

NON-INTERVENTIONAL/METHODOLOGICAL RESEARCH PROTOCOL TEMPLATE (HRP-503b)

STUDY INFORMATION

- **Title of Project:**
Linguistic Attitudes and Uses of the population of Palma de Mallorca towards the co-official languages of the Balearic Islands: Catalan and Spanish
- **Principal Investigator Name**
Alejandro Andreas Jaime Losa, MAT

Supervised by: Dr. Kendra Dickinson
- **Principal Investigator Div. & Dept.**
Rutgers University, School of Arts and Sciences, Department of Spanish and Portuguese
- **Principal Investigator Contact Info:**
ajaumelosa@spanport.rutgers.edu
15 Seminary Place, Rm. 5186, New Brunswick, NJ 08901
848.932.9323
- **Protocol Version and Date:**
V2 09.11.23

1.0 Research Design

1.1 Purpose/Specific Aims

The overall purpose of the study is to investigate the linguistic attitudes of the population of Palma de Mallorca towards the two co-official languages of the Autonomous Community of the Balearic Islands (Spain): Catalan and Spanish.

A. Objectives

1. To identify the values attributed by the society of Palma to the two co-official languages of the Balearic Islands.
2. To determine which social variables have the most significant influence on the formation of linguistic attitudes towards the two co-official languages of the Balearic Islands.

B. Hypotheses / Research Question(s)

1. What values does the society of Palma de Mallorca attribute to the two co-official languages of the Balearic Islands? We hypothesize that, despite the fact that both languages theoretically enjoy the same status at the institutional level, the values attributed to each language by the society of Palma de Mallorca will be different.
2. Which social variables have the most significant influence on the formation of linguistic attitudes towards the two co-official languages of the Balearic Islands? We hypothesize that several social variables will have a significant impact in the formation of linguistic attitudes towards the two co-official languages of the Balearic Islands.

1.2 Research Significance (Briefly describe the following in 500 words or less)

In general, an attitude can be defined as a psychological tendency that is expressed from the evaluation of a particular entity with a certain degree of preference or aversion (Eagly and Chaiken, 1993). According to these authors, these entities are called “attitudinal objects” and can be anything that the individual can discriminate. Among these objects are languages, since, as Baker (1992) argues, languages are objects that can be viewed favorably or unfavorably. Consequently, linguistic attitudes can be defined as psychological tendencies towards languages, varieties, discourses, etc.

The study of linguistic attitudes has become a central topic in the field of sociolinguistics. For instance, linguistic attitudes have proven to be an essential element in language learning issues (Baker, 1992): when attitudes are positive, individuals feel more predisposed to learn the language, which facilitates the learning process; whereas when attitudes are negative, individuals are not as predisposed to learn it, which hinders the learning process. However, other studies have focused not so much on the consequences of linguistic attitudes, but rather on the formation of linguistic attitudes. According to Joan i Marí (2021), linguistic attitudes are forged over the course of history and have to do with the social situation of the language and not with the specific will of each individual speaker. In fact, most citizens follow a certain linguistic pattern because the majority does it, in order to conform to the mainstream. This idea has been explored in many contexts and with different languages involved, such as in Coeyman (2022), on the language attitudes towards Picard or Ch’ti, a minority language in the Hauts-de-France, or in Rosseel et al. (2018), on the linguistic attitudes towards regional varieties of Dutch in Belgium.

In this particular study, we are interested in the linguistic attitudes of the population of Palma de Mallorca towards the two co-official languages of the Autonomous Community of the Balearic Islands (Spain): Catalan and Spanish. Although this is a topic that has been addressed with some frequency in other territories where Catalan and Spanish coexist as co-official languages, as is the case of Catalonia, the reality is that, in the context of the Balearic Islands, this topic has not received much attention. Therefore, we consider it necessary to address this issue 37 years after the approval of the Linguistic Normalization Act (1986), passed after 40 years of Franco's dictatorship, which changed the Balearic linguistic panorama.

1.3 Research Design and Methods

A. Research Procedures

Participants will complete a questionnaire designed using Qualtrics on their own electronic devices and at their own pace. The questionnaire will have three parts. The first part will collect demographic information. The second part will collect information on the knowledge and use of both languages (Catalan and Spanish), since it has been proven that linguistic attitudes tend to be correlated with knowledge and use because it is considered, at least theoretically, that if individuals have a favorable attitude towards a language, they will have greater willingness to learn and use that language (Miralles-Plantalamor & Iturraspe-Bellver, 2004). Finally, the third part will collect information on the linguistic attitudes towards both languages.

Participants' privacy and confidentiality will be protected through a series of procedures. Participants will be informed of their right to withdraw from the survey at any point without facing any negative consequences. While the participants are in the process of completing the survey they can decide to stop at any time. All incomplete responses will be eliminated. Once the survey is completed, participants will also have the choice to request the elimination of their data within a limited timeframe. After completing the survey, participants will be given two weeks to request that their data not be used after which time their email address will be eliminated from our files. The only identifiable information that will be collected will be the participants' IP addresses and email addresses, since the IP address is collected as a function of Qualtrics, and it is not of interest in the research it will be immediately deleted from the participants' response. The email address will be maintained in our records for two weeks in order to facilitate payment and allow the participants a timeframe within which to request the elimination of their data. It's important to note that access to the data will be restricted solely to researchers affiliated with this IRB (Institutional Review Board) application.

B. Duration for Study and Each Subject

The proposed duration of the study is 10 months from the time of approval. Each participant will participate for the approximately 15 minutes it takes to complete the questionnaire.

1.4 Preliminary Data

There is no preliminary data for this project. In fact, this project aims to be the first to explore the linguistic attitudes towards the two official languages in the Balearic Islands in the city of Palma de Mallorca, which will serve to inform future research.

1.5 Sample Size Justification

We aim to include 100 participants in this study. Previous studies on the linguistic attitudes towards Catalan and Spanish carried out in other regions (e.g., Catalonia) included an average of 350

participants. However, considering the size of this preliminary study, as well as the time available, we consider it more appropriate, realistic and feasible to have 100 participants.

1.6 Study Variables

A. Independent Variables, Interventions, or Predictor Variables

The independent variables for this study are the demographic characteristics of the participants and their reported use of language. Some of the demographic characteristics to be taken into account for this study are age, place of birth and socioeconomic status. With respect to reported language use, we will take into account language use with different social groups (father, mother, siblings, friends, neighbors, partner, etc.), as well as in different contexts (watching television, listening to music, administration, school, etc.).

B. Dependent Variables or Outcome Measures

All of the questions regarding linguistic attitudes in the questionnaire are their own outcome variable, because we wish to measure the effect of the predictor variables on participants' answers to these questions.

1.7 Specimen Collection

N/A

1.8 Data Collection

A. Primary Data Collection

- **Location**: Data collection will take place online. The researcher disseminating the study to online sources and storing and analyzing the data are located at Rutgers University.
- **Process of Data Collection**: The data collection procedure will be hosted on Qualtrics. First, the researcher will post and/or send an announcement on different social networks and online communication channels with the information about the project and asking for volunteers to participate. Then, participants will decide to participate and click the link to complete the survey. After the researcher sees that the participant has completed the survey, they will send them an email with the payment information. The researcher disseminating the study to online sources and storing and analyzing the data is located at Rutgers University.
- **Timing and Frequency**: Participants will complete the questionnaire at the time of their choosing. The questionnaire will take approximately 15 minutes to complete, and each participant will do this only one time.
- **Procedures for Audio/Visual Recording**: Participants will not be recorded as part of this research.
- **Study Instruments**: A three-part questionnaire on Qualtrics. The first part will collect demographic information. The second part will collect information on the knowledge and use of both languages (Catalan and Spanish). Finally, the third part will collect information on the linguistic attitudes towards both languages.
- **Ethnographic Studies, Interviews, Or Observation**: N/A

- **Subject Identifiers:** The only identifiable information that will be collected will be the participants' IP addresses and email addresses. Since the IP address is collected as a function of Qualtrics, and it is not of interest in the research it will be immediately deleted from the participants' response. It will be made clear to participants that IPs addresses are collected by Qualtrics, and that while we won't be using that information, there exists the possibility that this information can be used by someone who steals that information to identify them. It will also be made clear to participants that their email addresses will be collected in order to send them the payment for their collaboration. After completing the survey, participants will be given two weeks to request that their data not be used after which time their email address will be eliminated from our files. The survey data that we collect will be aggregated. Only researchers within this IRB will have access to the data.

B. Secondary Data Collection

N/A

1.9 Interviews, Focus Groups, Surveys, and/or Observations

See above for this information.

2.0 Project Management

2.1 Research Staff and Qualifications

Mr. Alejandro Jaume-Losa, M.A.T

Bio: Alejandro Andreas Jaume-Losa is a second-year student in the Ph.D program in Bilingualism and Second Language Acquisition at Rutgers University. He received his B.A. in Humanities from Universitat Autònoma de Barcelona, and later moved to the U.S. to pursue an M.A.T. in Spanish at Indiana University-Purdue University Indianapolis. He also holds a Professional Degree of Music from the Conservatori Professional de Música i Dansa de Mallorca. In addition, he is an Editorial Assistant for The Modern Language Journal.

Responsibilities: Protocol development/study design; Data collection; Data analysis/interpretation; Reporting results; Manuscript preparation

Dr. Kendra Dickinson, Rutgers University

Bio: Dr. Dickinson is an Assistant Professor in the Department of Spanish and Portuguese at the Ohio State University. She completed in her PhD in Hispanic Linguistics at the Ohio State University, as well as an MA in Hispanic Linguistics at the same institution, and an MA in Applied Linguistics at Boston University. She has conducted online research on several different topics using a format like the one proposed in this project and is an expert in social correlates of language use and variation. Additionally, she has spent time living in Argentina and other areas of Spanish-speaking America, and therefore has knowledge of the cultural and linguistic characteristics of potential participants.

Responsibilities: Protocol development/study design; Data collection; Data analysis/interpretation; Reporting results; Manuscript preparation

2.2 Research Staff Training

The researcher has been intimately involved in the developed of this project and associated protocols. No staff other than the researchers will be participating in this work.

2.3 Resources Available

No resources will be available to participants.

2.4 Research Sites

The research sites are both domestic and international. The research will take place online on participants' own electronic devices in Palma de Mallorca (Balearic Islands, Spain). Data will be stored and analyzed in Mr. Alejandro Jaume-Losa's office (AB 5186) at Rutgers University.

3.0 Multi Center Research

N/A

4.0 Subject Considerations

4.1 Subject Selection and Enrollment Considerations

A. Method to Identify Potential Subjects

Participants will self-identify for participant in this study, rather than being directly identified by the researchers. Participants will view the recruitment materials, and then decide to click on the link and read information about the project, and then decide if they want to participate.

B. Recruitment Details

Data will be collected using a friend-of-a-friend methodology, wherein the researchers will share contact information of the research and a brief description of the project and the online questionnaire with friends, family, and colleagues, and ask them to share with people they know. Information will also be posted to Facebook and other social media sites (Instagram, Twitter, etc.). The recruitment materials will be posted in Catalan and Spanish by the researchers on their personal accounts. Anyone who resides in Palma de Mallorca, has knowledge of Catalan and Spanish, and is above 18 years old is a potential participant, so participants will be able to participate in the study after reading the recruitment materials by clicking the questionnaire's link.

C. Subject Screening

Participants will engage in an initial self-screening. Participants will be asked a few questions on Qualtrics to confirm that they meet the requirements for participations before beginning the online questionnaire. If they meet the requirements, they will be able to begin the questionnaire. If they do not, a message will appear letting them know that they do not meet the requirements to participate in this study.

- **Inclusion Criteria**

Anyone who is over the age of 18, has knowledge of Catalan and Spanish, and has lived in Palma de Mallorca for at least 5 years will be eligible for inclusion.

- **Exclusion Criteria**

Individuals who are not over the age of 18, have little or no knowledge of Catalan and Spanish, and have lived in Palma de Mallorca for less than 5 years will be excluded from inclusion.

D. Privacy Protections

Participants will not be observed, are able to decide whether to participate or not in the experiment after reading the recruitment materials, and they can withdraw from the survey while taking it without being penalized. At the end of the survey, they can also decide for their data to be eliminated. The only identifiable information that will be collected will be the participants' IP addresses and email addresses. Since the IP address is collected as a function of Qualtrics, and it is not of interest in the research it will be immediately deleted from the participants' response. It will be made clear to participants that IPs addresses are collected by Qualtrics, and that while we won't be using that information, there exists the possibility that this information can be used by someone who steals that information to identify them. It will also be made clear to participants that their email addresses will be collected in order to send them the payment for their collaboration. After completing the survey, participants will be given two weeks to request that their data not be used after which time their email address will be eliminated from our files. The survey data that we collect will be aggregated. Only researchers within this IRB will have access to the data. The survey data that we collect will be aggregated and will be stored for a minimum of six years after the final project closeout with original primary data retained. Only researchers within this IRB application will have access to the data.

4.2 Obtaining Identifiable Information About Non-Subjects

N/A

4.3 Number of Subjects

A. Total Number of Subjects

100

B. Total Number of Subjects If Multicenter Study

N/A

C. Feasibility

Recruiting 100 participants within 10 months is feasible due to: (1) the number of contacts that the PI has in Palma de Mallorca, having been born and raised there, and (2) the use of social media and electronic communications to disseminate information.

4.4 Consent Procedures

A. Consent Process

▪ Location of Consent Process

The consent process will take place online, at the beginning of the experimental instrument.

▪ Ongoing Consent

N/A

- **Individual Roles for Researchers Involved in Consent**

The consent will be self-administered by participants upon opening the survey instrument. The researchers' contact information will be provided on the informed consent page.

- **Consent Discussion Duration**

Since this is a self-administered procedure, participants can take as long as they need to read the consent information and decide if they are willing to participate or not.

- **Coercion or Undue Influence**

This study does not propose to enroll participants who may be subject to coercion. In fact, no researchers will be present when participants decide to consent or not, so participants will have the option to simply close their browser and decide not to give consent.

- **Subject Understanding**

The materials provided to potential participants when they access the instrument clearly lay out their rights as participants as well as the goals of the study. After reading this information, participants will have the option to decide if they wish to participate. Participants will also have the option to stop participating at any time.

- **Protecting Privacy**

Since this is a self-administered procedure, no one will have access to participant information during the consent process. Participants will not be observed, are able to decide whether to participate or not in the experiment after reading the recruitment materials, and they can withdraw from the survey while taking it without being penalized. At the end of the survey, they can also decide for their data to be eliminated. The only identifiable information that will be collected will be the participants' IP addresses and email addresses. Since the IP address is collected as a function of Qualtrics, and it is not of interest in the research it will be immediately deleted from the participants' response. It will be made clear to participants that IPs addresses are collected by Qualtrics, and that while we won't be using that information, there exists the possibility that this information can be used by someone who steals that information to identify them. It will also be made clear to participants that their email addresses will be collected in order to send them the payment for their collaboration. After completing the survey, participants will be given two weeks to request that their data not be used after which time their email address will be eliminated from our files. The survey data that we collect will be aggregated. Only researchers within this IRB will have access to the data. The survey data that we collect will be aggregated and will be stored for a minimum of six years after the final project closeout with original primary data retained. Only researchers within this IRB application will have access to the data.

B. Waiver or Alteration of Consent Process

N/A

C. Documentation of Consent

- **Documenting Consent**

N/A

- **Waiver of Documentation of Consent (i.e., will not obtain subject's signature)**

This study will be conducted in the form of an online experiment. Participants will read the consent materials and then be advised that if they consent to participate and wish to continue, that they click the "next" button. This procedure is justified for several reasons. First, the research presents no risk of harm to subjects. Second, there is an appropriate alternative mechanism for documenting that informed consent was obtained, namely, that participants will not be able access the survey itself without having clicked that they consent to participate in the online form. Finally, the research involves no procedures for which written consent is normally required outside of the research context.

4.5 Special Consent/Populations

A. Enrolling Minors-Subjects Who Are Not Yet Adults

N/A

B. Enrolling Wards of the State

N/A

C. Enrolling Non-English-Speaking Subjects

- **Process for Non-English-Speaking Subjects**

All participants will be Catalan and Spanish speakers. All consent materials, instruments, and elements of the questionnaire will be provided in both Catalan and Spanish. The principal investigator is a native speaker of Catalan and Spanish from Palma de Mallorca (Spain) and holds an MAT in Spanish and is currently pursuing a PhD in Bilingualism and Second Language Acquisition. All the materials have undergone meticulous review to ensure accuracy and comprehensibility.

- **Short Form Consent for Non-English Speakers**

We will not be using short form consent for non-English speakers.

D. Enrolling Adults Unable to Consent / Decisionally Impaired Adults

N/A

E. Special Consent Considerations

We will not enroll any of these populations.

4.6 Economic Burden and/or Compensation for Subjects

A. Expenses

Subjects will not incur expenses through participation in this research.

B. Compensation/Incentives

Participants will be awarded 10 EUR for participating in the research project. These funds will come from the research account of the PI, originating at Rutgers University. Participants will be paid via PayPal or Amazon gift card. This will allow participants to keep their banking information protected, and to ensure that they can receive payment internationally. We included two options because it gives the participants the most ease to receive payment, based on their own needs and preferences. Upon completing the experiment, participants will be asked to select their preferred payment method and provide an email address to receive payment. They will also be provided with the contact information of the researchers and will be asked to keep record of that contact information in the case of any issues with payment. The researchers will use the email address to disperse payment within 72 hours of a participant completing the study, and participants will be informed of this timeline.

C. Compensation Documentation

The use of PayPal and electronic gift cards will allow us to confirm receipt of payment based on the email addresses provide by participants. We will house these records in a spreadsheet which will not be tied to participants data, only email addresses. We will also contact the participants via the email address provided within 1 week of payment dispersal to confirm receipt.

4.7 Risks of Harm/Potential for Benefits to Subjects

A. Description of Subject Risks of Harm

There are no known risks to participants as a result of taking part in this study. Since this is a self-administered procedure, no one will have access to participant information during the consent process. Participants will not be observed, are able to decide whether to participate or not in the experiment after reading the recruitment materials, and they can withdraw from the survey while taking it without being penalized. At the end of the survey, they can also decide for their data to be eliminated. The only identifiable information that will be collected will be the participants' IP addresses and email addresses. Since the IP address is collected as a function of Qualtrics, and it is not of interest in the research it will be immediately deleted from the participants' response. It will be made clear to participants that IPs addresses are collected by Qualtrics, and that while we won't be using that information, there exists the possibility that this information can be used by someone who steals that information to identify them. It will also be made clear to participants that their email addresses will be collected in order to send them the payment for their collaboration. After completing the survey, participants will be given two weeks to request that their data not be used after which time their email address will be eliminated from our files. The survey data that we collect will be aggregated. Only researchers within this IRB will have access to the data. The survey data that we collect will be aggregated and will be stored for a minimum of six years after the final project closeout with original primary data retained. Only researchers within this IRB application will have access to the data.

▪ Existing Condition/Disorder

This study does not pose any additional risks to somehow may have an existing psychological/physical condition or disorder.

▪ Additional Considerations

- a. No sensitive information will be collected.
- b. The researcher will not be present.

- **Minimizing Risks**

No sensitive information will be collected from participants, which reduces the chance of risk of participation in this research. Nevertheless, data will only be accessed by the researcher listed herein, to ensure confidentiality of responses.

- **Certificate of Confidentiality**

N/A

- **Risks of Harm to Non-Subjects**

There are no risks of harm to non-subjects.

B. Potential Direct Benefits to Subjects

There are no direct benefits to participate in this research.

5.0 Special Considerations

5.1 Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act (HIPAA)

N/A

5.2 Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act (FERPA)

N/A

5.3 Code of Federal Regulations Title 45 Part 46 (Vulnerable Populations)

N/A

5.4 General Data Protection Regulation (GDPR)

The General Data Protection Regulation (GDPR) states that if any personal data of people in the European Union is collected, it is required to comply with the GDPR. Personal data, according to this regulation, includes both email and IP addresses. Participants in this study will complete an online questionnaire using Qualtrics, a tool that automatically collects IP addresses, and will also provide their email addresses in order to send them the payment for their collaboration once the questionnaire is completed. Therefore, in order to comply with this regulation, the researchers will implement a series of measures to ensure subject privacy and confidentiality of subject data. First, in compliance with Articles 4(11) and 7 of the GDPR, the researchers are going to obtain consent from the participants. Second, in compliance with Articles 12, 13 of the GDPR, the researchers are going to be transparent about how they are going to process the participants' data and communicate with intelligible and easily accessible form, using clear and plain language. In addition, and in compliance with Article 13(1.a and b), the researchers are going to provide their contact details to the participants. Third, in order to protect the participants' data, and in compliance with the recommendations given by the Article 32 of the GDPR, on how to protect the subject's data, the researchers are going to encrypt their devices (laptops) using the FileVault feature to encrypt Mac data.

5.5 NJ Access to Medical Research Act (Surrogate Consent)

N/A

6.0 Data Management Plan

6.1 Data Analysis

Data will be analyzed using the program R (R Core Team 2022). We will perform statistical analysis to better understand the relationship between participants' opinions about language and their demographic characteristics.

6.2 Data Security

Data will be collected on a Mr. Alejandro Andreas Jaume Losa's Qualtrics account that is password protected. Using the Qualtrics sharing feature, this will be shared with Dr. Kendra Dickinson's Qualtrics account so that she can provide oversight. At the time of analysis, data will be downloaded and stored on the computers of both researchers and will be password protected.

6.3 Data and Safety Monitoring

This study does not pose greater than minimal risk of harm to subjects.

A. Data/Safety Monitoring Plan

N/A

B. Data/Safety Monitoring Board Details

N/A

6.4 Reporting Results

A. Subject Results Reporting

We will not directly share our findings with study participants.

B. Aggregate Results

We will not directly share our findings with study participants.

C. Professional Reporting

We aim to present this research at premier conferences in Linguistics and Hispanic Linguistics, such as the Hispanic Linguistics Symposium, and the International Symposium on Language Attitudes toward Portuguese, Spanish and Related Languages. After presentation, we will write and submit 1-2 articles based on this research to a top-tier journal in our field.

D. Clinical Trials Registration, Results Reporting and Consent Posting

This research does NOT qualify as a clinical trial or Basic Experimental Study Involving Humans (BESH).

6.5 Secondary Use of the Data

The data will not be shared with other researchers.

7.0 Research Repositories – Specimens and/or Data

N/A

8.0 Approvals/Authorizations

N/A

9.0 Bibliography

Baker, C. (1992). Attitudes and Language. Clevedon: Multilingual Matters.

Coeyman, L. (2022). Language attitudes, vitality awareness, and identity in France: The case of Picard/Ch'ti in the Hauts-de-France. *Language Documentation and Description*, 22(1), 1-12.

Eagly, A. H. & Chaiken, S. (1993). *The Psychology of Attitudes*. New York: Harcourt Brace Jovanovich College Publishers.

Joan i Marí, B. (2021). Actituds lingüístiques i acció institucional. *Llengua Nacional*, 114.

Miralles Plantalamor, J. & Iturraspe Bellver, A. (2004). Opinions i actituds envers el català dels estrangers d'origen europeu residents al Pla de Mallorca. *Treballs de sociolingüística catalana*, 18, p. 143-157.

Rosseel, L., Speelman, D., & Geeraerts, D. (2018). Measuring language attitudes using the Personalized Implicit Association Test: A case study on regional varieties of Dutch in Belgium. *Journal of Linguistic Geography*, 6(1), 20-39.