

MULTILINGUALISM: EMPOWERING INDIVIDUALS,
TRANSFORMING SOCIETIES

Standard and non-standard Breton on Facebook

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New speakers



- Hornsby (2015): "transmission, attitude and origin"
- Working definition: a speaker who has acquired a language by means other than a continuous chain of intergenerational transmission dating back indefinitely



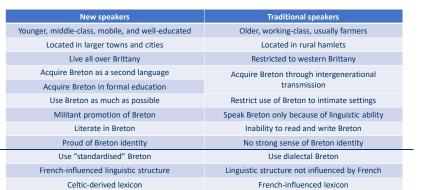








New versus traditional speakers



(See e.g. Jones, 1995; Hornsby, 2005; Timm, 2001; German, 2007)

Aims of the present research



o In the media

• Three domains of media language

Magazines

o Radio broadcasts

Facebook group posts

· Focusing on lexicon











Facebook e brezhoneg

- Largest of several Facebook groups dedicated to Breton, with around 10000 members
- 'Open group': anyone can read and search posts
- Associated with new speakers

Specific bilingual site: competence in French expected but use of it discouraged

 (Specific by toward and a specific by the proportions)

Kasit ho kemenadennoù e brezhoneg mar jil) Ha chomit dereat ha blujus

Merci de rédiger

vos messages en breton et de rester courtois et respectueux











Overview of posts



- Language (translation requests, etc.)
- Politics
- Advertising events
- Sampling method
 - o No linguistic subject matter in the original post
 - o Main stimulus for conversation must be textual
 - o Original post at least 50% in Breton, with a least one top-level response in Breton from a different user
- Certain words were tagged for analysis
- 12000-word sample involving 99 speakers











The lexicon of Breton

• Identified as prominent feature of new versus traditional speaker distinction

	ТВ	NB	French
'shop'	magazin	stal	magasin
'reason'	rezen	abeg	raison
'bakery'	boulangerezh	baraerezh	boulangerie

adapted from Timm, 2001:456

• Now regulated by the Office public de la langue bretonne











Lexical variation on Facebook

• Many non-'official' French borrowings

	Attested	Advised	French		
'cable-car'	teleferik	fungarr	téléphérique		
'sexist'	seksist	revelour	sexiste		
'reptiles'	reptilianed	stlejviled	reptiles		
'flag'	drano	hanniel	draneau		

- International borrowings: organek, TV (French bio, télé)
- Dialectal words: often prepositions
- Longer dialectal posts attract dialectal replies













Comparison with other media investigated

- Heteroglossic nature
- · Intermediate register
- Highest proportion of non-borrowings among tagged tokens
- Highest use of terms proscribed by official terminology database
- Highest level of semantic difference from typical dictionaries of "standard Breton"
- · Lots of metalinguistic discourse, ludic use of language, and translanguaging











Hornsby, M. (2005). Néo-breton and questions of authenticity. Estudios de sociolingüistica 6, 191-











Conclusions



- The Facebook context provides a specific site featuring characteristics of both oral and written communication, but is unique
 - Ludic language use and multiple linguistic repertoires
- New speakers are not homogeneous in their lexicon or orthography o Celtic words and words of French origin coexist o Non-standard dialects continue to be used to some degree
- Social media can enable bottom-up corpus planning, allowing direct access to usage













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