



La Lettre de l'OEP N°65 (juin-juillet 2016)

<http://www.observatoireplurilinguisme.eu>

Translated by Sylvie Aubert

Les Cahiers de l'OEP N°1 "Culture and Plurilingualism" are published

Read the summary

**Read the conclusions of the 4th European Conference on Plurilingualism
(18-19 May 2016)**

Editorial : Brexit, nothing will be the same again

Many commentators have started analysing the British vote and it is normal that the OEP should do the same using our own tools.

Overall, we observe a delegitimation of the European construction, a delegitimation which is part of a more general delegitimation of the ruling classes in all the western countries. What the media and the political leaders call "populism" is nothing else by this loss of legitimacy.

We must look at the foundations of this. It may seem to take us away from linguistic matters, but we are going away from the subject the better to come back to it, making the connection with the linguistic policy of the European Union. Let us mention briefly :

The shock wave of the 2008 economic crisis

The explosion of inequalities

The matter of neoliberalism

The power of money

Democracy and/or market

The shock wave of the 2008 economic crisis

Today we can smile of Alain Minc's predictions who, in the days following the beginning of the financial crisis and the failure of the bank Lehman Brothers in September 2008, was announcing that the crisis was behind us.

The bursting of the financial bubble was only the most spectacular effect of the deregulation conducted since the seventies and of deeper movements affecting the world economy.

It is obvious that the effects of these mutations are not equally borne by the populations and that those who suffer most are the more vulnerable social categories.

The explosion of inequalities

This phenomenon is undeniable despite all the efforts of most governments to hide their reality...->

Editing and writing : Christian Tremblay,
Anne Bui

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->The figures published by Thomas Piketty in *Capital in the 21st Century* have not been seriously contested. Since the seventies, the richest have become richer in the western countries, while the standard of living of the middle classes has remained the same. Meanwhile, growth has slowed, marking the end of the "Glorious thirty". Differences have been noted between countries, according to the social systems, but the movement is global.

In 2008, David Rothkopf, who had been a member of Bill Clinton's team, was alerting people in his book [Superclass](#). In particular, he was writing this : "This book is, by its nature, very much about the gross inequality in the distribution in the power and wealth in the world. ...->

-> My position is that these are issues we ignore at our peril – in practical terms, in political terms, and perhaps most of all in moral terms. The reality is that the combined net worth of the world’s richest thousand or so people – the planet’s billionaires – is almost twice that of the poorest 2.5 billion. The human race may have made great progress over the centuries, but such disparities are an indictment of our civilization. And, I believe, they are a threat to its stability.”

This extract had been censured in the French edition by its publisher Robert Laffont. Nevertheless, David Rothkopf, who cannot be excused to be a leftist, was right.

The power of money

At all times, money has played a major role in public life. But the role of money has never been as important as it is today in democratic life so that democracy tends to become nothing but a false front. The explosion of election expenses since the seventies means that the conquest of power depends more and more on fund raising. In European countries, more or less effective counter measures have been taken so as to limit election expenses and to cover part of these expenses with public money. In the United States, the attempts to this effect have aborted and the Supreme Court finally legalised, in the name of freedom of expression, the financing of election campaigns by businesses, banks, insurance companies, pension funds and the wealthiest individuals. That is what induced Joseph Stiglitz to say that it was the country of “1 vote = 1 dollar”. Following the political categories of antique Greece, the American regime as it works now should be called a plutocracy and not a democracy. All the lectures about constitutional law should include in their classification the regimes of political party and election campaign funding, as well as the status of the media, and revise the classifications that are today obsolete against these criteria.

The neoliberal ideology

We are talking here not of liberalism but of neoliberal ideology, which is not the same thing at all. Unfortunately, the distinction is rarely made in political discourse and in the media. Neoliberal ideology can be differentiated from liberalism by three main characteristics.

On the one hand, the market is supposed to regulate itself and needs no public intervention. Any outside intervention is supposed to take the market away from its ideally optimal functioning. The only acceptable regulation is the one that the market imposes upon itself. We saw the result, there is no need to elaborate. From this point of view, the neoliberal ideology is dead. It remains to be seen if, as the headless duck which keeps on running, this ideology does not still dominate.

The second characteristic of this ideology is that, to the exception of defence, police and justice, who are supposed to defend the riches of the capitalist owners, and only them, in all areas, it is declared that market does better than public intervention, and it is supposed to be true for education, health and public facilities.

Finally, the third characteristic, and the most severe aspect, is that the market which is supposed to provide ...->

-> almost perfectly by itself, provided that it is not troubled by public intervention, the optimal economic conditions, would be a substitute to democracy and universal suffrage, universal suffrage being expressed by the market through the consumers’ free choice. Between universal suffrage and market, the market should always have the last word.

In consequence, the aim of neoliberalism is to circumvent and control universal suffrage. To achieve that, political elections must be controlled (this is de facto legalised by the Supreme Court of the United States) and so must be the media. This is an issue whose upheavals we periodically witness when there is a fight to control a press group or a television channel. The aim is not only to make profits but also to have a political control.

There is thus a confiscation of power that goes almost unnoticed in periods of prosperity. In the slightly tenser periods as nowadays, when the leaders in activity prove their inability to find a way to durable growth and the inequalities get worse, it is different : it results in what we call “populism”.

The European linguistic policy

Now, what is the link with the European Union and the linguistic policy ?

The first thing is that the model proposed by neoliberalism which is omnipresent in our society, reduced everything to monetary values. The optimal economic conditions, identified with general interest, are supposed to be provided by the market. Therefore, any regulation disturbing the freedom of trade (the need of a diploma, the ban of a product either toxic or dangerous for the health, linguistic demands, etc.) is suspected from the outset to impede trade. It is obvious that this ideology has impregnated the European treaties and implemented in a rigorous way by the European Court of Justice who does nothing but apply the treaties. Of course when a regulation, under ecological or cultural motifs, is diverted to impede trade, it is->

> not acceptable. But it is clear that there are other interests than those of the market and that those interests must have a priority. The conditions of the negotiations over TTIP are indicative of this problem. The issue is not longer that of customs tariffs, but of national or European regulations that do not concern our standard of living but our way of life, the organisation of our societies, consumer law, sanitary and environmental regulations, cultural regulations, etc. It is quite normal that trade negotiations should not be made public in their first phase, but there comes a time when there must be a public debate so as to achieve a real democratic choice.

The evolution in the past ten years of the linguistic regime effectively applied by the European institutions and more particularly by the Commission do not respect the treaties and shows disaffection for the citizen. This disaffection could only be explained by a critical mistrust or by the feeling of the vanity of an institutional relationship with the citizen. The United Kingdom being part of the European Union, the English-speaking population represented 14% of the European Union, to whom we must add 7 to 8% of non-native speakers who have a good level of English, their social and cultural profile not being the average profile of the European Union. Without the United Kingdom, the English-speaking population falls to 1,1% of the European Union, and if the non-native speakers with a good level of English are included, the figure does not exceed 9% of the population of the European Union. The system that tended slowly but surely towards an English monolingualism (the number of pages written exclusively in English on the website europa.eu has increased from 15% to 50% in the course of 3 years) was not viable except for the lobbies who lay siege of the Commission services.....->

-> Today, it is even less viable. Above all, it is deeply anti-democratic and in flagrant violation of the treaties. A system mistrusting the citizen, in that respect consistent with neoliberal ideology, a system inaccessible and incomprehensible for more that 90% of the citizens is an illegitimate system. Therefore its modalities must be fundamentally reviewed.

In the arguments we have used, we have hardly granted any importance to migratory movements and we hardly mentioned Europe. Regarding migrations, it is interesting to note in the British vote that the area where the diversity of the population is at its highest, where the migratory movements are the strongest, the London area, is also the area that voted massively for the United Kingdom to remain in the European Union. Very simply because it is the most prosperous area. As for the European idea, the need to know each other, to exchange, to build projects and to act together in the world has never been greater.



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Articles not to be missed



INformaLingua - L'inglese sarà lingua franca dell'UE anche in caso di Brexit? Lo abbiamo chiesto al professor Ruggiano dell'Università di Messina.

Il prossimo 23 giugno i cittadini del Regno Unito saranno chiamati a scegliere se il proprio paese debba restare o meno nell'Unione Europea. Quali potrebbero essere le conseguenze per il difficile multilinguismo dell'Unione se la Gran Bretagna decidesse di voltare le spalle all'Europa continentale? L'inglese continuerebbe comunque ad essere la lingua più usata dalle istituzioni di Bruxelles e ad essere di fatto la lingua franca delle burocrazie e dei governi? Lo abbiamo chiesto a Fabio Ruggiano, docente di storia della lingua italiana dell'Università di Messina.

[Leggi tutto...](#)



Euronews : Will English remain as the de facto EU official language?

Language is bound to countries, culture and heritage. Now that the United Kingdom has decided to leave the European Union, the debate about English as the de facto official language of Europe is likely on the mind of many.

[More...](#)



Le festival de Cabourg 2016 au-delà des paillettes !

Ce que l'on retient souvent des grands festivals, ce sont les aspects mondains et les défilés de vedettes et de stars. C'est parfois vrai mais pas toujours. L'OEP a été partenaire de la 30ème édition du festival du film de Cabourg et n'a pas à le regretter. Nous l'avons dit, il y a à la base une idée poétique et généreuse. La promenade Marcel Proust, qui garde son nom, devient le...

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Multilinguismo, Tecnologias Linguísticas e Internacionalização

II Fórum de Ensino de Línguas do IFSC em Florianópolis Publicado em 15/06/2016 Está acontecendo em Florianópolis, entre os dias 14 e 15 de junho, o II Fórum de Ensino de Línguas do Instituto Federal de Santa Catarina. Cerca de 100 professores de línguas do IFSC (português, espanhol, inglês e libras) se reúnem com o objetivo de dar continuidade às discussões realizadas...

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Schools say au revoir to languages, while universities proclaim Guten Tag (The Guardian)

Universities are offering languages such as French and German from scratch to counteract the decline of modern foreign languages at A-level It's summer term: season of exams, light evenings and – for many year 12s – university open days. With fashionable courses from psychology to sports science beckoning, how many applicants will resist their lure and choose those beleaguered Cinderella...

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[Le concours de l'eurovision 2016 avec du recul : peut-on ne pas chanter en anglais et rencontrer un succès international ?](#)

Publié par Jean-Claude Amboise sur lcf-magazine.com le 3 juin 2016

Chanter en français et rencontrer un succès international est-il possible ? La question s'est posée à l'occasion de la soixante-et-unième édition du Concours Eurovision de la chanson qui s'est tenue le samedi 14 mai à Stockholm (Suède). En effet, tous les candidats ont interprété leur chanson avec des paroles en...

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[Canada : Justin Trudeau veut rétablir l'enseignement des langues autochtones](#)

3 juin 2016 WINNIPEG — Le premier ministre Justin Trudeau estime que le rétablissement des langues autochtones est un facteur clé pour prévenir les suicides des jeunes dans les communautés des Premières Nations, mais il ne s'est pas engagé pour autant à les reconnaître comme des langues officielles. M. Trudeau a déclaré lors d'une assemblée publique virtuelle pour le Réseau de...

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Multilingualism and equity : the impact of a change of European linguistic regime in Spain, France and Italy (Michele Gazzola)

Multilingualism and equity : the impact of a change of European linguistic regime in Spain, France and Italy Michele Gazzola Humboldt-Universität zu Berlin, Institut für Erziehungswissenschaften Ökonomie und Sprache Wirtschaftspädagogik Unter den Linden 6 10099 Berlin Allemagne Institute for Ethnic Studies, Ljubljana, Slovénie Résumé This chapter presents an evaluation...

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[Retour sur un classique : "Imposer sa langue c'est imposer sa pensée" \(C. Hagège\)](#)

Article publié dans LeVif.be le 02/07/12 Pour le grand linguiste Claude Hagège, le constat est sans appel : jamais, dans l'histoire de l'humanité, une langue n'a été "comparable en extension dans le monde à ce qu'est aujourd'hui l'anglais" (1). Oh ! il sait bien ce que l'on va dire. Que la défense du français est un combat ranci, franchouillard, passéiste. Une lubie de vieux ronchon...

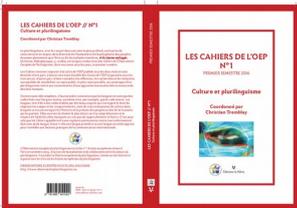
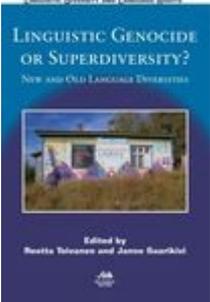
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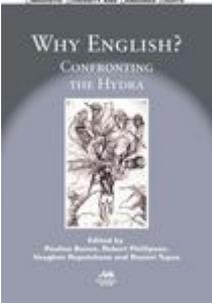
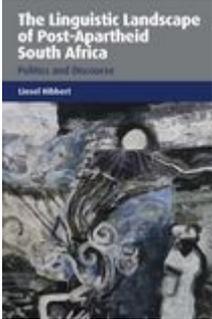
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	<p style="text-align: center;">Cahiers de l'OEP N°1 « Culture et plurilinguisme »</p> <p>Le #plurilinguisme, si on le conçoit dans son sens le plus profond, est la prise de conscience et le respect de la diversité de l'humanité et de la polyphonie des peuples. Assumer pleinement que l'être se dit de multiples manières, τὸ ὄν λέγεται πολλαχῶς (Aristote, Métaphysique, 7, 1028a), est la ligne conductrice des Cahiers de l'Observatoire Européen de Plurilinguisme, dont vous avez sous les yeux, le premier numéro.</p> <p>Lire la suite, voir le sommaire et commander</p>
	<p style="text-align: center;">Parution : Les Langues Modernes n°2/2016 « Approches pratiques de la traduction »</p> <p>Ce numéro fait suite au n°1/2016 sur les <i>Approches théoriques de la traduction</i>. Dossier coordonné par Astrid GUILLAUME</p> <p>Lire la suite</p>
	<p style="text-align: center;">Alice et autres merveilles Théâtre de la Ville du 9 au 24 septembre.</p> <p>Comment une écriture poétique peut-elle rejoindre les mathématiques et la créativité scientifique ? Ce chef d'oeuvre pourrait servir d'introduction aux Cahiers de l'OEP N°2 à paraître à l'automne 2016 "Plurilinguisme et créativité scientifique". Nous citons la présentation qui en est faite par François Regnault pour le Théâtre de la Ville (de Paris).</p> <p>« Il me paraît impossible de continuer à considérer comme des livres uniquement destinés aux enfants, ces poèmes à tous égards si précieux comme documents de l'histoire même de la pensée humaine » écrit Aragon en 1931 à propos des aventures d'Alice. C'est que Lewis Carroll, doué pour la poésie comme pour les mathématiques, révolutionne avec ses histoires d'apparences anodines l'idée même d'un monde logique, stable et rationnel, inventant des paradoxes dont les plus grands chercheurs s'empareront bientôt.</p> <p>Pour en savoir plus</p>
	<p style="text-align: center;">Louis-Jean Calvet : «Le bouillonnement des langues a façonné la Méditerranée» (Libération 10 juin 2016)</p> <p>De la «Mare Nostrum» romaine aux flux de migrants du XXIe siècle, le linguiste décrit dans son dernier ouvrage un espace méditerranéen comme un «continent liquide», où les langues s'acclimatent et influencent les échanges humains. Comme les «espèces vivantes». La Méditerranée n'est pas la mer de nos batailles, mais la mère de toutes nos langues. Celle que les Romains...</p> <p>Lire la suite...</p>
	<p style="text-align: center;">Linguistic Genocide or Superdiversity? New and Old Language Diversities (Reetta Toivanen, Janne Saarikivi)</p> <p>Are we facing an immense wave of language death or a period of remarkable new linguistic variation? Or both? This book answers this question by analysing studies of language endangerment and loss along with those of language change, revitalization and diversity. Using case studies from Russia and the EU, the authors compare historical language variation to that of the present day, arguing that...</p> <p>Lire la suite...</p>

	<p>Why English? (Pauline Bunce, Robert Phillipson, Vaughan Rapatahana, Ruanni Tupas)</p> <p>This book explores the ways and means by which English threatens the vitality and diversity of other languages and cultures in the modern world. Using the metaphor of the Hydra monster from ancient Greek mythology, it explores the use and misuse of English in a wide range of contexts, revealing how the dominance of English is being confronted and counteracted around the globe. The authors explore...</p> <p>Lire la suite...</p>
	<p>2nd Translation Studies Summer School</p> <p>La Société Française de Traductologie, en collaboration avec la Société d'Études des Pratiques et Théories en Traduction (SEPTET), SAES, le Laboratoire MoDyCo, Modèles, Dynamiques, Corpus de l'Université Paris Ouest-Nanterre-La Défense, l'Université de Padoue, Italie, l'Université d'Ottawa, Canada, l'Équipe Multilinguisme, Traduction, Création de l'Institut des Textes et...</p> <p>The second Translation Studies Summer School organised by SoFT will be held at the Castello dei conti Guidi in the historical village of Poppi in Tuscany (Italy) from July 24th to July 30th 2016. This intensive course is designed to reflect on the history, the theories, the methodologies and the issues in literary and pragmatic translation. It is a crash course in the still burgeoning field of studies in translation for students, translators and researchers,</p> <p>More</p>
	<p>The Linguistic Landscape of Post-Apartheid South Africa Politics and Discourse (Liesel Hibbert)</p> <p>The appointment of Nelson Mandela as President of South Africa in 1994 signalled the end of apartheid and transition to a new democratic constitution. This book studies discursive trends during the first twenty years of the new democracy, outlining the highlights and challenges of transforming policy, practice and discursive formations. The book analyses a range of discourses which signal how and...</p> <p>Lire la suite...</p>
	<p>Guide du surtitrage au théâtre</p> <p>Vous voulez en savoir davantage sur le surtitrage ? Élaboré par la Maison Antoine Vitez, ce guide (en pièce jointe) est pour vous.</p> <p>On peut le consulter ou le télécharger via Internet :</p> <p>http://www.maisonantoinevitez.com/static/files/Guide-Sur-Titrage-MAV-2016-v2.pdf http://www.maisonantoinevitez.com/fr/sur-titrage.html</p>
	<p>Revue de droit linguistique</p> <p>Koos Malan, « Considering an appropriate language policy for judicial proceedings in South Africa »</p> <p>"This article considers the most appropriate policy for language use, more in particular the use of the official languages in South African courts. The point of the departure is that the courts are in the service of the public, and not the other way around. Hence the arrangements regarding the use of languages have to be such that they best account for the particular needs of all South Africa's communities. In addition such arrangements have to give effect to the rights of</p>

	<p>everyone appearing in the courts as parties, witnesses and accused persons; effectively promote the smooth administration of justice and protect and advance the indigenous languages."</p> <p>Pour en savoir plus</p>
	<p>International Conference École Supérieure d'Interprètes et de Traducteurs (ESIT) Université Sorbonne Nouvelle - Paris 3</p> <p>1 and 2 December 2016</p> <p>Translate, write and rewrite in a changing world</p> <p>The issues of writing and the problem of meaning have always come first for the translator. They mean a path, some detours, some ruptures, as the thinking work that would therefore be a work of distancing and separation.</p>
	<p>Critiques de l'anglais. Poétique et politique d'une langue mondialisée Limoges, Lambert-Lucas, 2015 ISBN 978-2-35935-149-1, 340 pages, 27€.</p> <p>Ouvrage publié avec le concours de l'Université Paris 8 et de l'EA 1569 "Transferts critiques et dynamique des savoirs - domaine anglophone" http://www.lambert-lucas.com/critiques-de-l-anglais-poetique-et-contact-presse : genevievelucas@free.fr</p> <p>Pour en savoir plus</p>
	<p>Mille langues et une oeuvre (Samia Kassab-Charfi et François Rastier) Ouvrage coordonné par Samia Kassab-Charfi et François Rastier Editions des Archives contemporaines, février 2016 ISBN 9782813001887, 118 pages, 20 €, diffusion VRIN (http://www.vrin.fr) Poèmes, récits, aphorismes, essais, vingt et un écrivains venus de maints pays disent la présence de mille langues dans leur oeuvre. Libre de tout préjugé d'appartenance identitaire, la mille et unième...</p> <p>Lire la suite</p>
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