will be following progress and providing assistance with some action research.

1.6 Bilingualism Club

Ph D and research MA students in the area of bilingualism have formed a 'Bilingualism Club', which meets every month to discuss issues arising from their work. The club provides a base from which these students and researchers can establish contact with existing research projects in RUMACCC and other staff members, thus sharing input and gaining experience in the ways in which research is being applied to community issues.

2. Projects completed in 2002

2.1 LOTE Analysis

This research, conducted by Michael Clyne, Irene Liem and Jarmila Moan, was undertaken to assist the steering committee of the LOTE Analysis (Review of Languages in Government Schools).

2.2 Wheelers Hill Secondary College Greek program

An action research program was completed on the Greek program at Wheelers Hill Secondary College. Utilising class observation, questionnaires and language data collection and analysis, as well as interviews

with students and teachers, the research was part of a DE&T initiative to revive and evaluate a Greek program (phased out in 1995) over a three-year period from 1999.

2.3 Sprachliche Förderung von Einwandern

This project was conducted by MC and Jill Wigglesworth for the Institute of Migration Research and Intercultural Studies in Osnabrück, Germany. The recent declaration of Germany as a country of migration has significant implications for language policy, and a contribution on the Australian experience (particularly in relation to adult ESL) was requested and provided.

2.4 Evaluation of a bilingual AUSLAN-English program at Princess Elizabeth Junior School for the Deaf

The major part of this project involved the study of deaf children's development of bilingualism. The 2002 component was the development of a checklist, based on British sign language and adapted to Australian sign language, to pinpoint stages of development.

3. Emerging projects

3.1 Address in some Western European languages

This project will be funded by an ARC Discovery Grant from 2003, with investigators Michael Clyne (Linguistics and Applied Linguistics), Leo Kretzenbacher (German and Swedish), Catrin Norrby (German and Swedish) and Jane Warren (Italian and French). It will address issues of address in a number of environments - Swedish in Sweden and Finland; German in the East and West of Germany and in Australia; French in Paris and the South of France. It will be an empirical study based on interviews, observation, Internet chat groups and correspondence with companies and other institutions.

3.2 AUSLAN-English bilingualism

Meredith Barnett and Sandra Leane, who have both worked on the evaluation of the Auslan/English bilingualism project at the Princess Elizabeth School for the Deaf, are in the process of putting forward a submission to the Victorian Council for the Deaf. The proposed project is the production of a resource and information booklet about bringing deaf children up bilingually, aimed largely at hearing parents. The submission also includes provision for workshops similar to those being held for spoken languages, for both hearing and deaf parents.

4. Visitors and Honorary Fellows

4.1 RUMACCC hosted three visitors in 2002:

- Professor Konrad Ehlich (University of Munich) visited RUMACCC in Semester 1. Professor Ehlich was funded by a Visiting Scholars grant from the faculty, as well as smaller grants from the School of Languages and the Departments of Linguistics and Applied Linguistics, German and Swedish. He conducted a course on Discourse and Institutions for graduate students, gave three public lectures in the areas of European language policy, including the position of English, and interacted with staff and graduate students.
- Associate Professor Helen Borland has been on study leave from VUT during 2002, working on a project on the teaching of Maltese on the Web (intended as a model for languages with low enrolments).
- Professor Gerhard Leitner (Free University of Berlin) visited briefly. He is working on the issue of Australian English in the context of multiculturalism.

4.2 Honorary Fellows in areas relevant to RUMACCC are:

- Dr Susanne Döpke. Dr Döpke has a PhD in Linguistics from Monash University and has worked and

published extensively in the areas of bilingualism and child language acquisition. Her work and input is vital to the ongoing workshops on Raising Children in more than one language.

- Dr Leslie Lee Wong (University of Singapore). Dr Lee Wong has a PhD in Linguistics from Monash University, has written a book on Chinese communication patterns and has contributed to international journals on the topic of intercultural communication between English and Chinese speakers. She is working on a project on communication in the Chinese business world, which may lead to workshops for non-Chinese speakers.

- Dr Anya Woods. Dr Woods has a PhD in Linguistics from Monash University, continues to assist RUMACCC with research on an occasional basis, and is working on publications in the area of language and religion.

5. Dissemination of research findings in the areas of multilingualism and cross-cultural communication

5.1 Publications

- Clyne, Michael 2002a, Die Rolle des Deutschen bei Dreisprachigen. In U. Hass-Zumkehr, W. Kallmeyer and G. Zifonun (ed.), *Ansichten der deutschen Sprache*. Narr, Tübingen; 325-346.

- Clyne, Michael 2002b, The use of community resources in immersion. In P. Burmeister, T. Piske and A. Rohde (eds.), *An Integrated View of Language Development*. Wissenschaftlicher Verlag, Trier.

- Clyne, Michael 2002c, Eignet sich Englisch zur europäischen Lingua franca? In H. Kelz (ed.), *Europäische Sprachenpolitik*. Nomos Verlag, Baden Baden; 63-76.

- Clyne, Michael & Sandra Kipp 2002, Australia's changing language demography, *People and Place*, Vol 10, No 3; 29-35.

5.2 In press

- Clyne, Michael, *Dynamics of Language Contact. English and Immigrant Languages*. Cambridge University Press, Cambridge.

- Clyne, Michael, Language Policy. Language demography and use. In A. Brown May (ed.), *Encyclopaedia of Melbourne*.

- Clyne, Michael, Stirbt die deutsche Sprache in Australien aus? In H. Heinze, H. Kreutz and T. Weller (eds.), *Festschrift for Walter Veit*. Lang, Frankfurt.

- Clyne, Michael, Edina Eisikovits and Laura Tollfree, Ethnolects as in-group markers. In A. Duszak (ed.), *Us and Others*. Benjamins, Amsterdam; 133-158

- Clyne, Michael, Towards inter-cultural communication in Europe without linguistic homogenization. In R. de Cillia, H. Schrumm and R. Wodak (eds.), *Kosten der Mehrsprachigkeit*. Verlag der Österreichischen Akademie der Wissenschaften, Vienna.

- Clyne, Michael, Towards a more language-centered view of plurilingualism. In J.-M. Dewaele and Li Wei (eds.), *Festschrift for Hugo Baetens-Beardsmore*. Multilingual Matters, Clevedon.

5.3 Conferences and talks

Michael Clyne spoke at:

- Applied Linguistics Association of Australia
- Association of German Teachers of Victoria

- Australian Linguistic Society
- Ethnic Schools Association conference (keynote address)
- Free University of Berlin, J.F. Kennedy Institut für Germanistik
- Greek-Australian Women's Network ('Food for Thought')
- Institute of Greek Studies (keynote address)
- Launch of VCE English Language materials
- Monash University, Early Childhood conference (keynote address)
- National Ukrainian Youth Forum (keynote address)
- School of Languages Postgraduate conference (keynote address)
- University of Osnabrück, Sprachliche Förderung von Zuwanderern
- VCE English Language teachers, Eastern suburbs network

Michael Clyne and Susanne Döpke spoke at four workshops on raising children in more than one language.

Michael Clyne, Tina Isaakidis, Claudia Rossi Hunt and Irene Liem presented a paper at the National LOTE Conference.

5.4 Press coverage

Research has been written up in the Age, the Herald- Sun, the Sydney Morning Herald, and the Adelaide Advertiser . The Education Age has featured research conducted under the auspices of RUMACCC on several occasions.

Michael Clyne has given radio interviews on:

- Radio National 'Lingua Franca' (on the acquisition of English by adult migrants)
 - ABC 774, Peter Clarke Show (on multilingualism)
 - ABC 774, Jon Faine Show (on multilingualism)
 - 3AW (on raising children bilingually)
 - ABC Canberra (on the discourse of the 'asylum seekers' debate)
 - 3AK (on multilingualism)
 - ABC Adelaide (on multilingualism)
 - ABC Victorian regional stations (on multilingualism)
- Sandra Kipp has given radio interviews on:
- 3AW (on multilingualism)
 - 2GB (on multilingualism)
 - SBS, language programs (on multilingualism)
 - SBS, midday news (on multilingualism)
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