



UNIVERSITY OF
BIRMINGHAM

Early Foreign Language Education Policy in Switzerland

Annette Dober-Angelone
MA with Merit TEFL, 2016
University of Birmingham, UK

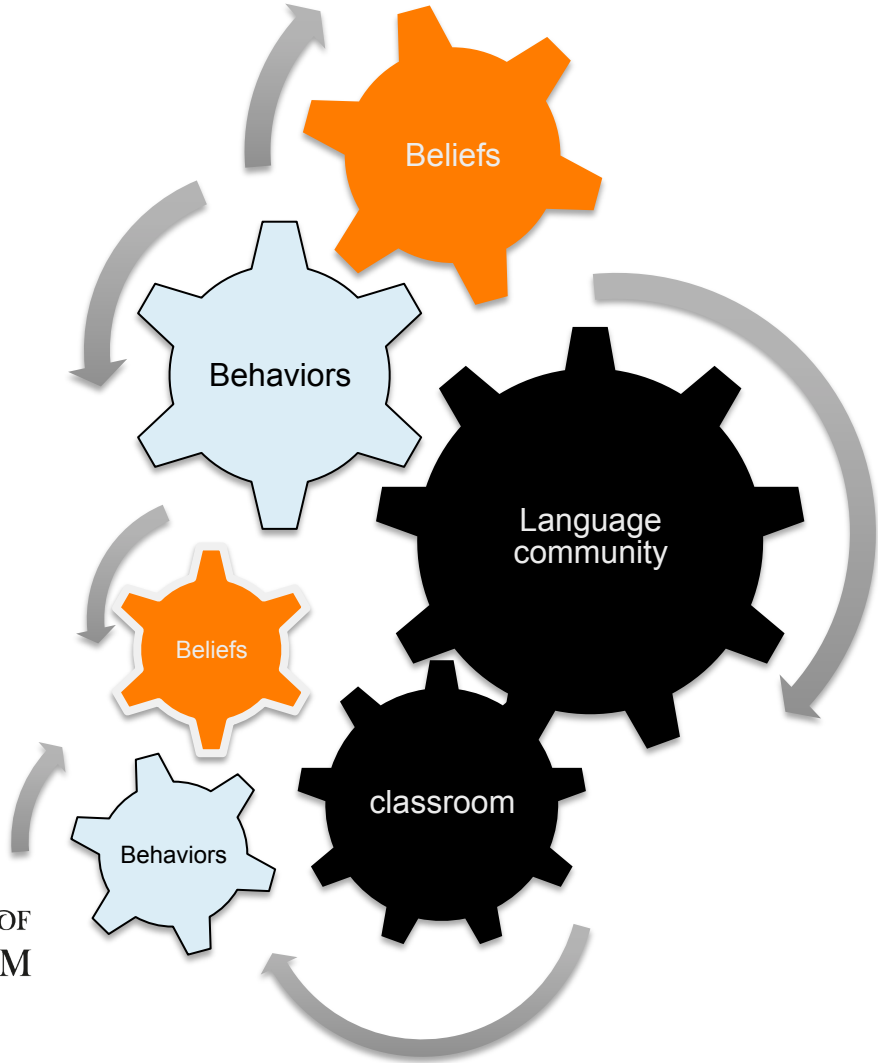


HarmoS

- Swiss education policy
- Came into effect in 2015
- Introduced both English and a national language in primary school



Behaviors and Beliefs



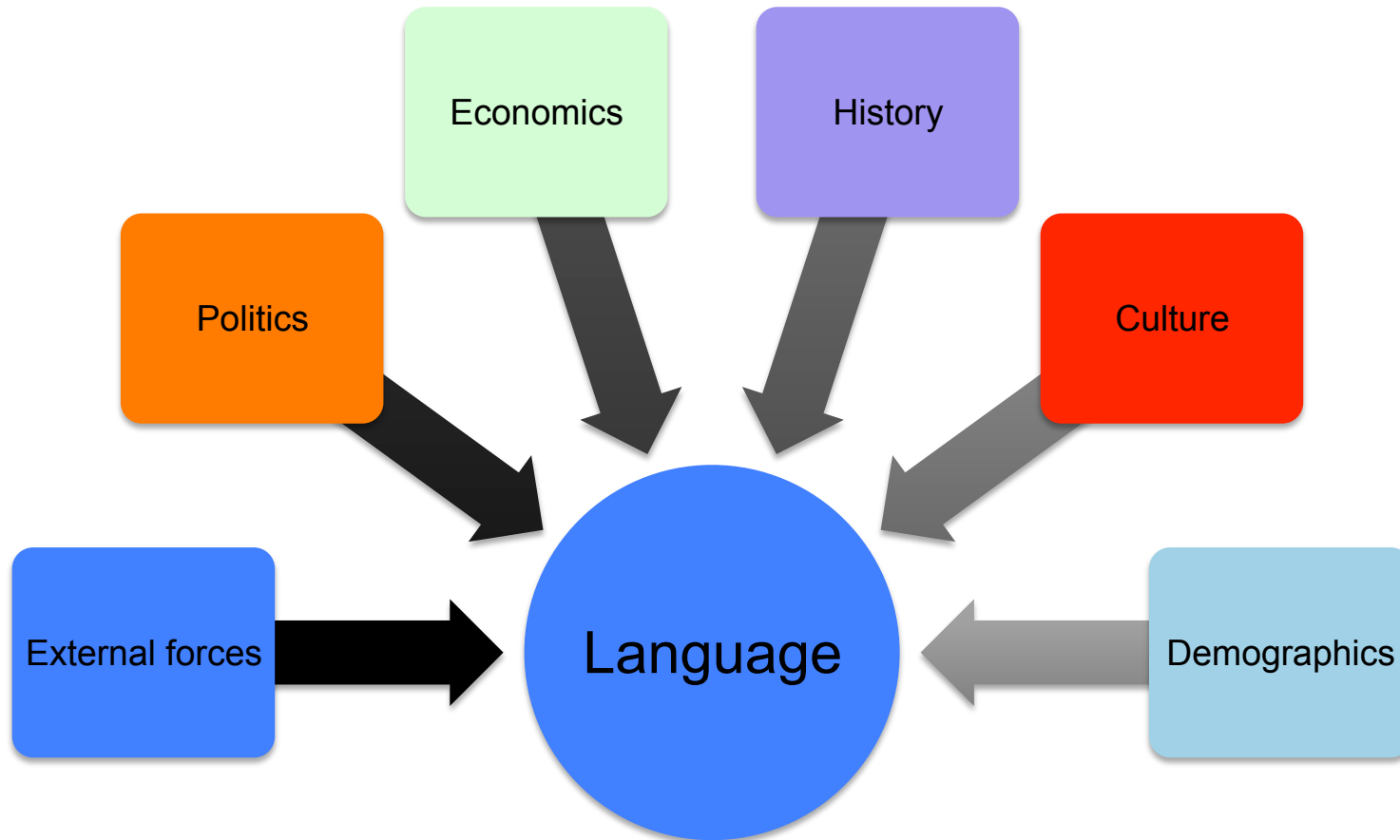
Pluralistic Switzerland

- “A national language is the language of a political, cultural and social unit.”

» **J. Holmes 2001**



Language Ecology – Spolsky, 2004, Haugen 1972



François Grin (2015) on Coping with cultural diversity:

- Promote a better understanding between language regions
- Support the multiculturalism of students
- Improve language teaching methods.
- **Improve understanding and tolerance of young Swiss towards integration and cultural differences within their communities.**



Haenni Hoti et al 2009 found :

- Two languages in primary school created no undue stress on children.
- Immigrant children could have advantages in learning additional foreign languages



Research Questions/Findings

1. To what degree are the 6th grade students meeting the learning objectives specified in the new Swiss Language Policy?

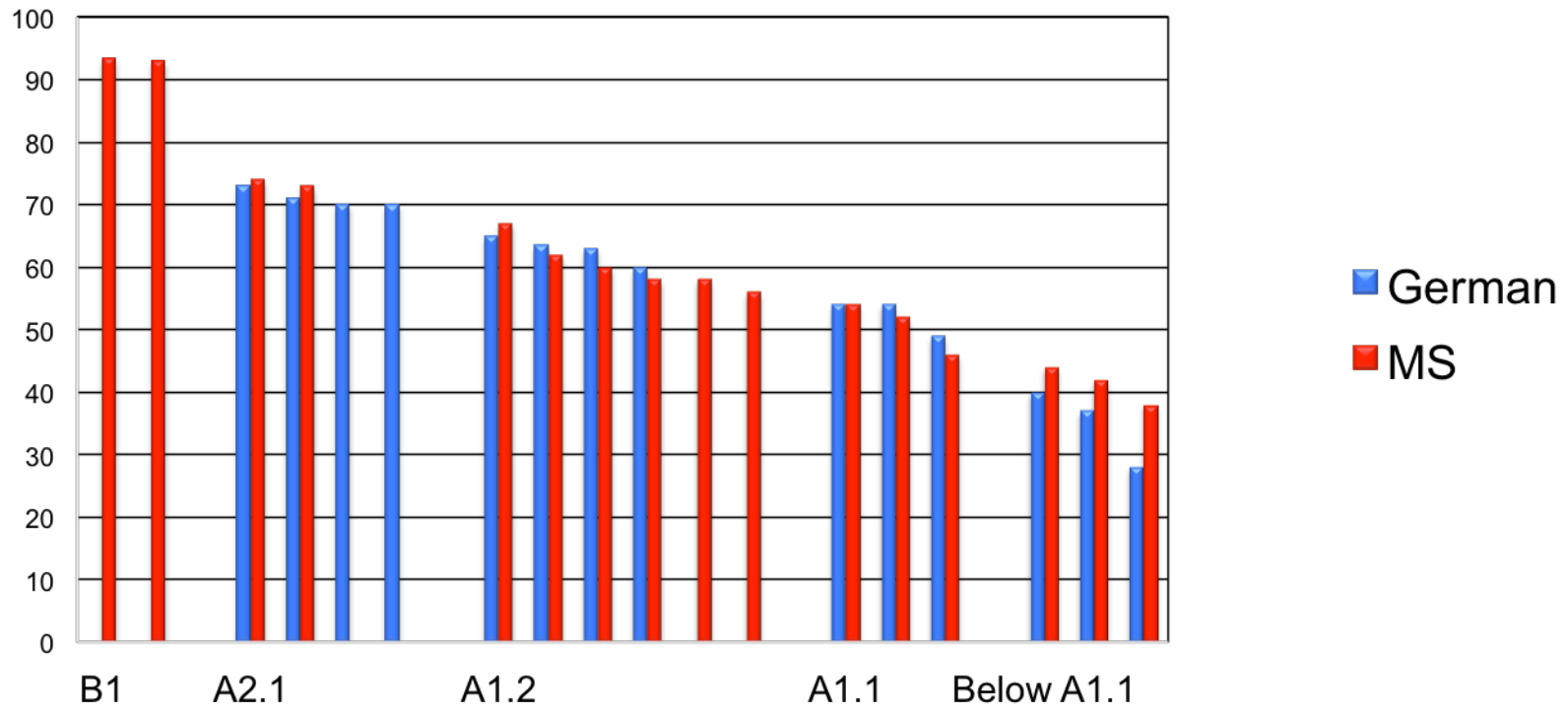
60% of the sample group achieved CEFR A1.2 level

1. To what degree do children of immigrant background differ from their Swiss counterparts in meeting the learning objectives specified by the new Swiss language Policy?

62% of the multilingual students met the learning objectives. 53% of the Swiss German speakers met the learning objectives.



Scores of Multilingual and German speakers



Research Questions/Findings

- Do student attitudes towards learning English influence meeting the learning objectives of the new Swiss language policy?
- The survey results supported that positive self-concept among students can lead to higher motivation, which could lead to meeting learning objectives.



I am good at English

