

# **Language Maintenance through Family Language Investigation: a comparative study of four multilingual families in Manchester**

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This study explores the experience of multilinguals portrayed in their patterns, practices of linguistic behaviour feeding into their family language policies. Individuals, families and broader communities significantly contextualize those concepts (Kheirkhah, 2016). By looking at the experiences of four multilingual families, I am examining how multilingualism is present and enacted in their linguistic practices. In this respect, the concept of Family Language Policy (FLP) is useful in studying families' experiences of multilingualism using both audio-recordings of spoken interactions in the family and semi-structured interviews: firstly, to know more about the linguistic experiences of the four families I am investigating, why they happen and how their linguistic diversity links to their identity positioning. Hence, investigating the linguistic practices of the multilinguals will help determine whether minority/heritage language maintenance is something my families consider as important or not. Also, their ideologies and beliefs will assist me in providing an insight as to why heritage language maintenance is present or not, and what the factors are which determine this. Ultimately, the project will enrich the literature about FLP and inform wider policy decision-making for minoritized bi/multilinguals and education.

## **Bibliography**

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