The interplay between language attitudes and language policy in contemporary society has grown intricate. In certain contexts, these elements appear to mutually influence and complement each other (Bertolotti & Coll, 2020; Zajícová, 2020), whereas in other instances, they seem to diverge. The present work explores this phenomenon in the context of the Balearic Islands (Spain), where Catalan and Spanish coexist as the two official languages.

Following the restoration of Spanish democracy, the institutions of the Balearic Islands crafted a legal framework for both languages. This framework not only recognizes Catalan and Spanish as official languages in the region but also strives for the normalization and promotion of Catalan as a minority and historic language of the archipelago. Despite the adoption of this language policy by the Balearic government, an observable shift in language use and attitudes has emerged, particularly in Palma, the capital city (Aguiló-Mora and Lynch, 2017; Calafat Vila & Calero-Pons, 2019; Cremades and Vanrell, 2023; Ibáñez Ferreté, 2014; Tudela Isanta, 2021).

Consequently, this study investigates the language attitudes and usage patterns of the population of Palma toward Catalan and Spanish. Data from 127 participants aged 18 to 71 were collected through an online questionnaire organized in three sections. The first section collected demographic information (e.g., gender, age, ethnic origin, SES, and political orientation). The second section collected information on their proficiency in Catalan and Spanish and their usage in certain contexts and with different social groups (e.g., parents, siblings, neighbors, etc.). The third section collected data on the language attitudes toward both languages through open-ended questions (e.g., ‘the official language of the Balearic Islands should be…’), and questions that involved expressing the degree of agreement or disagreement with specific statements (e.g., ‘Catalan is worth learning’).

Although data analysis is ongoing, preliminary findings suggest a moderate association between political orientation, educational level, and household income with language attitudes and usage regarding Catalan and Spanish. For instance, as political orientation moved toward conservative, agreement with the statement ‘Catalan is an identity element of the Balearic Islands’ decreased. Also, higher levels of education were associated with an increased likelihood of choosing Catalan as the medium of instruction of public education.