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Language maintenance and community language schools: Is there a relationship?

PHIL BENSON & JAMES FORREST

MULTILINGUALISM RESEARCH CENTRE, MACQUARIE UNIVERSITY

**INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE ON
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Community language schools 2020 - Quiz

- Which NSW state electorate had the highest enrolment of funded CLS students?
- Which NSW state electorate's CLSs offered the highest number of different languages?
- Which Sydney Metro electorate had no CLS at all?
- Parramatta (2,500+, with Bankstown a close second)
- Wollongong – 16 languages
- Cronulla

Demographics of multilingualism

- How the use of languages is distributed geographically in Sydney
- Relationships to variables such as density of population, age, employment, income, etc.
- Two sources of data →



What are languages worth? Community languages for the future of New South Wales

The Faculty of Human Sciences
Multilingualism Research Centre

The NSW Federation of Community Language Schools Inc.

Two sources of data – CLS enrolments in NSW

- 2020 Department of Education data on:
 - Number of CL schools
 - Number of funded students
 - Languages taught
 - Organised by NSW State Electoral Districts (x95)

Appendix 4: Community Language School Enrolment	
Electoral District / /Language / Students / School location	
Auburn	
Arabic / 1,063	
Auburn PS Auburn Rd & Beatrice St, Auburn NSW 2144	
Auburn West PS Chiswick Rd, Auburn NSW 2144	
Berala PS 32 Auburn Rd, Auburn NSW 2141	
Bosnian / 14	
Amity College 26-28 Kerr Parade, Auburn NSW 2144	
Chinese / 492	
Auburn PS Auburn Rd & Beatrice St, Auburn NSW 2144	
Berala PS 32 Auburn Rd, Berala NSW 2141	
Lidcombe PS John St, Lidcombe NSW 2141	
Newington PS Newington Boulevarde, Newington NSW 2127	
Dari / 312	
Amity College-Auburn 26-29 Kerr Parade, Auburn NSW 2144	
Auburn PS Auburn Rd & Beatrice St, Auburn NSW 2144	
Auburn North PS	
Lidcombe PS	
John St, Lidcombe NSW 2141	
Ukrainian / 57	
St Andrews Ukrainian School Church St, Lidcombe NSW 2141	
Ballina	
Portuguese	
Brunswick Heads PS 2 Fingal St, Brunswick Heads NSW 2483	
Byron Bay PS 17 Kingsley St, Byron Bay NSW 2481	
Balmain	
Greek / 20	
St Gerasimos Church Leichhardt, 21 Henry St, Leichhardt NSW 2040	
Italian / 70	
Co.As.It. School 67 Norton St, Leichhardt NSW 2040	
Kegworth PS Tebbutt St, Leichhardt NSW 2040	
Bankstown	
Arabic / 1130	
Bankstown West PS William St, Bankstown West NSW 2200	
Bass HS Hume Hwy & Arundie Rd, Bass Hill NSW 2197	
Birrong PS 130 Auburn Rd, Birrong NSW 2143	
Al Bayan Institute 22 Auburn Rd, Regents Park NSW 2143	
Sefton HS Munro & Hector St, Sefton NSW 2162	
Moslem Alawy Society Arabic School 178 Cooper Rd, Yagoona NSW 2199	
Yagoona PS	



Language maintenance

- Migrant language groups' continued use of languages spoken on arrival, in first, second and third+ generations
- **Language maintenance rate** = percentage of those of, e.g., Greek language-background, who speak Greek rather than English
- Greek language background (2G)
 - Born in Australia
 - Mother, father or both parents born in Greece/Cyprus
 - Ancestry Greek
- Greek language background (3G+)
 - Born in Australia
 - Both parents born in Australia
 - Ancestry Greek

Language maintenance research

Census year	History	Studies
1976	1G study based on birthplace data	Clyne, 1982
1986-1996	2G studies based on parents' country of birth	Clyne, 1991; Kipp et al., 1995; Clyne, 2003; Kipp, 2008
2001-2011	Question on parents' country of birth dropped	
2011	1G-3G+ studies based on ancestry	Forrest & Dandy, 2018; Forrest et al., 2020
2016	Question on parents' country of birth restored	

Language maintenance: What we know

- Maintenance declines across generations; most languages are lost in 3G+
- Variation among languages
- Asian languages are more resistant than European languages (except Filipino/Tagalog; Indonesian & Malay; Greek & Macedonian)
- Supportive factors point to maintenance of community and culture (through, e.g., geographical concentration of speakers, extended families, religious practices, social clubs, etc.)
- Community language schools are assumed to support language maintenance, but evidence is lacking

Research problems

Can we find evidence of a relationship between community language education and language maintenance?

Do languages with high rates of language maintenance also have high rates of CLS enrolment?

Does this evidence have a spatial dimension?

Are rates of language maintenance for Greek/Korean higher in electorates with high CLS enrolments in Greek/Korean, for children aged 7-18

CLS students (NSW) and Language maintenance rates (Australia)

Language	CLS students NSW 2020	2G MF rate 2011	3G rate 2011
Vietnamese	2,558	87%	64%
Korean	2,036	79%	39%
Greek	2,170	69%	25%
Dari	635	86%	10%
Russian	557	29%	4%
Turkish	345	82%	30%
Macedonian	302	69%	24%
Indonesian	277	43%	24%
German	230	11%	1%
Dutch	155	6%	1%

Can we find evidence of a relationship between community language education and language maintenance?

- Languages with high CLS enrolments tend to have higher maintenance rates (e.g., Vietnamese, Korean, Greek, Dari vs. Indonesian, German, Dutch), but
 - Cases of high maintenance rates with fewer CLS enrolments (e.g., Turkish and Macedonian)
 - Cases of low maintenance rates with higher CLS enrolments (e.g. Russian)
- Evidence of correlation, not cause. (Better maintained languages may be more able to engage in CL education)
- CL education cannot be the only factor.

2G/3G Greek language maintenance rates and CLS enrolments in NSW SEDs

Generation	Greek background	Greek speakers #	Greek speakers %
2G Both Parents	178	134	75.28
2G Mother Only	810	408	50.37
2G Father Only	1,603	729	45.48
2G Total	2,591	1,271	49.05
3G Total	14,450	4,964	34.35

Greek CLS students in NSW = **2,170**

Greek CLS students as % of 8-17 year-old Greek speakers = **34.8%**

Greek language maintenance rates in NSW SEDs with 100+ Greek CLS students

State electorate	Greek CLS students	Greek speakers as % of population	2G Greek maintenance ± NSW rate	3G Greek maintenance ± NSW rate
<u>Bankstown</u>	159	2.2	-5.2	-0.7
<u>Blacktown</u>	108	0.7	-15.7	-2.2
Canterbury	352	11.2	+12.1	+26.4
<u>Heffron</u>	144	3.3	+8.9	+7.4
<u>Kogarah</u>	163	5.9	+18.5	+14.8
Miranda	133	3.4	-0.5	+0.8
<u>Oatley</u>	106	5.1	-0.2	+8.3
Rockdale	180	8.7	+15.5	+18.5
<u>Strathfield</u>	138	2.0	-3.7	+7.0
Summer Hill	112	4.5	+1.0	+9.4
NSW	2,170	1.9	49.0	34.4

Greek language maintenance rates in NSW SEDs with 100+ Greek CLS students

- Results support a relationship between local CLS provision and language maintenance in 50% of electorates for 2G and 80% for 3G
- Lower language maintenance rates seem to be associated with lower concentrations of Greek speakers in the population (especially in Blacktown)
- Several electorates have high language maintenance rates but few CLS students: East Hills (+8.9; +7.4), Holsworthy (+16.8; +4.3%) and Lakemba (+16.8; +18.0). All have a relatively high % of Greek speakers in the population and are close to electorates with high CLS enrolments

2G/3G Korean language maintenance rates and CLS enrolments in NSW SEDs

Generation	Korean background	Korean speakers #	Korean speakers %
2G Both Parents	3,963	3,407	85.97
2G Mother Only	859	331	38.53
2G Father Only	237	60	25.32
2G Total	5,059	3,798	75.07
3G Total	55	8	14.55

Korean CLS students in NSW = **2,036**

Greek CLS students as % of 8-17 year-old Greek speakers = **53.5%**

Korean language maintenance rates in NSW state electorates with 100+ Korean CLS students

SED	Korean CLS students	Korean speakers as % of population	2G Korean maintenance ± NSW rate
Auburn	408	6.36	+14.3
Baulkham Hills	404	2.63	-4.4
Canterbury	97	2.37	+4.9
Parramatta	201	4.44	+12.4
<u>Ryde</u>	147	5.69	+11.7
<u>Strathfield</u>	106	6.37	+2.41
Ku-ring-gai	158	3.08	-2.93
NSW	2,036	0.8	75.0

Korean language maintenance rates in NSW state electorates with 100+ Korean CLS students

- Results support a relationship between local CLS provision and language maintenance in most electorates, but not Baulkham Hills and Ku-ring-gai
- Lower language maintenance rates are somewhat associated with lower concentrations of Korean speakers, but may also reflect higher SES of Korean communities in NW Sydney
- Several electorates have high language maintenance rates but few CLS students: Lakemba (+16.6), Seven Hills (+5.3), and Sydney (+7.28). All have a relatively high % of Greek speakers in the population, though not all are close to electorates with high CLS enrolments

Conclusions

- Some evidence of a spatial relationship between CL education and rates of language maintenance at SED level in NSW.
- CL education cannot be the *only* or *main* factor, but it probably does work in conjunction with population concentration and other community-related factors to support language maintenance.
- Unlikely to be a straightforward relationship as a number of factors influence local availability of CL education and children travel to schools outside their electorates.

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