

Language policy and practices in the Global North and South: Challenges, opportunities and future directions

Date 02/06/2021

Time: 15:00 – 16:30 CET

Dr. Valeria Sumonte Rojas, Universidad Católica del Maule, Chile

Language policy in Chile: The minority languages and the hegemonic language

Abstract: Chile, a long and narrow country located between de Andes Mountains and the Pacific Ocean, is considered a plurilingual country, but it does not have an official language recognized by the State. Chileans speak predominantly Spanish. Because of the globalization and the possibility of speaking with anyone around the world and because a possible societal economic improvement, the Government has decided that people have to be bilingual, having English as a second language. Nevertheless, there are also other languages which have not been stated at the position they should have, these are the minority ones, spoken by the indigenous people living in this country for centuries. Furthermore, nowadays, different languages are heard by the society for the first time, like Haitian Creole, because of the process of immigration. This linguistic diversity forces the government and different entities (Universities/religious groups/small communities) to implement strategies to value and maintain them, specially nowadays where the learning and teaching in this pandemic context has challenged society. But it is also important to point out that the focus of interest of all these institutions is different. While the government is mostly interested in bilingualism (Spanish/English), the other entities are focused on the inclusion of the immigrant languages and indigenous people's linguistic rights.



Dr. Valeria Sumonte Rojas is the Head of the Language Department, at Catholic University of Maule, Chile. She is currently working as the principal researcher in a FONDECYT of Initiation project 11190448, titled: “Dialogue between culture and language as a facilitating element for the inclusion of non-Spanish-speaking adult migrants living in Maule region - 2019-2023”. Her research interests centre on culture, second language acquisition, migration, sociolinguistics.

Registration link: <https://universiteitleiden.zoom.us/meeting/register/u5UqcOGrqT0uGdS01iSiu3Xo7Bj5J5NUXxU5>
(Please remember that a valid ZOOM account will be required for registration)



Universiteit
Leiden

Coordinator: Dr. Anik Nandi
Leiden University Centre for Linguistics (LUCL)
a.nandi@hum.leidenuniv.nl