

## **Multilingualism in Luxembourg from the crèche to the university.**

The role of French in society and education (Jean-Jacques Weber)  
Note-taking in multiple languages: Insights into multilingual learning processes  
(Adelheid Hu)

### **Abstract**

In this paper, we explore the multilingual context of Luxembourg and its education system. In the 1st part, Jean-Jacques Weber discusses the new initiatives of the Ministry of Education in the area of language education in the crèches, while in the 2nd part Adelheid Hu looks at the other end of the education system, namely higher education, with a special focus on multilingualism at the University of Luxembourg.

Jean-Jacques Weber examines the controversial role of French in Luxembourgish society and education. Relying on a critical race theoretical framework and its key concepts of interest divergence and convergence, he explains how and why the restrictive policy concerning the use of French in pre-school education is in the process of being reversed at the present time.

Adelheid Hu will focus on the question of how university students' linguistic repertoires interact with their processes of understanding and learning. On the basis of some examples of note-taking in the context of a trilingual MA-Programme she analyses how multilingualism – conceptualized as the interplay of multiple linguistic repertoires (mother tongue(s), language(s) of instruction, foreign, second languages) – affects learning practices and processes, and how multilingualism can be capitalized on and transformed into a resource for knowledge development.

**Jean-Jacques Weber** is Professor of English and Education at the University of Luxembourg. He was educated at the University of Lancaster (UK) and the University of Leuven (Belgium), where he was awarded a PhD in 1991. His main research interest is the study of language and education in multilingual contexts. He has published widely in the areas of discourse analysis, multilingualism and education, including *Language Racism* (Palgrave, 2015), *Flexible Multilingual Education: Putting Children's Needs First* (Multilingual Matters, 2014), *Multilingualism and Mobility in Europe: Policies and Practices* (ed. with K. Horner and I. de Saint-Georges; Peter Lang, 2014) and *Multilingualism and Multimodality: Current Challenges for Educational Studies* (ed. with I. de Saint-Georges; Sense Publishers, 2013).

**Adelheid Hu** is professor of Education and is specialized in Foreign/Second Language Education, Multilingualism and Intercultural Studies. She graduated in German and French Literature and Linguistics, Chinese Studies and Applied Linguistics at the Ruhr-University Bochum in Germany and began her professional career as a teacher in a German senior high school and then as lecturer of German at Tunghai University in Taiwan (1984-89). She returned to Germany for a PhD funded by the DFG in the doctoral school Didaktik des Fremdverstehens (Pedagogy of Intercultural Understanding) at the University of Giessen (1991-94) and a post-doc at the RU-Bochum (1996-2001). In 2001 she was appointed Associate Professor and in 2008 Full Professor of Foreign/Second Language Pedagogy at the University of Hamburg before she moved to Luxembourg in 2011. She has been a visiting professor at the University of Franche-Comté in Besançon, France and at Soochow University, Taipei in Taiwan. Adelheid Hu's main research interests include plurilingualism and plurilingual education; languages, biography and identity; intercultural studies and cultural theory; language policy; language, migration and globalization. She has supervised 8 doctoral dissertations (4 more ongoing). She has been Head of the German Association for Foreign Language Research (DGFF) and consultant for the Institute for Quality Development in Education in Berlin, as well as the Swiss, Austrian and German Science Foundations. She has co-directed the DFG Graduiertenkolleg Bildungsgangforschung at the University of Hamburg and was PI in different research projects financed by the Hamburg Ministries of Education and Science, the LiMA project (Linguistic Diversity in Urban Areas) among others. She is currently engaged in two European projects: European Identity, Culture, Exchanges and Multilingualism (Jean-Monnet-Network) (Oct 2014-Oct 2017) and an Erasmus plus project Multilingual Education and Language Awareness (Dec. 2015-Dec 2018). She is elected member of the European Language Council and member of the research cluster Mehrsprachigkeit und sprachliche Bildung (KomBI), financed by the Federal Ministry for Education and Research (BMBF) in Germany and of the Center for Teacher Education, University of Vienna.

Since her arrival at the UL, she was programme director of the international MA programme "Learning and Communication in Multilingual and Multicultural Contexts" (March 2012 – February 2013). In January 2014 she was elected head of the Research Unit ECCS (Education, Culture, Cognition and Society); in July 2014 she was nominated head of the UL Research Priority in Education, focusing on multilingualism and diversity in educational contexts. She is director of the recently established Language Center of the Luxembourg University and coordinator of the doctoral training unit CALIDIE (Capitalizing on linguistic diversity in education).