

# Appendix A

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## Questionnaire “Multilingual Switzerland”

(The original online version can be accessed at <https://forms.gle/XGdfs6QmqkQRQgda8>)

Welcome to the questionnaire of my dissertation project about multilingual education in Switzerland. First of all, thank you very much for your participation! Please remember that your name will only be used by me to get in touch with you for the interview. If you wish not to share a certain information, feel free to leave the answer blank. In case you have any further questions or comments, please write an email to [anna.becker@unifr.ch](mailto:anna.becker@unifr.ch) or leave a comment in the comment section below the questions. The questionnaire should take approximately 15 minutes.

### Your personal information

1. First and last name
2. What best describes your gender?
  - a. Female
  - b. Male
  - c. Prefer not to say
  - d. Other
3. Year and country of birth
4. Nationality/ies (by passport/s). Please separate them by pressing enter.
5. If you were not born in Switzerland, how old were you when you came here?

### Languages and country of origin

1. What language(s) did you learn first? If you learned several languages as a child, list them all in the order you learned them using 1), 2), ... or 1), 1) if you learned them simultaneously.
2. What language(s) do you speak at home?

3. If the language(s) you learned first is/are not the same as the school language, when and with whom do you use it or them?
4. If you have two or more mother tongues: How well can you read and write them? (Language 1)
5. If you have two or more mother tongues: How well can you read and write them? (Language 2)

## Languages at school

If you learn other languages at school which are not mentioned in the table, please add the language(s), how much you like it or them and your report mark(s) for this year in the comment section.

1. Which language(s) have you learned at school and how much do you like them?
2. What are your report marks for the current school year?

## Language use

Refer to the following explanations of your language level when answering the questions:

- 1= I can introduce myself, understand and use familiar everyday expressions, e.g., where do you live?
- 2= I can exchange and ask for personal and family information, talk about shopping, local geography, and work.
- 3= I can express myself on familiar topics of personal interest (school, work, hobbies) and talk about experiences, events, dreams and hopes.
- 4= I can discuss the main ideas of a complex text in language and argue a particular point of view with some fluency.
- 5= I can use language flexibly and communicate in detail and in a well-structured manner on complex topics.
- 6= I can use the language for virtually anything in unfamiliar situations.

1. What other language(s) do you use that is/are NOT your native language(s)?
2. How well can you speak them? Differentiate from 1–6 depending for each language (see table).
3. Where/with whom/how did you learn them? Please provide one response for each language.
4. Where/with whom/how do you use it now? Please provide one response for each language.

## Language preferences

Here you can classify the languages, dialects or other ways of speaking you use or would like to learn into two rankings. Which languages are important for you personally (family, friends, free time, heritage, identity) and which ones do you consider relevant for educational and professional reasons (traveling, studying abroad, working in international companies)? You can name the same languages in both rankings.

1	2
personal	professional
1) ...	1) ...
2) ...	2) ...
3) ...	3) ...
...	...

1. Please create ranking 1 (personal) and classify the languages accordingly.
2. Please create ranking 2 (professional) and classify the languages accordingly.
3. How satisfied are you with the teaching of foreign languages at school?
4. Would you rather learn English before French or German (depending on where you live in Switzerland)? Please explain why.
5. If you have a mother tongue which is not used in school, would you like to include it more actively into school or class? If so, how and why? If not, why not?
6. If you could choose, would you get rid of languages that you learn in school and introduce/intensify others? Please give examples and explain why.
7. More time in class should be spent on English than on other languages spoken in Switzerland.
8. When I learn a language, I want to speak it like native speakers.
9. When I learn a language, I want teachers to correct my mistakes in grammar and pronunciation.
10. I prefer learning American or British English to “Swiss English” (English with Swiss features in pronunciation and grammar).
11. Swiss German should be taught in school instead of Standard German.
12. English is a neutral language that should be used for communication between the different Swiss language regions.
13. There is no reason why English should be prioritized in the curriculum.
14. Other students’ first languages should all be integrated in class.

15. We should debate more about the cultures and languages we have in our class.

### Semi-structured interview guide for students

1. When and where do you use the languages you speak?
  - Are there places where you cannot use a specific language? Examples? Stories? Are there times when you have tried? What happened?
  - Are there times when you would like to use a specific language but cannot? Are there times when you have tried? What happened? Examples? Stories?
  - Are there any situations in which you use (your) language as a “secret language”?
2. Please explain why you [insert answer from questionnaire, e.g., don't like] [insert language, e.g., French].
3. Do you have a favorite language? Why?
4. Which additional language would you like to learn that is not offered at school? Why? In what way is this (im)possible?
5. What do you think about teaching approaches in which the subject, e.g., history, is taught in a foreign language?
6. What is your experience with English (school, movies, music, internet, friends)? What do you like about it? What do you think about how English is used in national and international communication, that is, between speakers of different first languages? Should everyone try to speak it as ‘native-like’ as possible or is understanding more important despite ‘mistakes’ and ‘wrong pronunciation’? What about other languages, i.e., French, German/Swiss German?
7. Explain your rankings of the languages you created in the questionnaire for personal and professional opportunities.
8. To what extent do you agree with the following sentences?
  - I like learning languages so that I can learn about other cultures, communicate with people from other countries and travel.
  - I like learning languages so that I can use it for my future job.
  - Languages are important because I can express who I am and how I feel.
9. To what extent are proficient English language skills responsible for better personal and professional opportunities? What exactly does this mean for your future? Can you give an example?
10. To what extent can/should English be a neutral mediator among the Swiss language regions?

## Semi-structured interview guide for teachers

Introduce, briefly explain project, anonymity, ask for permission to record with cell phone, anonymity, all answers are voluntary

1. What languages do you use regularly (at home, at work, etc.)?
2. How would you describe the relationship between languages and identity?
3. How would you describe the relationship between languages and economic opportunities?
4. Under the current conditions, can you teach your lessons in the way you want?
  - In what way does the curriculum influence the way you choose and teach content?
  - In what way does the curriculum influence the teaching approaches you use in class?
  - In what way does the curriculum influence your teaching philosophy?
5. Are you familiar with the Swiss “Language Law”? (If so, what do you think? If not, show an excerpt and have it commented) Which position do you take? How is it discussed at school and by whom?
6. Are you familiar with the EDK’s 2020 language strategy? (If so, what do you think? If not, show an excerpt and have it commented) Which position do you take? How is it discussed at school and by whom?
7. What do you think about the Swiss debate on national languages vs. English? (Although debates on language teaching in the multilingual Swiss society have been a constant phenomenon since the early days of its foundation, the decision taken by a couple of German-speaking cantons to introduce English before French has created nation-wide tensions.)
8. What language are used at school? Are there any languages present in school that are neither a national language nor English nor other foreign languages taught? How do you handle the situation? How about heritage languages such as Portuguese or Tigrinya? Can you give me an example how you would integrate it in your own class/why you wouldn’t do it? What kind of support would you like/need from the school?
9. What do you think about how English is used in national and international communication, that is, between speakers of different first languages? Should everyone try to speak English as ‘native-like’ as possible or is understanding more important despite ‘mistakes’ and ‘wrong pronunciation?’ What about other languages, i.e., French, German, Swiss German?
10. Do you speak and teach as native-like as possible or do you prefer your “personal language variety”?

11. To what extent are proficient English, French or German language skills responsible for better personal and professional opportunities for students? To what extent do you think it is important that it is a 'prestigious'/standard variety? Can you give an example?
12. If you were a policy maker or curriculum designer, how would you arrange the order of languages to be learned at school?
13. Should the teaching of foreign languages change in the future?