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Minority Community Development: Testing Landry's (2012) Intergroup Ethno-Linguistic Model

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Abstract

We test Landry's (2012) ethno-linguistic community development model in the context of Canadian Francophone minorities, using two social responses as indicators of social development. These minorities are spread over 12 Canadian Provinces and Territories and represent a broad spectrum of minority levels. The social responses are the offer and the demand for health care services in French and they are derived from Statistics Canada's 2006 Survey on the Vitality of Official-Language Minorities. As predicted by Landry, we observe a strong association between the two social responses and the Francophones/Anglophones linguistic vitality ratio. A phase diagram analysis indicates that minorities have more control over local model dynamics whereas the majority has more control over global model constraints. This suggests practical lessons for fostering the development of minority communities.

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Keywords:

1. Introduction

Landry (2012) and Landry, Allard and Deveau (2007) proposed a macroscopic model of ethno-linguistic development based on a dialectic tension between a social determinism originating from a dominant linguistic community exhibiting a strong vitality, and the self-determination of a linguistic minority exhibiting a weak vitality. The premise of their model is that the ideological, legal, political, demographic, and historical context of a minority community determines its cultural autonomy and the chances that it might grow and develop as a distinct and active

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community. According to Landry, minorities enjoy more representation, more tailored programs and services, more rights and more control when their linguistic vitality and their identity are strong relative to the majority. In this paper we seek empirical evidence for Landry's model using the Francophone minority communities of Canada as a natural experiment. We test his model by examining the offer and demand for health care services in French in relation to the relative linguistic vitality of Francophones and Anglophones in 12 Canadian territorial and provincial jurisdictions where Francophones are in a minority. If Landry's model is correct, we should observe coherent relationships.

2. Methods

Offer and demand indicators are available from Statistics Canada's 2006 *Survey on the Vitality of Official-Language Minorities* (Giguère 2013; 2014). Linguistic data from the 2006 Canadian Census are available online (www.statcan.gc.ca) and on DVD (Canada, 2006). To estimate jurisdictional vitality, Linguistic Vitality Indices (LVI) were calculated using Lacroix & Sabourin's approach (Johnson & Doucet, 2006), by dividing the number of individuals speaking mostly a given language at home by the total population number for that mother tongue, jurisdiction by jurisdiction. The general assumption is that a minority community exhibiting low linguistic vitality is more assimilated, less likely to ask for services in its mother tongue, and less likely to grow and develop as a distinct community. Speaking a mother tongue at home is considered a good indicator of community vitality in several national (Institut de recherche sur le français en Amérique [IRFA], 2012; Lentz, 2004) and international studies (Aleksynska & Algan, 2010; Chiswick, 1991).

Canadian linguistic communities are classified in three broad mother tongue categories: two for the Official-Language populations, Anglophones, and Francophones, and the other, Allophones, for non-Official-Language populations. These three categories represent 58.1%, 21.7%, and 20.2% of Canadians respectively according to the 2011 Canadian Census (Canada 2012a, 2012b). By percentage of total population, Punjabi (1.33%), Spanish (1.26%), and German (1.26%) are the top three Allophone mother tongues in Canada (Canada, 2012). Canadian Official Languages are dominant and are spoken by nearly all Canadians (97.3%[†]; Corbeil & Lafrenière, 2010). Many Allophones do not mostly speak their mother tongue at home and often speak English or French. Similarly, many Francophones in minority situations do not mostly speak French at home. Francophones are in a minority in 12 out of 13 provincial and territorial jurisdictions and their demographic weight ranges between 0.4% and 32.7% of jurisdictions population (Canada, 2012). Because sample size is small for the 3 Canadian Territories, Statistics Canada pools these data, yielding a sample size of 10 for 12 jurisdictions. We refer to these 10 Francophone jurisdictional minorities below as Francophone minority communities. Like Warnke and Bouchard (2013), we defined mother tongue on the basis of respondents who indicated a single mother tongue (what Statistics Canada calls a "single response"). For more information about Canadian official language definitions, consult Forgues and Landry (2006).

3. Results

We observe (Table 1) that the representation of Francophones is low everywhere except in New Brunswick (32.7%), whereas Anglophone representation dominates everywhere else (64.7% to 97.6% of jurisdiction populations). Allophones are in much larger proportion than Francophones in most jurisdictions except in the four Atlantic Provinces (the first 4 rows in the Table); a similar pattern is obviously repeated for other categories such as: visible minorities, immigrants or for the Simpson's Diversity index. French ranks relatively high compared to other languages most often spoken at home, except in the 3 western-most provinces. In the case of Francophones, LVIs are highest in New Brunswick (0.909) and lowest in Saskatchewan (0.257; i.e., 71.7% lower than in New Brunswick). In the case of Anglophones, LVIs are highest in the 3 Territories (1.185) and lowest in Newfoundland and Labrador (1.012; i.e., 14.6% lower than in the Territories). In other words whereas Anglophone majority

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