

## **Terminological tools for the description (and analysis?) of societal multilingualism.**

### **Germany as a case**

Attempts to describe societal multilingualism usually follow either a taxonomic approach (see Coulmas 2017 for a recent overview), or they use the binary diglossic distinction between high and low varieties as a starting point (Lüdi 1989, amongst others). In my talk, I argue that neither approach does sufficiently capture the complexity of societal multilingualism as shaped (mainly) by migration in a country like Germany. In particular, these approaches do not question the (limits of) variability of language within societal multilingualism. Alternatively, I explore the usefulness of the register approach proposed by Maas (2008) and try to combine it with the notion of “truncated repertoire” forwarded by Blommaert (2010).

Blommaert, Jan. 2010. *The sociolinguistics of globalization*. (Cambridge Approaches to Language Contact) Cambridge: UP.

Coulmas, Florian. 2017. *An introduction to multilingualism. Language in a changing world*. Oxford: University Press.

Lüdi, Georges. 1989. Situations diglossiques en Catalogne. In: Holtus, Günter, Lüdi, Georges, Metzeltin, Michael (Hrsg). *La Corona de Aragón y las lenguas románicas. Miscelánea de homenaje para Germán Colón / La Corona d'Aragó i les llengües romàniques. Miscel·lània d'homenatge per a Germà Colón*. Tübingen: Narr: 237-265.

Maas, Utz. 2008. *Sprache und Sprachen in der Migrationsgesellschaft. Die schriftkulturelle Dimension*. (IMIS-Schriften 15). Göttingen: V & R Unipress.