New Zealand’s increasing “superdiversity”: Auckland leads the way

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New Zealand Census 2013:

Demographic Findings
NZ’s increasing diversity

• Just under 15 percent self-identify as Māori

• 7.4 percent of NZ’s population identify as Pasifika
  – Majority are now NZ-born

• 11.8 percent of NZ’s population identify as Asian
  – An increase from 9.2 percent in 2006
  – Indian and Filipino communities fastest growing in 2006-2013
  – Likely to outnumber Māori by mid-2020s
• In 2013, **88 %** of New Zealand’s population 65 and over identified with European ethnicity, compared with just under 13 percent who identified with Māori, Pasifika or Asian ethnicity.

• **71 %** of the population who were 14 and under identified with European ethnicity, 24 percent identified with Māori, 13 percent with Pasifika, and 12 percent with Asian ethnicity.

• **One in four** New Zealand residents is now born overseas (compared with one in five in 2001 and one in seven in 1961)
Diversity - Auckland

• Growth of migrant and ethnic communities most evident in Auckland:
  – 11 percent identify as Māori
  – 15 percent identify as Pasifika
  – 23 percent identify as Asian

• Asian communities projected to constitute almost 30 percent of Auckland’s population by 2021

• 39 percent of Aucklanders were born overseas
New Zealand Census 2013:

Language Findings
Te reo Māori

• In 2013, 125,352 Māori (21.3 percent) could hold a conversation about everyday things in te reo Māori, a 4.8 percent decrease from the 2006 Census.

• Of the 125,352 Māori who could hold a conversation in te reo Māori:
  – 26.3 percent were aged under 15 years – down 6.2 percent from 2006
  – 23.3 percent were aged 15 to 29 years – down 8.2 percent
  – 40.6 percent were aged 30 to 64 years – down 5.0 percent
  – 9.8 percent were aged 65 years and over – up 11.0 percent
Other languages

• In 2013, the six most common languages spoken in New Zealand were:

  – **English**: spoken by 3,819,972 people (96.1 percent of people who stated at least one language)
  – **te reo Māori**: 148,395 people (3.7 percent)
  – **Samoan**: 86,403 people (2.2 percent)
  – **Hindi**: 66,309 people (1.7 percent)
  – **Northern Chinese**, including Mandarin: 52,263 people (1.3 percent)
  – **French**: 49,125 people (1.2 percent)
• Hindi jumped to the fourth most common language spoken in 2013, replacing French, which dropped to sixth place. Number of people who could speak Hindi nearly tripled between 2001 and 2013.

• The number of people who could speak Northern Chinese (including Mandarin) almost doubled between 2001 and 2013.

• Fewer people able to use New Zealand Sign Language in 2013 compared to previous censuses.

• 5,676 people reported they could communicate in all three of New Zealand's official languages (English, te reo Māori and New Zealand Sign Language).
• Number and proportion of multilingual people continues to increase:
  – 737,910 people (18.6 percent) in 2013
  – 671,658 people (17.5 percent) in 2006
  – 562,113 people (15.8 percent) in 2001

• Those born overseas were more likely to be multilingual than people born in New Zealand
• Highest numbers of multilingual speakers lived in the Auckland, Wellington and Canterbury:
  – **Auckland** region: 377,550 people (51.2 % of all multilingual speakers)
  – Wellington region: 87,438 people (11.8 %)
  – Canterbury region: 59,718 people (8.1 %)

• Almost all multilingual people (99.0 percent) spoke English, and almost 1 in 5 (19.0 percent or 139,959 people) spoke te reo Māori
• More than 87,000 people do not speak English

• The most common languages spoken by non-English speakers were:
  – Sinitic not further defined (including Chinese) (13.7 percent of all non-English speakers or 11,961 people)
  – Yue (including Cantonese) (12.1 percent or 10,551 people)
  – Northern Chinese (including Mandarin) (11.7 percent or 10,218 people)
  – Samoan (11.2 percent or 9,825 people)
  – te reo Māori (10.2 percent or 8,916 people)
Languages in Aotearoa New Zealand

(RSNZ 2013)
Languages in “superdiverse” NZ

• New Zealand has become linguistically “superdiverse” over the last two decades – Cf. Te Taura Whiri (1995)

• This is most evident in Auckland, which is now home to 160 languages, with multiethnic depth projected to deepen even further

• The development of this increasingly multiethnic and multilingual environment is made more complex in light of our existing commitment to biculturalism as public policy
Beyond provision for te reo Māori (primarily in education), language support and learning in New Zealand are evident in a number of widely distributed sectors, such as education, labour, housing, law, foreign affairs and immigration.

However, very limited, and often symbolic—Cf. Pasifika Education Plan

And little unification of language policies at present or much (if any) attention to the benefits of bilingualism/multilingualism—E.g. little formal recognition of migrant languages in legal, cultural, media and educational settings—Over-reliance on English only education, despite strong, widespread research on the importance L1 and the efficacy of bilingual education.—Cf. NZ’s so-called ‘literacy tail’
Immediate implications

1. How do we continue to support te reo Māori revitalization/use
   - e.g. Māori-medium education, particularly in Auckland, plateaued in the 1990s and for the last decade has been in steady decline
   - How do we promote/encourage whānau te reo Māori language use

2. How do we provide education for other language speakers that builds on, rather than ignores, their bilingualism/multilingualism (cf. Pasifika)
   - e.g. bilingual education on the basis of where nos. warrant

3. How do we provide “meaningful” language support for bilingual/multilingual speakers in other sectors
   - e.g. issues of access, safety, social justice
Longer term implications

• Superdiversity provides both significant challenges and opportunities

• NZ (and esp. Auckland) is becoming more like the rest of the world (& not before time)

• It addresses our geographical isolation

• It can remediate our ongoing predilection for English monolingualism (& related public sector service delivery)

• It can provide (bilingual) educational approaches that are far more effective than those currently on offer, addressing issues of differential achievement (and related longer term social/economic costs, esp. as NZ becomes more diverse)

• It can provide a model that continues to foreground biculturalism, while acknowledging our increasing multiethnicity and multilingualism
Consequences of doing nothing

• “The major risk [we currently face] is in the failure to develop a multiculturalism which complements the existing biculturalism and this vacuum continues to represent a failure of the [New Zealand] state and its key political decision-makers to develop explicit rules of engagement and recognition”. (Spoonley & Bedford, 2012, pp. 279–280)
Selected References


Faculty of Education and Social Work

Language, Education and Diversity Conference

4th International Conference on Language, Education and Diversity (LED 2015)

Early Bird Registration is now open.

Provisional Programme Outline now available.

Kia Ora and welcome to the LED 2015 conference.

- **When:** Monday 23 November – Thursday 26 November 2015
- **Where:** Owen G. Glenn Building, the University of Auckland, New Zealand

The 4th International Conference on Language, Education and Diversity (LED2015) focuses specifically on the impact of increased cultural linguistic diversity, at both national and supranational levels, and its consequences for the theory, policy and practice of language education. As such, LED provides an attested international forum that brings together the latest academic and policy discussions, and promotes critical debate, on the often-complex interconnections between diversity and language education.

Pre-conference workshops are to be held on Monday 23 November. This will be followed by the formal conference opening with a pōwhiri (formal Māori welcoming ceremony), the first keynote address, and an extra function, with wine and canapés provided.

Heoi anō
Kia ora!