THE FRENCH COMMUNITY AT URI: A STUDY OF CULTURAL AND LINGUISTIC IDENTITY

BY KAYLA BUTTS
GOALS

- How can one truly define the terms Francophone and Francophile? Is there only one definition?
- Does culture or language determine identity?
- Where do culture and language need to intersect for someone to call themselves a Francophone?
DEFINE FRANCOPILE!

Merriam Webster Dictionary

- One who is “markedly friendly to France or French culture”

WEAK

Interviewees

- “Loves the culture”
- “Admires all things French”
- “Intrigued by and invested in”
- “Has an attraction to”
A FRANCOPHILE IS...

Not just friendly towards French culture, but one who has a CONNECTION with and a PASSION for Francophone culture and language.
ARTICLE ANALYSIS: PETER SUTTON

- “Educational Language Planning and Linguistic Identity”
- Linguistic Identity
  - Number of Languages spoken
  - Situation in which they are spoken
“If we accept that a language is not an indivisible entity, that bilingualism and multilingualism are becoming increasingly common, and that linguistic diversity should be recognized in planning educational activities, then there are implications for decisions on the role to be accorded to each…” (140)
LINGUISTIC EXPANSION

“...a language is what its users make it, and that it is a tool for the expression of its content rather than an abstract set of rules learnt for their own sake” (144).
Cultural Identity

- Related to ethnicity and ancestral background
- Buffalo, New York
  - White English speaking population
  - Culturally/ethnically German, Polish, or Italian
A Francophone is one who speaks French fluently, looks for instances in which to use the language, and willingly spends time within the given culture.
ARTICLE ANALYSIS: NANCY DORIAN

- "Linguistic Lag as an Ethnic Marker"
- East Sutherland fisherfolk in Scotland
- Linguistic Identity
  - "So profound is the connection between language and ethnicity that it is possible to find a people using a language which few of them actually speak as a symbol of their separate ethnic identity" (34)
  - Use language to define uniqueness
Cultural Identity

- Ethnicity and culture can be symbolized in other ways:
  - Dress, diet, location, etc.
  - Language, or lag of language, is most important
“One Golspie bilingual, now a septuagenarian whose English is fluent, was for years called “That’s-a-dog-of-me” by a local shopkeeper because of the Gaelic-patterned English she mustered as a young girl to claim the dog that the shopkeeper was trying to chase out of his shop” (38)
A Francophone is one who is proficient in the French language after years of immersion within the culture and/or practice with the language.
DEFINE FRANCOPHONE!

- 3 Possibilities
  1. Language and Culture
  2. Culture
  3. Language
LANGUAGE AND CULTURE

- Minority group
  - “Someone who speaks French as a first or official language”

- Merriam Webster
  - “Of, having, or belonging to a population using French as its first or sometimes second language”

- Be familiar with language and be part of (or identify with)
  Francophone culture
CULTURE

- Very close to minority
  - One who “comes from a country where the French is the dominant language”
  - “someone born in a country where French is the maternal language”

- Obtains title through birth or in coming from that country
  - Must they speak the language too?
LANGUAGE

- Majority group
  - “Knows French well”
  - “Exhibits extensive abilities with the French language”
  - “French speaking people”

- Similar to Sutton and Dorian
  - Must be well learned in the language, speak the language, and THEN immerse yourself in the culture
CULTURAL AND LINGUISTIC IDENTITY

- Francophone Identity majority: language

- Overall Identity Majority: language and culture
  - “Both language and culture determine identity”
  - “They are inextricably connected”
  - “Cannot take the culture out of the language or the language out of the culture”
CONCLUSION

- Francophone identity puts more emphasis on language
- Overall identity must consist of intersection of language and culture
  - Needed to categorize
- Intersections and limitations based on individual
WORKS CITED


THANK YOU

- Professor Karen de Bruin
- All Interviewees
- Mom
- Matt
- Josh

YOU MADE THIS POSSIBLE!