Institute of Education

The Multilingual University Project



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The Multilingual University (TMU) promotes linguistic diversity as resource not problem in Anglophone higher educational settings. We view HE as a site of multilingualism and aim to develop plurilingual pedagogies, embed language-as-resource perspectives in institutional policies and practices & encourage HEIs to advocate linguistic & cultural diversity as a benefit for society and a matter of social justice.

TMU Launch

Development

Exploratory research

Research partnership

- BAAL CUP seminar
- ESRC seminar series
- e.g. UCL ChangeMakers
- UCL IOE & Simon Fraser University

What did the ChangeMakers team investigate? We conducted exploratory research into how PGT students made use of linguistic diversity on campus. Our staff-student team recruited PGT students taking modules in applied linguistics. We collected 46 online surveys, 11 reflective journals & 6 email interviews with journal participants.

What are the current questions & findings?

How do PGT students represent their multilingual repertoires as salient for the taught curriculum?

What do student experiences tell us about the 'plurilingual social actor' in Anglophone higher educational settings?

Multilingual resources enable grasp of subject matter

Plurilingual practices support working with content at deeper level than English only

Teaching
experienced as
monolingual &
misaligned with
plurilingual
practices for
learning

Multilingual resources enable content to be put to use

Plurilingual practices allow content to be related to culture & foster intercultural competence, critical thinking & the 'inclusive' curriculum

A dynamic, powerful & affirmative identity positioning

enabling students to mobilise multilingual resources in all 4 language skills in their encounters with the taught curriculum.

An alternative & more egalitarian language identity

A socially

A sociallysituated & emergent identity in HE space open to all regardless of origin or language(s). Sees all linguistic repertoires as uneven but capable of being mobilised for learning the taught curriculum & being developed in the process.

shaped in interaction with pedagogical practices informed by HE teaching & learning agenda, e.g. active learning, collaborative learning, self-direction, critical thinking etc.

PGT students with no/ little experience of EMI