

Linguistic Purism

Language Attitudes in France and Quebec

Olivia Walsh

University of Nottingham

John Benjamins Publishing Company

Amsterdam / Philadelphia

Table of contents

List of Tables	XI
List of Figures	XV
Acknowledgment	XVII
CHAPTER 1	
Introduction	1
1.1 Aim and scope of the present work	1
1.2 Structure of the book	4
CHAPTER 2	
Linguistic purism: An overview	7
2.1 What is linguistic purism?	8
2.1.1 Definitions of purism	8
2.1.2 Purism and standardization/prescriptivism	8
2.2 Describing and measuring linguistic purism	9
2.2.1 Thomas's framework	10
2.2.2 Puristic and non-puristic concerns	12
2.2.3 The puristic orientation	14
2.2.4 The purification process	16
2.2.5 The linguistic level of purism	17
2.2.6 The targets of linguistic purism	18
2.2.7 The preferred replacements	19
2.3 Linguistic purism in France and Quebec	20
2.3.1 The development of purist ideas in France	21
2.3.2 The development of purist ideas in Quebec	26
2.4 Conclusion	33
CHAPTER 3	
State language planning in France and Quebec	35
3.1 Introduction	35
3.2 State language planning in France	36
3.2.1 Linguistic legislation in France	36
3.2.2 Official language bodies in France	38

- 3.3 State language planning in Quebec 40
 - 3.3.1 Linguistic legislation in Quebec 40
 - 3.3.2 Official language bodies in Quebec 43
- 3.4 Terminology commissions in France 47
 - 3.4.1 Aims of the terminology commissions 47
 - 3.4.2 Scope of the terminology commissions 52
 - 3.4.3 Terminology commission members 52
 - 3.4.4 Terminology commission working methods 55
 - 3.4.5 The role of the French Academy 58
- 3.5 Terminology commissions in Quebec 59
 - 3.5.1 Aims of the terminology commissions 60
 - 3.5.2 Scope of the terminology commissions 61
 - 3.5.3 Terminology commission members 62
 - 3.5.4 Terminology commission working methods 62
- 3.6 Replacements chosen by the terminology commissions 64
 - 3.6.1 Replacements chosen in France 64
 - 3.6.2 Replacements chosen in Quebec 67
 - 3.6.3 Analysis of a sample of targeted terms and their replacements 69
- 3.7 Application of Thomas's questionnaire 75
 - 3.7.1 Weighting of non-puristic factors 75
 - 3.7.2 Configuration of puristic orientation 80
 - 3.7.3 Completion of purification cycle 82
 - 3.7.4 Targets and replacements of purism 87
- 3.8 Conclusion 90

CHAPTER 4

Language societies in France and Quebec

97

- 4.1 Introduction 97
- 4.2 Language societies in France 99
 - 4.2.1 Activities 102
 - 4.2.1.1 Paper protests 102
 - 4.2.1.2 Competitions and prizes 105
 - 4.2.1.3 Protests and legal action 106
 - 4.2.1.4 Lists of terminology 108
 - 4.2.1.5 Lists of 'errors' 111
 - 4.2.2 Main themes/preoccupations 113
 - 4.2.3 Language and imagery 116
 - 4.2.4 Commonalities and differences 118

4.3	Language societies in Quebec	119
4.3.1	Activities	121
4.3.1.1	Paper protests	121
4.3.1.2	Competitions and prizes	122
4.3.1.3	Demonstrations and protests	123
4.3.1.4	Lists of anglicisms	123
4.3.1.5	Lists of 'errors'	126
4.3.2	Main themes/preoccupations	126
4.3.3	Language and imagery	128
4.3.4	Commonalities and differences	131
4.4	Application of Thomas's questionnaire	131
4.4.1	Weighting of non-puristic factors	131
4.4.2	Configuration of puristic orientation	134
4.4.3	Completion of purification cycle	136
4.4.4	Targets and replacements of linguistic purism	138
4.5	Conclusion	141

CHAPTER 5

Purist attitudes in France and Quebec: A quantitative analysis 151

5.1	Introduction	151
5.2	Method of data collection	151
5.3	The questionnaire	153
5.4	Part I: Social characteristics of respondents	154
5.4.1	Overview	154
5.4.2	Age	154
5.4.3	Education	156
5.4.4	Summary	157
5.5	Part III: Attitudes towards English	158
5.5.1	Overview	158
5.5.2	Results	159
5.5.3	Summary	160
5.6	Part IV: Attitudes towards French	160
5.6.1	Overview	160
5.6.2	Results	161
5.6.3	Social factors: Age and education	166
5.6.4	Summary	167
5.7	Part V: Attitudes towards anglicisms	167
5.7.1	Overview	167
5.7.2	Results	169

5.7.3	Social factors: Age and education	173
5.7.4	Summary	176
5.8	Part IIa: Attitudes towards replacement terms	176
5.8.1	Overview	176
5.8.2	Results	178
5.8.3	Social factors: Age and education	180
5.8.3.1	Age	180
5.8.3.2	Education	183
5.8.4	Summary	184
5.9	Part IIb: Attitudes towards anglicisms and 'errors'	185
5.9.1	Overview	185
5.9.2	Results	185
5.9.3	Social factors: Age and education	189
5.9.4	Summary	189
5.10	French terminology commission members	189
5.10.1	Part III: Attitudes towards English	190
5.10.2	Part IV: Attitudes towards French	191
5.10.3	Part V: Attitudes towards anglicisms	192
5.10.4	Part IIa: Attitudes towards replacement terms	193
5.10.5	Part IIb: Attitudes towards anglicisms and 'errors'	195
5.10.6	Summary	197
5.11	Conclusion	197
5.12	Application of Thomas's questionnaire	198

CHAPTER 6

Purist attitudes in France and Quebec: A qualitative analysis	203
6.1	Introduction 203
6.2	Social characteristics of respondents 205
6.3	Attitudes towards anglicisms 207
6.3.1	Attitudes towards anglicisms in general 210
6.3.2	Attitudes towards French synonyms for anglicisms 213
6.3.3	Social factors: Age and education 215
6.3.3.1	Age 215
6.3.3.2	Education 216
6.4	Attitudes towards 'errors' 217
6.4.1	Attitudes towards learning grammar 221
6.4.2	Social factors: Age and education 222
6.5	Perceptions of French: Was there a golden age? 223
6.5.1	Social factors: Age and education 226
6.6	Perceived qualities of the French language 227
6.6.1	Social factors: Age and education 228

6.7	French language and national identity	228
6.7.1	Social factors: Age and education	231
6.8	Government intervention in language	231
6.8.1	Social factors: Age and education	232
6.8.1.1	Age	232
6.8.1.2	Education	232
6.9	Conclusion	233
6.10	Application of Thomas's questionnaire	234
CHAPTER 7		
	Purist attitudes in France and Quebec: Follow up questionnaire	239
7.1	Introduction	239
7.2	Method of data collection	239
7.3	The questionnaire	240
7.3.1	Part I: Social characteristics of respondents	240
7.3.1.1	Overview (sex, age, education)	240
7.3.2	Part II: Attitudes towards anglicisms	242
7.3.2.1	Overview	242
7.3.2.2	Results	243
7.3.3	Part III: Attitudes towards 'correctness'	245
7.3.3.1	Overview	245
7.3.3.2	Results	246
7.3.4	Part IV: Perceptions of anglicisms and 'correctness'	249
7.4	Conclusion	251
7.5	Application of Thomas's questionnaire	252
CHAPTER 8		
	Conclusion	255
	References	263
APPENDIX A		
	Terminology commission targets and replacements	281
APPENDIX B		
	Online questionnaire	291
APPENDIX C		
	Guided interview study	303
APPENDIX D		
	Follow-up questionnaire	305
	Index	321