**Introduction**

The Balearic Islands are an archipelago in the western Mediterranean Sea, consisting of four main islands: Mallorca, Menorca, Ibiza, and Formentera. It is situated near the eastern coast of the Iberian Peninsula, and it is one of the seventeen Autonomous Communities of Spain. The Balearic Islands have a population of over 1.2 million inhabitants, with just under 40% of them living in Palma, the capital city (Instituto Nacional de Estadística, 2024). Additionally, there are two official languages in the Balearic Islands: Catalan and Spanish. Historically, the archipelago has been part of the Catalan linguistic domain along with other territories in Spain, mainly Catalonia and the Valencian community. However, since the introduction of Spanish in the 16th century, both languages have coexisted despite efforts by former governments to reduce the presence of Catalan, such as Franco’s dictatorship from 1939 to 1975.

Nowadays, forty years after the approval of a legal framework that aimed to recognize both Catalan and Spanish as the official languages and normalize and promote Catalan after decades of being proscribed under Franco’s regime, the linguistic situation of the Balearic Islands is completely different. The general knowledge of Catalan among the Balearic population has increased considerably (Vanrell & Melià, 2017) and the presence of the language in society has become much more noticeable and evident. The establishment of this legal framework, however, and the consequent implementation of certain language policies by previous and current local governments, seem to have been accompanied by a process of polarization in the Balearic society in terms of language attitudes, particularly in Palma (Aguiló-Mora & Lynch, 2017; Calafat Vila & Calero-Pons, 2019; Castell et al., 2023; Ibáñez Ferreté, 2014; Tudela Isanta, 2021). This is not surprising, given the close relationship between language policy and language attitudes (Bertolotti & Coll, 2020; Errihani, 2008; Kester, 2020; Marley, 2004; Mukhuba, 2005). In fact, there is a common assumption that much policy and planning can or should be intended to change language attitudes (O’Rourke & Hogan‐Brun, 2012). Likewise, it appears that in recent years these language attitudes have become associated with certain political orientations, to the point of turning the linguistic situation in the Balearic Islands into a constant political debate (Amorós, 2017; Colmenero, 2018; Colom, 2023; Crespí, 2023; Galvín, 2017; Garau, 2023; Gentili, 2013; Manresa, 2015; Mateos, 2023; Olaizola, 2013; Pellicer, 2023; Sánchez, 2023).

Consequently, the present study delves deeper into the relationship between political orientation and language attitudes in the Balearic Islands by focusing on the particular case of Palma, the capital city. Specifically, the present study seeks to examine whether political orientation is a significant predictor of the language attitudes toward Catalan and Spanish in Palma de Mallorca and, if so, to explore what the relationship is between different political orientations and language attitudes toward both languages. To do so, data on the language attitudes toward Catalan and Spanish from a total of 99 participants (67 females) aged between 18 and 71 years old (mean = 37) from Palma were analyzed. In doing so, the present study contributes to previous literature exploring the close relationship between language policy and language attitudes. Additionally, it expands on previous knowledge on the role of different factors in the formation of language attitudes toward Catalan and Spanish in the Balearic Islands.