

**Overt bilingualism, covert multilingualism?  
Official languages and „other languages“ in a bilingual French-German  
university**

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At the officially bilingual University of Fribourg/Freiburg, different types and levels of bilingualism coexist, reflecting the polysemic concept of bilingualism and its implications at the institutional, social and individual level. Concerning the teaching of the academic disciplines, models of parallel (parallel courses in French or German), integrative (compulsory bilingualism) and complementary bilingualism (parallel courses with slightly different orientations) exist. However, the academic actors (students, administrative staff, professors, services etc.) have different representations about the coexisting languages, bilingualism and multilingualism.

In this paper we are going to have a look at the (re)presentation of the different languages present at the University of Fribourg/Freiburg, with a special emphasis on the non-official languages. As we will see, these languages encompass different linguistic status. Non-standardized, essentially oral, Swiss German is used by Swiss-German speakers in informal contacts, but also in group and lab work, French-speakers having more often than not minimal dialect receptive competencies and usually fostering negative attitudes towards this variety. Like everywhere, English as an academic and scientific lingua franca is increasingly gaining influence with the Bologna process, student exchange programs, mobility and globalization, however, its role as a possible language of communication between speakers of the local and national languages conveys an additional symbolic value. Italian and Rumansh, the other two national languages, are secured some weight and other heritage languages are present, Switzerland hosting the second highest rate of foreign students in the world.

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