Minority Languages, National State Languages, and English in Europe: Multilingual Education in the Basque Country and Friesland

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Abstract
This article focuses on minority languages in education in Europe in contexts where they are in contact with national state languages and English. Teaching minority language implies bilingual education because it is not about replacing the majority language, but to come 'alongside' or at 'equal footing'. The cases of Basque and Frisian, comparing and contrasting their similarities and differences, are analyzed. Schools in these regions desire to go beyond bilingualism and to promote multilingualism as an important aim in education. The contribution of Ofelia García's work to research in these contexts is discussed.

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The European Charter for Regional or Minority Languages (ECRML) is a European treaty (CETS 148) adopted in 1992 under the auspices of the Council of Europe to protect and promote historical regional and minority languages in Europe. The preparation for the charter was undertaken by the predecessor to the current Congress of Local and Regional Authorities, the Standing Conference of Local and Regional Authorities of Europe because involvement of local and regional government was essential. The actual The number of languages spoken in a country depends very much on its history and its demographic makeup. Some countries are very linguistically diverse, yet only recognize one or two languages as being "official", whereas others make more of an effort to increase accessibility to information for all people in their own mother tongues. For instance, those Canadians with a background in linguistics may know that in the most linguistically diverse part of Canada, as many as 32 languages are spoken in a single province, though only English and French are official languages therein. Such is often's The European Charter for Regional or Minority Languages (ECRML) is a European treaty that was adopted in 1992. It was designed by the Council of Europe to protect and promote historical regional and minority languages in Europe. It applies only to languages traditionally used by the nationals of the State Parties that are very different from the majority or official language. The treaty does not protect languages that are used by recent immigrants from other countries. Also, the treaty does not