





Is English really the key language of institutional internationalisation processes?

A case study of Spanish-based multilingual campuses

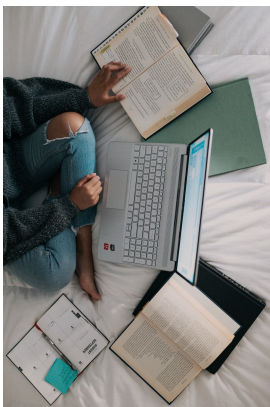
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 AILA 2021 CONGRESS, GRONINGEN, 15-20 AUGUST 2021



DOI: 10.5281/zenodo.5381932

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1 Introduction



Internationalisation of higher education and the role of languages in this process

The view of English as the key language in higher education internationalisation has situated this language as the main linguistic tool to internationalise universities

(Dearden, 2014; Fabricius et al. 2017; Jenkins, 2014; Lanverns, 2018)

Englishization of academia, non-English speaking universities, and linguistic challenges (cv. Ferguson et al., 2011; Hamel, 2007; Kirkpatrick, 2011)

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1 Key terms

INTERNATIONALISATION

"[t]he **intentional** process of integrating an **international**, intercultural or global dimension into the **purpose, functions and delivery of postsecondary education**, in order to enhance the quality of education and research for all students and staff, and to make a meaningful contribution to society"
(de Wit et al., 2015: 29)

LINGUISTIC INTERNATIONALISATION

Initiatives focused specifically on the linguistic aspects of internationalisation
(Ramos-García & Pavón Vázquez, 2018)

LANGUAGE POLICY

SPOLSKY (2009)'s **LP framework**: language practices, beliefs, and management
Language management and planning at universities
(Ferguson, 2012; Hultgren, 2016)

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2 Aim of the presentation



1. To what extent is **English the predominant language** in internationalisation?
2. How does **English relate to other languages** at the university?



Policy approach



Spanish universities linguistic landscape

3

3 Methodology

CORPUS

65 universities (83% representativeness)

143 documents (604,327 words):

- Internationalisation plans
- Strategic plans
- Language policy documents



MIXED-METHODS APPROACH

Corpus linguistics (AntConc):

- Frequencies
- Collocations

languages

descriptors

Discourse analysis (Atlas.ti):

- Thematic coding

rationales

status

relation

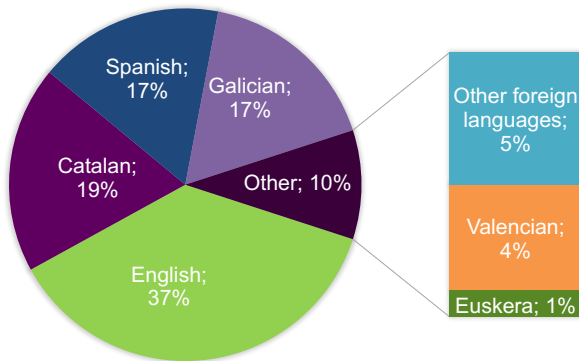
4 Findings

quantitative and qualitative



4.1. Presence of English

1. Frequency of languages



2. English collocates: descriptors



4.2. English as the language of internationalisation

- *Internationalisation as rationale*

... actuaciones realizadas dentro de la UAL encaminadas a **impulsar la internacionalización** de la actividad académica, así como a **aumentar las competencias plurilingüe y pluricultural** de la comunidad universitaria y de su entorno social. (ES_UAL_LP_2016)

4.2. English as the language of internationalisation

- *Internationalisation as rationale*
- *Discourse of globalisation and employability*

El **entorno global** en el que los futuros graduados **deberán** desarrollar sus **carreras profesionales** **exige** la familiarización con contenidos con carácter internacional y el **dominio del inglés**, actual lingua franca. (ES_UNA_LP_2017)

4.2. English as the language of internationalisation

- *Internationalisation as rationale*
- *Discourse of globalisation and employability*
- *Status as de facto international scientific language*
- *Purpose: international visibility and competitiveness*

el **inglés** se ha convertido en la **lengua franca académica**. [...] constata que la competencia lingüística en inglés, la **oferta académica en esta lengua y su promoción como lengua de intercambio científico**, convierten a la UGR en una opción **atractiva** para estudiantes, profesores e investigadores extranjeros. (ES_UG_LP_2017)

4.3. English and Spanish

- **Complementary use: attraction and collaboration**

Són línies prioritàries la gestió del **castellà i de l'anglès** com a **llengües de comunicació** en el marc de l'espai europeu d'educació superior, [...] (no. 8:137 from ES_UB_LP_2013)

A pesar de que la UGR reconoce el papel dominante del idioma **inglés** en varias disciplinas, **también fomentará el uso del español** como **lengua de generación y transferencia de conocimiento**. (no. 14:10 from ES_UG_LP_2017)

4.4. English and co-official languages

- **Language for identity: local integration and cultural value**

... enseñanza en las dos lenguas oficiales **y la posibilidad de impartir** en una lengua no oficial, **preferentemente el inglés**. (ES_UALI_LP_2013)

S'oferirà suport als professors perquè puguin elaborar el seu propi material didactic en llengua catalana **o, si escau, en llengua anglesa**. (ES_UIB_LP_2017)

5 Concluding remarks

POLICY



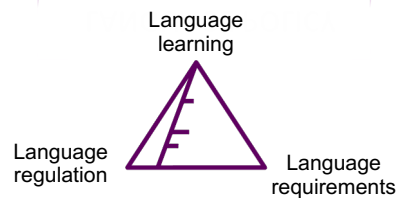
Plurilingual
competence

WRITTEN PLANS



Institutional
commitment

LANGUAGE POLICY



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Acknowledgement

This study is a contribution to the project *Digital Genres and Open Science*, funded by the Spanish Ministry of Science and Innovation (PID2019-105655RB-I00)

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