

Part 2

Canada's Evolving Language Realities

'Oui, I do': Marriages across language communities in Quebec and the language(s) of their children

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Highlights:

-Exogamous partnerships have a profound impact on the language(s) ultimately acquired by offspring as well as on their identities. In 2006 nearly one-third of Quebec anglophones had a francophone spouse.

-outside of the Montreal region nearly as many persons of English Mother tongue have francophone partners as they do anglophones

-in places like Quebec City and Trois-Rivieres important majorities of anglophones have francophone spouses while in Sherbrooke and Gatineau about half of the anglophones have francophone spouses. In Montreal one in four anglophones have francophone spouses

-as to the language that the child ultimately adopts it is determined to a significant extent by the mother's mother tongue. In Quebec when the mother's MT is French and the father's English the children's (1-17 years of age) mother tongue is French two in three times. When the mother is English and the father French it is English that dominates very slightly. In each case one in ten children report adopting both English and French as their mother tongue

-The effects of the mother's influence on the child's mother tongue are mitigated somewhat by the concentration of anglophones and francophones in the region of residence of the couple.

-Similar to the overall pattern for the province, in Montreal when the mother is francophone and the father anglophone more than two-thirds of the time the child adopts the French language as their mother tongue. When the mother is English and the father is French the language most often adopted is English with some 53% doing so overall and the gap between the two widening as the child advances into the teens. English and French become mother tongue in more than ten percent of the cases of such mixing.

-In Quebec City when the mother is French and the father English in 84% of cases the child's mother tongue is French with another 9% English and French and 7% English. When the mother is English and the father is French the child's mother tongue is French in 60% of the cases and English in one-third.

-In Sherbrooke when the mother is French and the father is English the child's mother tongue is French in nearly 85% of cases. When the mother is English and the father is French the child's language is French in early 60% of all cases.

-In Gatineau when the mother is French and the father English in nearly 80% of cases the child's mother tongue is French. When the mother is English and the father is French the child's mother tongue is French (1385) just somewhat more than it is English (1305).

-On the other side of the river in Ottawa, when the mother is French and the father English the two split nearly evenly with 4340 children adopting French and 4270 adopting English. However when the mother is English and the father is French in nearly three of four cases the child's mother tongue is English.

1. Mixed Language Marriages

One of the keys to understanding the changing patterns of language transmission and the shift in language between English and French and from other languages to English and French is to look at the marital mix amongst the population. Exogamous partnerships have a profound impact on the language(s) ultimately acquired by offspring as well as on their identities. In 2006 as observed below nearly one-third of Quebec anglophones had a francophone spouse. And although there are more allophones in Quebec than anglophones, the francophone population was more likely to have an anglophone partner. This is in part attributable to the presence of more anglophones than allophones outside the Montreal area.

Quebec / Québec	Total - Mother tongue of other spouse or partner	English	French	Non-official language	English and French
Total - Mother tongue of spouse or partner	1768780	121025	1398590	232900	6840
English	118135	70730	35930	9995	975
French	1409975	38995	1335920	29615	3740
Non-official language	223480	9915	21465	190800	330
English and French	6970	840	3900	405	1625
English and non-official language	3665	445	280	910	55
French and non-official language	5750	60	990	1095	50
English, French and non-official language	815	35	115	80	60

On a regional basis one observes that outside of the Montreal region nearly as many persons of English Mother tongue have francophone partners as they do anglophones. In places like Quebec City and Trois-Rivieres important majorities of anglophones have francophone spouses while in Sherbrooke and Gatineau about half of the anglophones have francophone spouses. In Montreal one in four anglophones have francophone spouses

English Mother tongue	Québec City	Sherbrooke	Trois-Rivières	Montreal	Gatineau	Rest of Quebec
Total - Mother tongue of spouse or partner	2840	2380	395	82105	8705	39 920
English	545	1140	30	51665	4145	19 065
French	2225 (79%)	1175 (50%)	360 (90%)	20715 (25%)	4070 (47%)	18 280 (45%)
Non-official language	60	55	0	8665	375	1250
English and French	10	20	0	565	105	275

Language of Children

Independent of the languages they adopt the mixed linguistic marriage has an impact on the identity of the community and it is not surprising given that one-third of anglophones are married to francophones that a growing number of anglophone youth describe themselves as both French and English. But as to the language that the child ultimately adopts it is determined to a significant extent by the mother's mother tongue. In Quebec when the mother's MT is French and the father's English the children's (1-17) mother tongue is French two in three times. When the mother is English and the father French it is English that dominates very slightly. In each case one in ten children report adopting both English and French as their mother tongue.

Quebec	Male spouse or: English	Female spouse o: French			
	Total - Mother tongue of child	English	French	Non-official language	English and French
Total - Age group of child	26740	5930	17890	155	2690
Under 5 years	7670	1430	4935	120	1175
5 to 9 years	7205	1735	4790	15	655
10 to 14 years	7465	1640	5225	10	540
15 to 17 years	4400	1125	2940	0	325

Geography: Quebec / Québec (24) 21010	Male spouse or: French	Female spouse o: English			
	Total - Mother tongue of child	English	French	Non-official language	English and French
Total - Age group of child	26600	12160	11825	80	2485
Under 5 years	6590	2695	2940	45	875
5 to 9 years	7220	3420	3140	15	645
10 to 14 years	8100	3585	3805	10	700
15 to 17 years	4685	2455	1945	15	270

The effects of the mother's influence on the child's mother tongue are mitigated somewhat by the concentration of anglophones and francophones in the region of residence of the couple. Similar to the overall pattern for the province, in Montreal when the mother is francophone and the father anglophone more than two-thirds of the time the child adopts the French language as their mother tongue.

Geography: Montréal (24462) 21011	Male spouse or: English	Female spouse o: French			
	Total - Mother tongue of child	English	French	Non-official language	English and French
Total - Age group of child	15295	4015	9485	155	1580
Under 5 years	4635	1080	2735	120	695
5 to 9 years	4135	1155	2565	15	390
10 to 14 years	4115	1035	2705	10	315
15 to 17 years	2410	745	1475	10	180

When the mother is English and the father is French the language most often adopted is English with some 53% doing so overall and the gap between the two widening as the child advances into the teens. English and French become mother tongue in more than ten percent of the cases of such mixing.

Geography: Montréal (24462) 21011	Male spouse or: French	Female spouse o: English			
	Total - Mother tongue of child	English	French	Non-official language	English and French
Total - Age group of child	13895	7375	5005	65	1415
Under 5 years	3685	1795	1325	35	495
5 to 9 years	3880	2125	1370	10	375
10 to 14 years	3965	2045	1515	10	390
15 to 17 years	2370	1400	795	0	155

In Quebec City when the mother is French and the father English in 84% of cases the child's mother tongue is French with another 9% English and French and 7% English.

Quebec City

Geography: Québec (24421) 21011	Male spouse or: English	Female spouse o: French			
	Total - Mother tongue of child	English	French	Non-official language	English and French
Total - Age group of child	1370	90	1160	0	120
Under 5 years	365	25	285	0	50
5 to 9 years	325	25	285	0	10
10 to 14 years	430	30	370	0	25
15 to 17 years	255	10	220	0	25

When the mother is English and the father is French the child's mother tongue is French in 60% of the cases and English in one-third.

Geography: Québec (24421) 21011	Male spouse or: French	Female spouse o: English			
	Total - Mother tongue of child	English	French	Non-official language	English and French
Total - Age group of child	1395	440	855	0	100
Under 5 years	325	75	195	0	55
5 to 9 years	385	95	265	0	20
10 to 14 years	450	180	260	0	10
15 to 17 years	230	85	130	0	10

Sherbrooke

In Sherbrooke when the mother is French and the father is English the child's mother tongue is French in nearly 85% of cases.

Sherbrooke	Male spouse or: English	Female spouse o: French			
	Total - Mother tongue of child	English	French	Non-official language	English and French
Total - Age group of child	730	70	620	0	45
Under 5 years	200	15	145	0	40
5 to 9 years	150	10	145	0	0
10 to 14 years	245	15	225	0	0
15 to 17 years	135	30	105	0	0

When the mother is English and the father is French the child's language is French in early 60% of all cases.

Sherbrooke	Male spouse or: French	Female spouse o: English			
	Total - Mother tongue of child	English	French	Non-official language	English and French
Total - Age group of child	790	230	535	0	25
Under 5 years	185	60	115	0	0
5 to 9 years	210	50	140	0	15
10 to 14 years	270	65	200	0	0
15 to 17 years	120	40	75	0	0

Gatineau

In Gatineau when the Mother is French and the father English in nearly 80% of cases the child's mother tongue is French.

Gatineau	Male spouse or: English	Female spouse o: French			
	Total - Mother tongue of child	English	French	Non-official language	English and French
Total - Age group of child	3210	490	2455	0	260
Under 5 years	895	105	685	0	105
5 to 9 years	820	145	600	0	70
10 to 14 years	940	130	765	0	50
15 to 17 years	550	110	405	0	35

When the mother is English and the father is French the child's mother tongue is French (1385) just somewhat more than it is English (1305).

Gatineau	Male spouse or: French	Female spouse o: English			
	Total - Mother tongue of child	English	French	Non-official language	English and French
Total - Age group of child	2915	1305	1385	0	220
Under 5 years	750	255	385	0	105
5 to 9 years	750	340	370	0	45
10 to 14 years	955	470	425	0	65
15 to 17 years	455	245	210	0	10

On the other side of the river in Ottawa, when the mother is French and the father English the two split nearly evenly with 4340 children adopting French and 4270 adopting English.

Ottawa -	Male spouse or: English	Female spouse o: French			
	Total - Mother tongue of child	English	French	Non-official language	English and French
Total - Age group of child	9290	4270	4340	45	620
Under 5 years	2515	1070	1165	25	245
5 to 9 years	2395	1085	1190	20	100
10 to 14 years	2715	1340	1180	10	190
15 to 17 years	1665	770	800	0	80

However when the mother is English and the father is French in nearly three of four cases the child's mother tongue is English.

Ottawa -	Male spouse or: French	Female spouse o: English			
	Total - Mother tongue of child	English	French	Non-official language	English and French
Total - Age group of child	7555	5700	1390	0	465
Under 5 years	2050	1505	375	0	170
5 to 9 years	1935	1415	405	0	115
10 to 14 years	2295	1770	390	0	130
15 to 17 y	1275	1010	220	0	45

