

# Bonding across Linguistic Inequalities: The Experience of “*Vincles*”

Intersectionality, Dialogue,  
Ethnography, Training, Evaluation

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# Intersectionality and Language Inequality

- Linguistic inequality is multidimensional (intersectional)
- Entangled with social inequality, racial bias, and cultural difference
- Movements converged around intersectionality in the 1990s
- Participatory Action Research (PAR) engages researchers with social contradictions

# Challenges and Solutions in Teaching Catalan

- Partners: the *Cultural Society*.
- *Vincles* : Catalan language classes to immigrants
- Catalan vs. Spanish: Teaching a minoritized language
- Complexity of teaching Catalan to immigrants

# An interplay of vulnerabilities

- Vulnerable learners
- Catalan linguistic insecurity
- Creating spaces for intercultural contact
- Navigating social, cultural, racial, and linguistic inequalities

# Setting up *Vincles*

En aquestes sessions, els participants comparteixen aprenentatges i conversen amb un català pràctic, basat en les seves necessitats quotidianes i els seus interessos; surten al carrer, fan activitats junts i s'enxarxen amb les persones i entitats de l'entorn, en un ambient distès, igualitari i de confiança.

**In these sessions, participants share learnings and converse in practical Catalan, based on their daily needs and interests; they go out, do activities together and do networking with people and organisations in the area, in a relaxed, egalitarian and trusting atmosphere.**

# Evolució de *Vincles*

	<b>Grups (aules)</b>	<b>Participants (aprox.)</b>	<b>Entitats locals implicades</b>
<b>1a edició (2022)</b>	<b>69</b>	<b>700</b>	<b>50</b>
<b>2a edició (2023-24).</b>	<b>154</b>	<b>1.500</b>	<b>98</b>
<b>3a edició (2024-2025)</b>	<b>+200</b>	<b>2.000</b>	<b>170</b>

# The dialogical infrastructure: Ethnography, Training, and Evaluation

- **Ethnography as a Dialogical Tool: Participant observation, interviews, focus groups**
- **Training Programme for Volunteers:**
  - *Suport a l'acompanyament.*
  - Focus on accessible language sharing and sociolinguistic awareness.
- **Qualitative Evaluation:**
  - Open-ended questions for feedback and reflection

# Ethnography

- 36 in-depth interviews with social service officers, adult education officers, volunteers teachers, local CS members, learners.
- 3 focus groups with migrant adult learners (17 people)
- 32 Participant observation sessions, mainly training sessions for volunteers and organizers as well as social gatherings and celebrations.
- 2 language sessions (substituting a volunteer).
- Observations of 7 more sessions led by volunteers with participant learners.



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# The “qualitative” evaluation

- What did you enjoy most?
- What would you like to do that we haven't done?
- Do you feel you've learned Catalan?
- Have you used Catalan outside the sessions?
- Has Vincles helped you in your daily life?
- Do you want to continue next year?

# Project Outcomes and Reflections

- Overcoming fear and embarrassment in speaking Catalan
- Impact on volunteers: increased sociolinguistic and social awareness
- Positive feedback and commitment to expand the project

# Gràcies

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