



"The future of education and language learning in our connected world"

co-organised by UCLouvain/Circle U. and VUB/EUTOPIA

Inclusion and agency seen through the lens of Multilingualism

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30 April 2024

Lend me your ears/eyes/attention for...



10 MINS

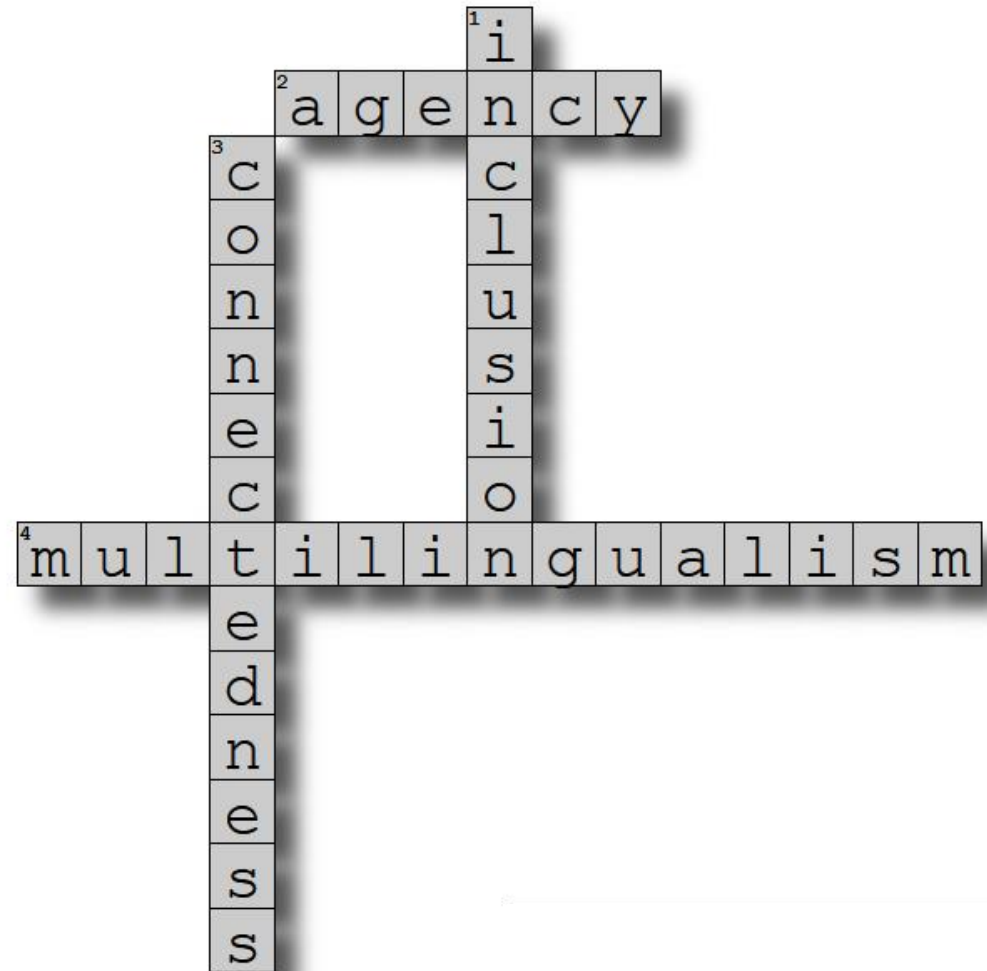


10 'CONTENT' SLIDES



3 TAKE-HOME MESSAGES

In a nutshell



Breaking Language Barriers The Importance of Inclusivity in the Multilingual Workplace



Fostering multilingualism for inclusion in education and society

Webinar report on the occasion of the 2021 International Mother Language Day's celebration

19 February 2021

International Mother Language Day is celebrated annually on 21 February to promote awareness of linguistic and cultural diversity and multilingualism. The 22nd edition of this Day is celebrated as the world faces unprecedented disruption to education caused by the COVID-19 pandemic. This crisis has exposed and is expected to add new layers or to deepen inequalities, marginalization and exclusion. The theme of the 2021 International Mother Language Day, "Fostering multilingualism for inclusion in education and society," recognizes that languages and multilingualism can advance inclusion, and the Sustainable Development Goals' focus on leaving no one behind.



MULTILINGUALISM for INCLUSION and CONNECTEDNESS



EU/UNESCO language policy documents:

- claim the **equality of all languages**
- have identified **multilingualism** as **one of the eight key competencies for lifelong learning** and as a **key driver for inclusion at all levels**



Languages not simply functional tools for communication

personal fulfilment and employability

active citizenship and social inclusion

appreciation for cultural diversity

respect for individual linguistic profiles and contexts

increasing understanding of global issues



Being multilingual and actively engaging in intercultural communication offer **profound benefits at both individual and global levels**



'Our' role

Help citizens acquire and maximize this critical competency



Agency ?

The sense of agency, or the experience of controlling one's actions and the course of events in the outside world, is a central feature of human experience and underpins the concept of responsibility in human societies.

Haggard, P. (2017). Sense of agency in the human brain. *Nature Reviews Neuroscience*, 18, 196-207. <https://doi.org/10.1038/nrn.2017.14>.

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AGENCY for MULTILINGUALISM

and links with CONNECTEDNESS

3 modes of agency

- direct personal agency



- proxy agency (that relies on others to act on one's behest to secure desired outcomes)



- collective agency (exercised through socially coordinative and interdependent effort)





What can **I/you/s.he/we/they** do to be
‘drivers of change and innovation’
for multilingualism?

Proxy agency, a hot topic in multilingualism

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Relying on others (**be they humans and non-humans, these days**) to act on one's behest to secure desired outcomes



**EUROPEAN
LANGUAGE
EQUALITY**

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Developing an agenda and a roadmap for achieving full digital language equality in Europe by 2030



[TDLE workshop 2024: check out here!](#)

[Check out our dashboard
on Digital Language Equality!](#)

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LITHME HOME JOIN US WORKING GROUPS NEWS PUBLICATIONS EVENTS GRANTS CONTACT

How will new technologies change the ways we use language? LITHME's open access report 'Dawn of the Human-Machine Era' offers a vision of likely near-future developments in language technology, and their societal impact.

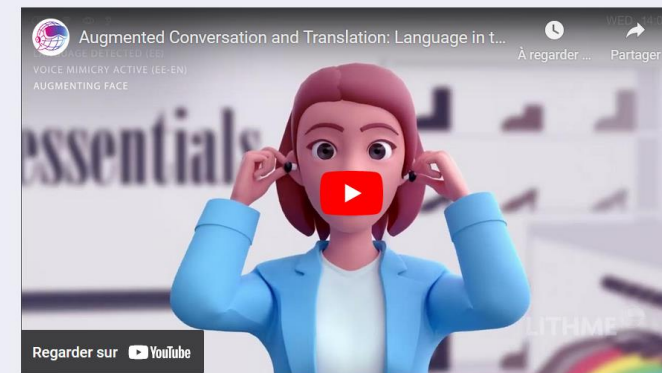
[READ THE REPORT HERE](#)

<https://lithme.eu>

1. Augmented conversation and automated translation

The video shows a future scenario of Augmented Reality embedded in a headset, without needing to look at a phone. This future device would translate people speaking other languages in real time, and filter their visual mouth movements to match the translation.

To see more about how this tech is likely to develop, check out our free [forecast report](#).



2. Language learning in Virtual Reality

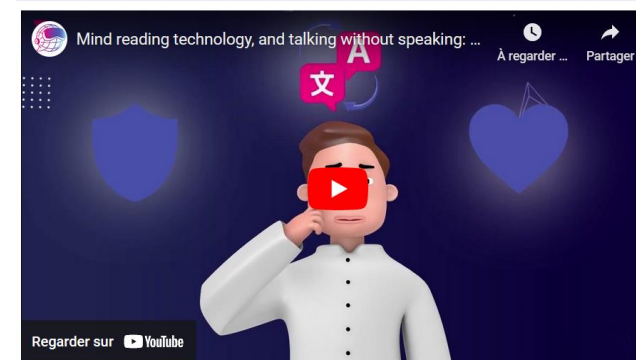
The video shows a future use of Virtual Reality for learning a language – highly intelligent virtual characters, who could practise talking with you at any speed, and would never get bored of repeating things for you.

To see more about how this tech is likely to develop, check out our free [forecast report](#).

3. Accessibility and equality in new language technologies

The video shows some possible inequalities with future language technologies, for example how well they work in sign language and smaller languages. The human-machine era will come with a lot of important ethical questions.

To see more about how this tech is likely to develop, check out our free [forecast report](#).



4. Mind-reading technology, and talking without speaking

This video shows technologies that are currently in development, for translating brain signals into words, or even allow communication without words. As the tech develops, this could work with only a small sensor cap, or hidden sensors elsewhere.

To see more about how this tech is likely to develop, check out our free [forecast report](#).

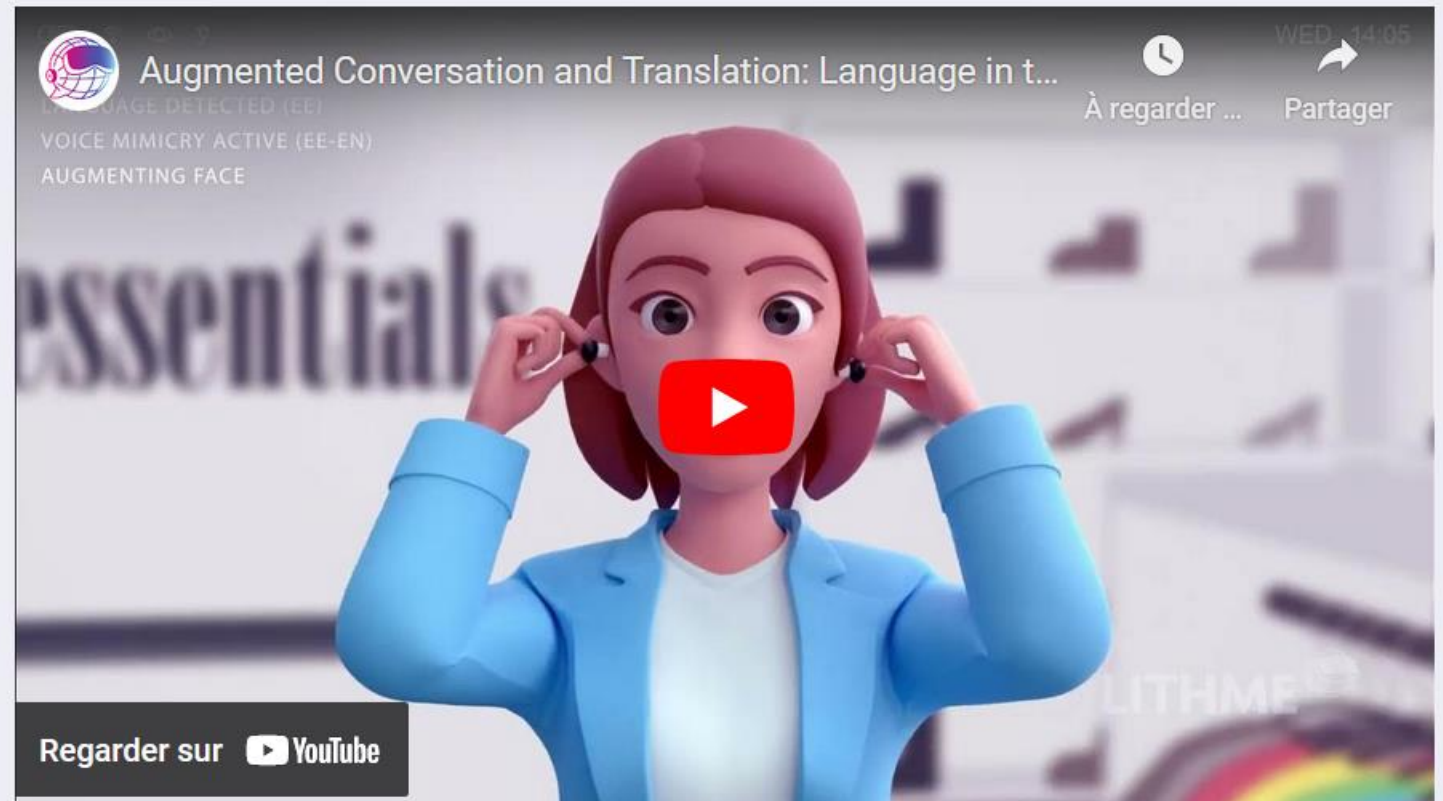
<https://lithme.eu/animations-and-survey/>

(video 1 - from 0:26 to 2:09)

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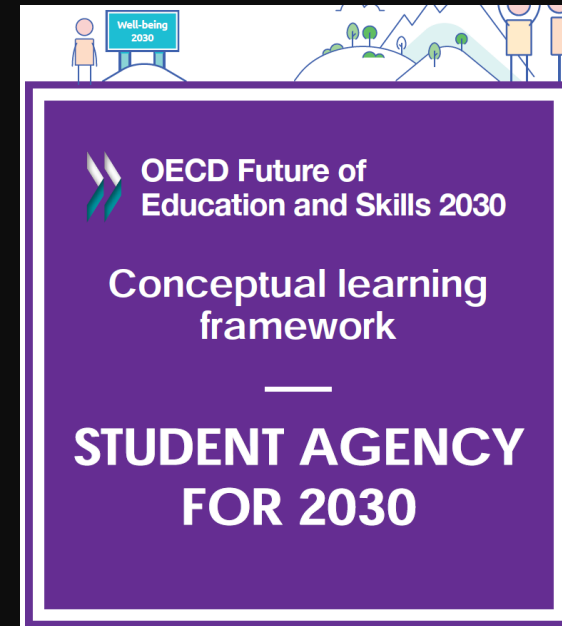
Personal and collective agencies needed too



Teacher Agency

An Ecological Approach

Mark Priestley, Gert Biesta
and Sarah Robinson



<https://digital-strategy.ec.europa.eu/en/library/ethics-guidelines-trustworthy-ai>

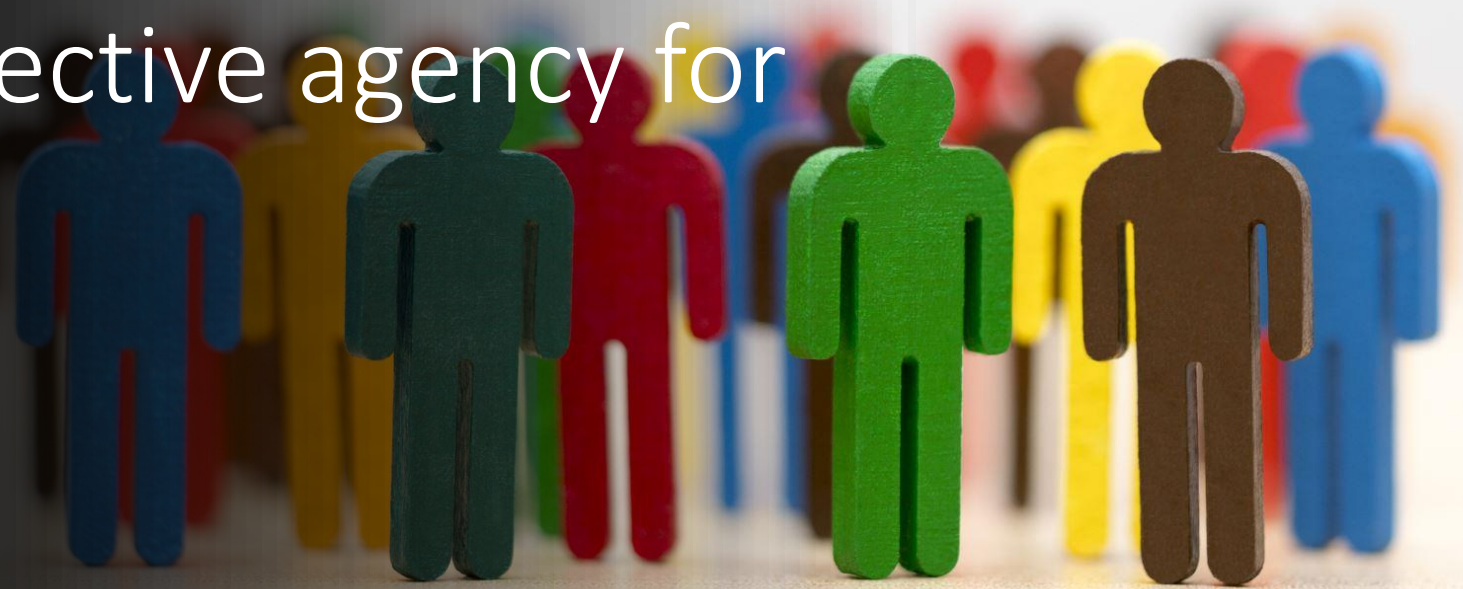
Requirement #1

- Human agency and oversight: AI systems should empower human beings, allowing them to make informed decisions and fostering their fundamental rights. At the same time, proper oversight mechanisms need to be ensured, which can be achieved through human-in-the-loop, human-on-the-loop, and human-in-command approaches



And so?

Personal, by proxy (human, non-human), and/or collective agency for
MULTILINGUALISM ?



All of them, because they are interconnected
and at the heart of our action potential

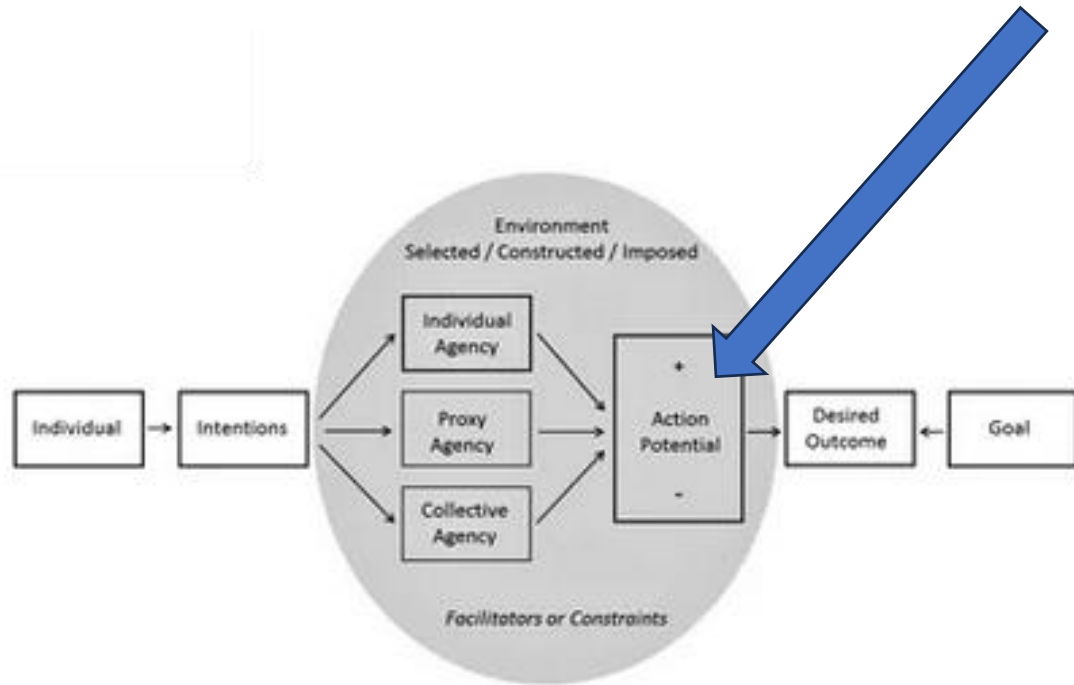


Figure 1. Model of Bandura's personal agency and triadic reciprocal causation.

Bandura, A. (2006). Toward a Psychology of Human Agency. *Perspectives on Psychological Science*, 1(2), 164-180. <https://doi.org/10.1111/j.1745-6916.2006.00011.x>

AND... our 3 take-home messages

#ACTIVATE_YOUR_ACTION POTENTIAL_FOR_LINGUISTIC DIVERSITY

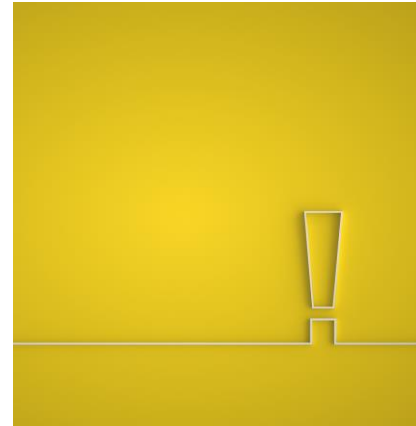
- by **not relying too heavily on proxy agency**, for fear of losing personal and collective agency
- by **carefully considering whose human oversight should be prioritized when it comes to multilingualism** (tech developers? or educational/pedagogical/social stakeholders?)

#PRIORITIZE_&_ENACT_COLLECTIVE_INITIATIVES

- existing and future initiatives and policies that are built **collectively** over time and including **numerous stakeholders**, to the benefit of multilingualism in/for diverse **citizens, end-users, contexts**

#REGULARLY_CHECK_ALL_AGENCY_TYPES_ARE_ACTIVE_&_ALIGNED

- interdependence of all agency types
- ideally **aligned towards the same goals to maximize action potential**





#letswalkthetalktogether

Thanks for listening

And wherever you are, and whatever your role may be in/for European University Alliances, thanks for your help in claiming our AGENCIES and boosting our CONNECTED ACTION POTENTIAL

