The main objective of this study is to investigate the attitudes and linguistic uses of the population of Palma de Mallorca towards the two official languages of the Balearic Islands: Catalan and Spanish. The first aim is to identify the values that the society of Palma attributes to each of the official languages and the second is to determine which social and demographic variables most significantly affect the formation of linguistic attitudes towards Catalan and Spanish in Palma.

In order to answer the questions posed in the previous section, and taking into account the scope of this preliminary study, it is intended to have approximately 100 participants. In order to participate in the study, participants will have to meet three requirements: be over 18 years old, have knowledge of Catalan and Spanish, and live or have lived in Palma for a minimum of 5 years. To recruit participants, flyers will be used that include the following: the title of the study, the requirements for participation, the financial compensation to be received upon completion of the study (10 euros) as well as the method of payment (PayPal or Amazon gift card, the objectives of the study, and contact information. These flyers will be distributed through social networks, emails and instant messaging services.

If they decide to participate, interested participants will have to complete a 15-minute questionnaire. The questionnaire has been designed with Qualtrics and will be distributed through that medium. The questionnaire has three distinct parts. The first is dedicated to the collection of demographic data (age, gender, place of birth, ethnicity, education level, employment status, family income and political orientation). The second part of the questionnaire is devoted to linguistic uses. Here, the participant is asked to indicate which language they use in certain contexts (watching TV, reading, taking notes, at home, at work, etc.) and with certain social groups (father, mother, children, siblings, friends, neighbors, etc.). The third part is dedicated to linguistic attitudes, and aims to get the participants to indicate whether they agree or disagree with a series of expressions, such as the following: I like that people use Catalan/Spanish; Catalan/Spanish is a beautiful language; Catalan/Spanish should be the primary language in education, etc. Once they have finished, they will be asked if they want to receive compensation of 10 euros and, if so, to choose the method of payment (PayPal or Amazon gift card).

Likewise, before starting the questionnaire, participants will have to read the characteristics of the study, the risks that may occur, and give their consent to participate. The questionnaire is completely anonymous as the participants are not asked to indicate their name or any other personal information, and the researchers will not be present when answering the questionnaire. Participants are expected to answer the questionnaire individually through their own electronic devices. The only personal information they will be asked to provide is their e-mail address in case they wish to receive payment for their participation in this study. Even so, in the consent section, it is indicated that this information will be automatically deleted within a maximum period of two weeks, once the payment has been made. The IP addresses that Qualtrics collects will also be deleted automatically when the participant finishes the survey by means of the “Anonymize Responses” function in the “Security” tab of Qualtrics.

Once sufficient data have been collected, they will be analyzed with R software (R Core Team 2022) to study the relationship between their linguistic opinions and social/demographic variables. The study is expected to be fully completed by May 2024.