**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 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.

The interplay between language attitudes and language policy in contemporary society has become increasingly complex, with contexts where these elements mutually influence and complement each other, as well as instances where they diverge (Bertolotti & Coll, 2020; Zajícová, 2020). This research delves into this phenomenon within the Balearic Islands, Spain, where both 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 as a minority and historical language. 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; Cremades and Vanrell, 2023; Ibáñez Ferreté, 2014; Tudela Isanta, 2021).

This study investigates language attitudes and usage patterns toward 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, ethnic origin, SES, and political orientation). The second explored proficiency and usage of Catalan and Spanish in various contexts and social groups. 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 regarding Catalan and Spanish. 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.