

Dynamics, costs and the vitality of minority languages

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- ▶ economics is about making choices
 - ▶ benefits or effect *versus* costs (WICKSTRÖM, 2016)
 - ▶ allocation *versus* distribution (WICKSTRÖM, TEMPLIN, and GAZZOLA, 2018)

- ▶ vitality of minority language
 - ▶ large number of speakers of a minority language (generally bilingual in the majority language)

Dynamics is a consequence of decisions made by parents and children as well as of the influence of public policy (WICKSTRÖM, 2005; TEMPLIN, SEIDL, WICKSTRÖM, and FEICHTINGER, 2016)

- ▶ several steps
 - ▶ individual types: speakers of *H*igh-status majority language and (bilingual) speakers of *L*ow-status minority language
 - ▶ given by birth and education
 - ▶ family types: *HH*, *HL*, *LL*
 - ▶ formed by random processes in “marriage market”
 - ▶ the family decides on the education of their children
 - ▶ depends on the availability of minority education, but also on the status of the minority language
 - ▶ feedback
 - ▶ new generation of individuals of type *H* and *L*
 - ▶ ...



- ▶ a minority language will only survive in the long run if enough children emerging from families of type HL are of type L
- ▶ goal of policy must be to influence the behavior of HL families
- ▶ empirical studies about what incentives influence the decisions of HL families are necessary
 - ▶ generally speaking, both education possibilities in and the status of the minority language matter
- ▶ public policy has to provide the correct incentives

- ▶ costs are crucial in choices
- ▶ relevant alternatives have to be considered
 - ▶ bilingual street signs *versus* hospital beds
 - ▶ educational system in a minority language *versus* a F16 airplane
 - ▶ bilingual street signs *versus* bilingual government publications
- ▶ everything we consider good cannot be realized with limited budgets, we have to make choices
- ▶ with given budget it is important to make the best choices with the desired effect

- ▶ structure of costs in relation to number of beneficiaries and geographical population structure are important

The costs of the realization of a measure	<i>do not depend on the size of the territory</i>	<i>increase with the size of the territory</i>
<i>do not depend on the number of individuals</i>	non-spatial and non-rivaling good	spatial and non-rivaling good
<i>increase with the number of individuals</i>	non-spatial and rivaling good	spatial and rivaling good

- ▶ non-rival and non-spatial good
 - ▶ use of a language in official documents (passports, money bills, or in public decrees)
- ▶ spatial and non-rivaling good
 - ▶ street names in a minority language
- ▶ non-spatial and rivaling good
 - ▶ use of a language in prime minister's call center where the citizens inform themselves about language policy of the government
- ▶ spatial and rivaling good
 - ▶ public education in a minority language (net costs of adding an additional language, after subtracting savings due to reduction in demand for services in alternative languages)

- ▶ non-rival and non-spatial good
 - ▶ same costs for all types of minorities
- ▶ spatial and non-rivaling good
 - ▶ low costs for concentrated minorities, high costs for spread-out minorities
- ▶ non-spatial and rivaling good
 - ▶ low costs for small minorities, high costs for large minorities
- ▶ spatial and rivaling good
 - ▶ low costs for small and concentrated minorities, high costs for large and spread-out minorities

Which measure will influence the behavior of a typical family the most?

- ▶ we want the biggest impact on the average HL family for a given public budget
- ▶ we have to differentiate the policy according to the characteristics of the minority (size, habitation pattern)

- ▶ language policy has to be differentiated according to the size and habitation patterns of the minority in order to use a fixed budget effectively
 - ▶ small, concentrated minority: relatively more funds for spatial and rivaling measures (education, social services) than for non-spatial, non-rival measures (government publications)
 - ▶ small, spread-out minority: relatively more funds for non-spatial, but rival measures (call centers) than for non-rival, spatial measures (street names)
 - ▶ big, concentrated minority: relatively more funds for spatial, non-rival measures (street signs) than for non-spatial, rival measures (call centers)
 - ▶ big, spread-out minority: relatively more funds for non-spatial, non-rival measures (official documents) than for spatial, rival measures (social services)

- ▶ to preserve and increase the vitality of a minority language
 - ▶ one has to give incentives to “mixed families” to educate their children in the minority language
 - ▶ the incentives are (partially) created by public policy
 - ▶ two basic tools: providing education in the minority language (acquisition planning) and increasing pride in the minority language (status planning)
 - ▶ in distributing a given budget on specific measures, costs and effectiveness (how is family behavior effected) of the measure have to be considered
 - ▶ that means different measures for different types (size and habitation patterns) of minorities
- ▶ **great flexibility in language planning is a *sine qua non*!**

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Спасибо большое

Mange takk

תודה רבה

Many thanks

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Eskerrik asko

א דאנק יי

Muchas gracias

Hvala

Kiitos

谢谢你们

Dynamics, costs, and
minorities

WICKSTRÖM

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Cost structure of
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