

LANGUAGE & IDENTITY

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Immigrants in Canada



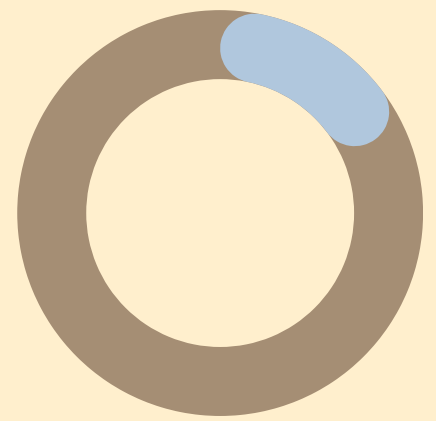
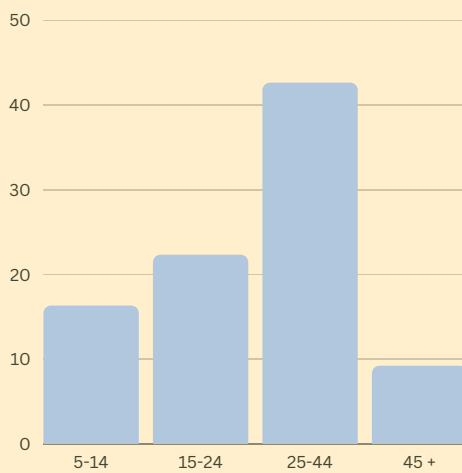
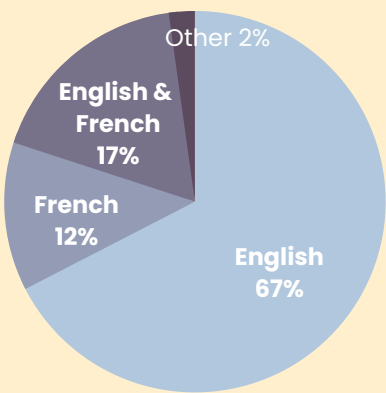
language



age



population



English is the most common spoken language in Canada. Immigrants will often seek to be fluent in this language

The largest age group of Immigrants in Canada is 25-44 years old

Migrants represent 17.5% of the population in Canada

Statistics Canada

Identity

- identity is context-dependent
- ascribed by social structures or others
- can be negotiated (Norton & Toohy, 2011).

Social relationships are crucial for immigrant's identity

language matters in shaping identity

emotions, perceived power and agency can impact newcomers experience



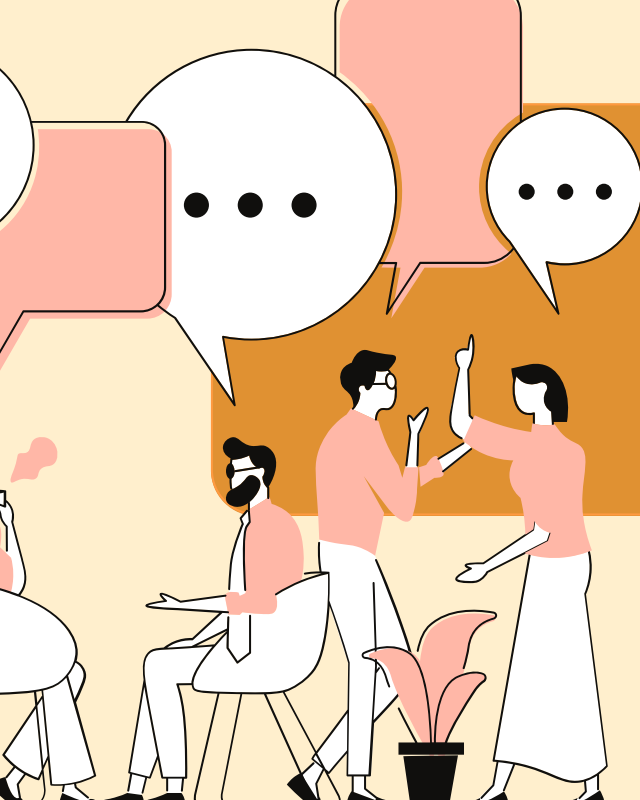
Language use and social identity impact learners' motivations for language learning (Dos Santos, 2021).

Social identity theory argues individuals' and groups' self-concepts are based on the groups they belong to (Dos Santos, 2021).



identity can be created by:

- race
- ethnicity
- religion
- sexual orientation
- immigration status
- family background
- income



Language as a tool

To use and understand a language's structure to communicate ideas.

for social interactions

intrapersonal purposes

share your culture

learning is a social process

Sociocultural theory – is a social process where culturally and historically situated individuals engage in culturally valued activities (Norton & Toohey, 2011).

Motivation is not fixed and can change over time. Motivation is influenced by the social context and surrounding environment (Dos Santos, 2021).

Note for teachers

- Silence is sometimes a defence mechanism, not a lack of motivation

Learner's identity is always changing

Focus on learners' potential

Question the oppressive practices of learning "standard" English

Race & gender impact language learning

experiment with activities



Preserving your culture

- While learning a new language and culture is important you do not need to give up your traditions and culture.

