

Webs Review

Catalan and language

Observatori de la llengua catalana (Observatory of the Catalan language)

<<http://www.observatoridelallengua.cat/>>

The Observatory of the Catalan Language is an initiative arising from civic and cultural entities that wished to create an independent body with broad consensus in Catalan society and with the greatest solvency and academic rigour possible. Its aim is to monitor and evaluate the Catalan language, both with regard to its use in society and also the legal context in which it develops. Among the entities promoting the Observatory are Òmnium Cultural, the Centre UNESCO de Catalunya and Obra Cultural Balear.

Observatori de Neologia (Neology Observatory) (IULA, UPF)

<<http://www.iula.upf.edu/04mon009.htm>>

The Neology Observatory, directed by Dr. M. Teresa Cabré, was set up as a research group in 1988 at Barcelona University and, since 1994, has been included as a project with the University Institute of Applied Linguistics of Pompeu Fabra University. The Observatory analyses the phenomenon of the appearance of new words or neologisms, both in Catalan and Spanish. It currently has a database of more than 82,000 occurrences for Catalan and more than 60,000 occurrences for Spanish from written and oral texts from the media. Among the source corpus, of note are the newspapers *Avui* (tracked since 1989), *El Periódico* (1998), the weekly *El Temps* (1994) and *El Diari de Mallorca* (2003), as well as news programmes and the programme *Debat jove*, on Catalunya Ràdio.

Consell de les Llengües Oficials (Council of Official Languages)

<<http://www.boe.es/boe/dias/2007/07/19/pdfs/A31373-31375.pdf>>

On 6 July 2007, the Spanish government passed Royal Decree 905/2007, creating the Council of Official Languages as part of the General Administration of the State, as well as the Office for Official Languages. The function of the Council, which reports to the Secretary of State for Territorial Cooperation of the Ministry of Public Administration, is to ensure the right to use the different official languages within the scope of the central administration. However, its main responsibilities are to analyse the actions of ministerial departments "concerning the use of the official languages of the autonomous communities to guarantee the right to use on the part of citizens", to promote directives that help to coordinate the bodies of the general state administration "in the area of the use of official languages", and "to promote the dissemination of the values of multilingualism in Spanish society".

WICCAC

<<http://wiccac.org/webscat.html>>

WICCAC (Webmasters Independents en Català, de Cultura i d'Àmbits Cívics) is a group of administrators for independent websites, without ties to official bodies or commercial or professional entities or political groups, with cultural or civic proposals and working in Catalan. The aim of the WICCAC is to put independent webmasters in touch with each other, as well as to help standardise the use of Catalan on the Internet. WICCAC is not a directory of websites and webmasters in Catalan but a group to encourage the participation of its members.

UNESCO chair in Language and Education (IEC)

<<http://www2.iecat.net/gc/ViewPage.action?siteNodeId=357&languageId=1&contentId=1710>>

The UNESCO chair in Language and Education is an entity of the Institute of Catalan Studies (IEC) whose main function is to collaborate in the processes of encoding, standardising and revitalising language, as well as the transfer of knowledge to other institutions and communities immersed in recovering a language.

Enlloc.com

<<http://www.enlloc.com/enlloc/index.html>>

Catalan language portal that has a wide range of linguistic services such as dictionaries and glossaries, stylebooks, consultancy services, courses and seminars, correctors and translators, language certificates, legislation, programmes, sociolinguistics, organisms and entities, journals and media, etc.

Consorti per a la Normalització Lingüística (Consortium for Language Standardisation)

<<http://www.cpnl.cat/index.html>>

The Consortium for Language Standardisation is a body created as a result of the shared desire of the Generalitat and numerous town, county and provincial councils to help raise awareness, increase the use of and spread the language of Catalonia in all spheres. The Consortium aims to attend to the needs for training, advice and management in language terms. Its areas of action are companies and organisations, adult training and also advice in general.

Plataforma per la Llengua (Platform for Language)

<<http://www.plataforma-llengua.cat/campanyes/index.php?campanya=33>>

The Platform for Language is an entity that aims to ensure the presence of Catalan in all spheres and throughout the territory. One of its most outstanding campaigns was called "Cinema in Catalan". The aim of this campaign is for large film multinationals, Catalan producers, distributors and exhibitors to substantially increase the presence of Catalan in the cinema. Since the campaign was started, it has had an effect on the dubbing of some films by Disney, Warner and Fox.

ÉsAdir

<<http://esadir.cat/>>

Language portal of Televisió de Catalunya and Catalunya Ràdio where you can consult, revised and updated, the Catalan used on TV3, its stylebook, the language criteria applied for translation and dubbing, also on TV3; the language guidelines for Catalunya Ràdio and the stylebook of CCRTV Interactiva.

ÉsAdir is the result of the daily linguistic consultancy work and is not a systematic grammar or conventional dictionary. It therefore only records those aspects that may be relevant for the production of news, magazine and fiction programmes, as well as for dubbing films and websites. The content is constantly extended and updated according to the daily needs, given the social function of TVC and Catalunya Ràdio.

SubCAT

<<http://subcat.rescat.net/pres.htm>>

SubCAT is a non-profit initiative that attempts to unite forces to create a good collection of Catalan subtitles. According to the people behind this project, Catalonia needs to abandon its commitment to dubbing, an option that is quite a lot more expensive and "a luxury that is difficult to comprehend for a culture of quite a small geographic, social and demographic nature". SubCAT defends the use of subtitles, a system that is "much more economic and cosmopolitan" and that is widespread in countries from our cultural environment, such as Portugal and Sweden, with the consequence that the original versions are respected in the cinema and on television and home DVDs.

MERCATOR

<<http://www.mercator-central.org/>>

Mercator is a network of three European research centres on the minority languages of the EU spoken by more than 40 million people. Each of the three centres develops its own theme: Mercator-Education (located in the Fryske Akademy, Freesia, Netherlands), Mercator-Media (University of Wales) and Mercator-Legislation (CIEMEN, Catalonia). This last centre analyses language rights and their use in public administration. The main aim of this network is to provide academics, opinion leaders and decision makers with information on the problems involved with these languages.

Centre Universitari de Sociolingüística i Comunicació (University Centre of Sociolinguistics and Communication), University of Barcelona

<<http://www.ub.es/cusc/>>

The CUSC proposes three broad areas of action: research, teaching and services. With regard to research, its aim is to promote the theorising and knowledge of the factors and dynamics of language use, as well as to investigate the overall sociolinguistic and socio-communicative situation with regard to multiculturalism. In teaching, it disseminates theoretical and empirical knowledge, trains interdisciplinary researchers in different methodologies and contributes to the training of staff in order to effectively develop language policies and to act on communication. And with regard to services, it analyses the knowledge, use and representation of language, advises people, institutions and the media on multilingualism and draws up studies on adjusting communicative resources to users' needs.

Observatori de la Llengua (Language Observatory)

<<http://www.ua.es/spv/observatori/objectiu.html>>

The Language Observatory, under the auspices of the University of Alicante, aims to improve knowledge of the sociolinguistic situation of Catalan in this city and its surrounding area in all spheres, both public and private. It also aims to encourage contributions or changes in the language policy of public and private institutions that affect the public use of the language.

Casa de les Llengües. Linguamón (House of Languages. Linguamón)

<<http://www.linguamon.cat>>

Casa de les Llengües. Linguamón is an organism that aims to promote the languages of the world as a vehicle of communication, civilisation and dialogue, as a source of personal development, of human creativity, heritage of humanity and as a right of people and language communities. Linguamón is a consortium initially formed by the Generalitat de Catalunya, UNESCO Centre of Catalonia and the Universal Forum of Cultures Foundation.

Grup d'Estudi de Llengües Amenaçades (Study Group of Endangered Languages) (UB)

<<http://www.ub.es/ling/inventari/llengues.html>>

The Study Group of Endangered Languages (GELA) is made up of the Department of General Linguistics of the Faculty of Philology (University of Barcelona) and its aim is to account and document the languages spoken in Catalonia: currently around 200. A wide range of languages has been accounted for, ranging from Aymara (from the Andes) to Zapotec (Mexico), Kannada (the original language of India), Ch'ol (also Mexican) and Senegalese sign language.