**Linguistic Attitudes and Uses of the population of Palma de Mallorca toward the co-official languages of the Balearic Islands: Catalan and Spanish**

The interplay between language attitudes and language policy in contemporary society has become increasingly complex, including contexts where these elements mutually influence and complement each other, as well as instances where they diverge (Bertolotti & Coll, 2020; Kester, 2020). This research delves into this phenomenon in the Balearic Islands, Spain, where Catalan and Spanish coexist as official languages. Following the restoration of Spanish democracy, the Balearic Islands’ institutions established a legal framework recognizing both languages as official, aiming to normalize and promote Catalan. Despite the government’s adoption of this language policy, a noticeable shift in language use and attitudes has emerged, particularly in Palma, the capital city (Aguiló-Mora and Lynch, 2017; Calafat Vila & Calero-Pons, 2019; Castell et al., 2023, *inter alia*).

This study investigates language attitudes towards and usage patterns of Catalan and Spanish in Palma’s population. Data from 127 participants (aged 18 to 71) were collected through an online questionnaire with three sections. The first gathered demographic information (gender, age, SES, and political orientation). The second explored proficiency and usage of Catalan and Spanish in various social contexts. The third section focused on language attitudes through open-ended questions (e.g., ‘the official language of the Balearic Islands should be…’) and statements measuring agreement or disagreement (e.g., ‘Catalan is worth learning’).

While data analysis is ongoing, preliminary findings suggest a moderate association between political orientation, educational level, and household income with language attitudes and usage. For example, a conservative political orientation correlated with decreased agreement that ‘Catalan is an identity element of the Balearic Islands,’ and higher education levels were linked to an increased likelihood of selecting Catalan as the medium of instruction in public education. Together, these results indicate that individual social variables are a key element in the formation of language attitudes and patterns of language use.

**References**

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