



Multilingual Children's Speech Development



FRENCH (Swiss)

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Presented by: Margaret Kehoe

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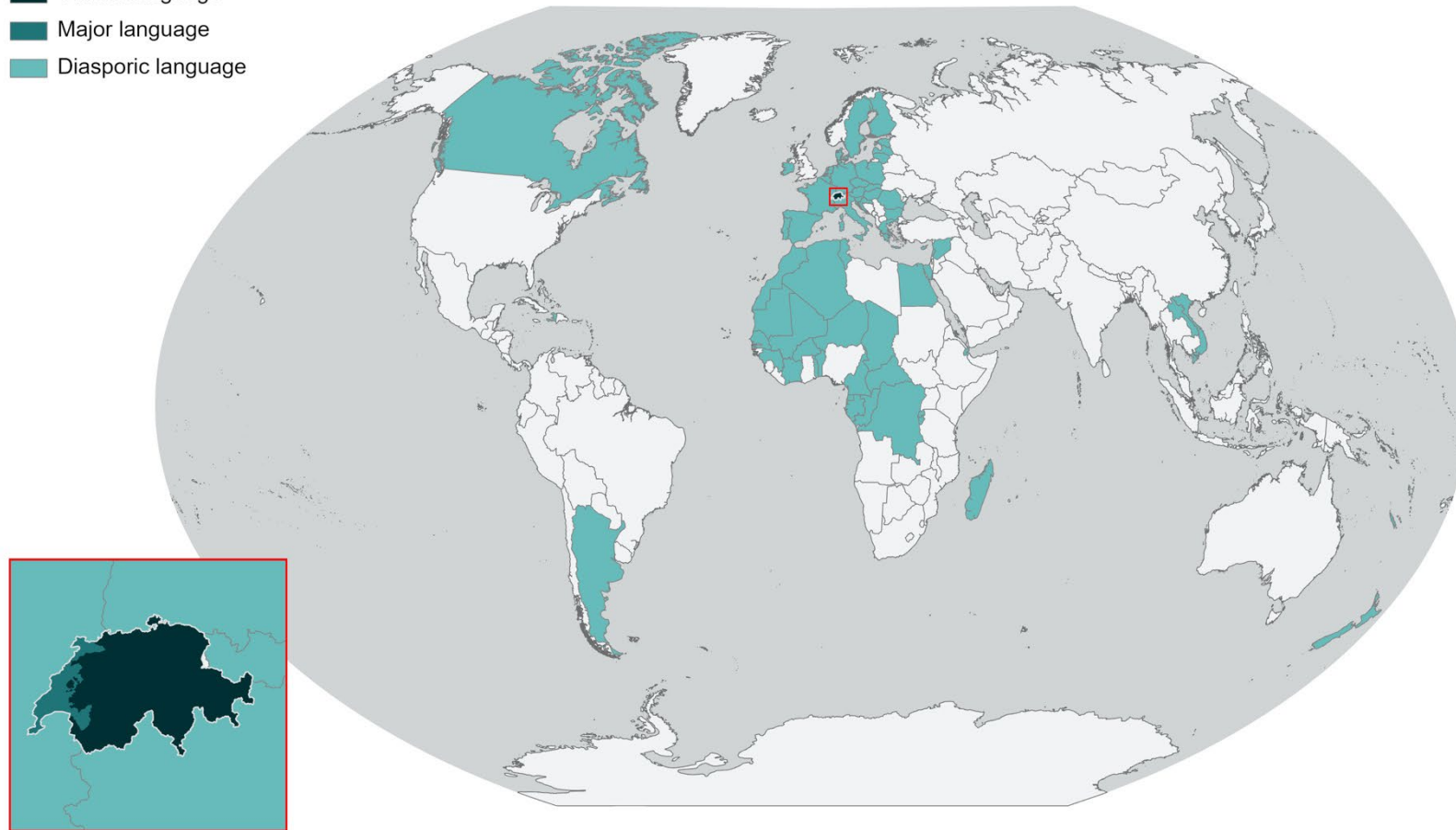
Source: Kehoe, M. & Niederberger, N. (forthcoming). French (Swiss) speech development. In S. McLeod (Ed.). *The Oxford handbook of speech development in languages of the world*. Oxford University Press.

French (Swiss)

- **Commonly spoken in**
 - Western Switzerland
- **Dialects and variants**
 - Geneva, Vaud, Neuchâtel, Jura, Fribourg, Valais
- **Writing**
 - Left to right. Latin alphabet (Roman script)
 - French uses diacritics on vowels
 - Example: é, è, û

French (Swiss) Map

- Official language
- Major language
- Diasporic language



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French (Swiss) Speech Components

- **Consonants (20):** /p, b, t, d, k, g, m, n, ɲ, f, v, s, z, ʃ, ʒ, ʁ, l, j, w, ɥ/
- **Consonant clusters:** /pʁ, bʁ, pl, bl, fʁ, fl, tʁ, dʁ, kʁ, gʁ, kl, gl, st, sp, sk, str/
- **Vowels (16):** /i, y, u, e, ø, o, ə, ε, ɔ, œ, a, ɑ, ɛ̃, œ̃, ɑ̃, ɔ̃/
- **Tones (0):** None
- **Phonotactic restrictions:** $C_{(0-3)}V_{(1)}C_{(0-3)}$
- **Prosody:** Phrase final accent (duration) + initial accent (pitch rise)

French (Swiss) Age of Acquisition

- **Consonants**
 - To date there is no study of consonant acquisition
- **Consonant clusters**
 - To date there is no study of consonant cluster acquisition
- **Vowels**
 - To date there is no study of vowel acquisition
- **Tones**
 - Not applicable

French (Swiss) Speech Development

- **Percentage correct**

- **2 years:** consonants 80%; vowels 90%
- **3 years:** consonants 90%; vowels 97%
- **4 years:** consonants 95%; vowels 99%

(Kehoe et al., 2020; Kehoe & Havy, 2019; Kehoe & Girardier, 2020)

- **Intelligibility**

- To date there is no study of intelligibility

- **Common phonological patterns**

- Palatal fronting, cluster reduction (Kehoe et al., 2015)

French (Swiss) Children with Speech Sound Disorders

■ Also called

- Troubles du son de la parole → speech sound disorder
- Trouble phonologique → phonological disorder
- Trouble articulatoire → articulation disorder
- Apraxie infantile de la parole → childhood apraxia of speech
- Dysarthrie → dysarthria

■ Research has focused on

- Typical development

■ Studies

- To date there is no research on children with speech sound disorders

French (Swiss) Speech Assessments

- **Dépistage Rapid Articulation et Phonologie (DRAP)**
[Rapid articulation and phonological screening test]
(Kehoe et al., 2021; Niederberger et al., 2021)
- **Epreuve de Conscience Phonologique, ECP**
[Test of phonological awareness] (Niederberger, 2004)

French (Swiss) Speech Interventions

- To date there are no specific interventions

Influence of Bilingualism

- Bilingual children are often exposed to Swiss French early, become dominant in Swiss French early, and speak Romance languages as their L1 (e.g., Italian, Spanish, & Portuguese) at least in Geneva
- Results indicate minimal effects of bilingualism on percentage of consonants and vowels correct, particularly if vocabulary level is taken into consideration (Kehoe & Girardier, 2020; Kehoe & Havy, 2019)
- No indication that separate norms are needed for bilingual vs. monolingual children (Kehoe et al., 2021; Niederberger et al., 2021)

Reference

Book chapter

- Kehoe, M. & Niederberger, N. (forthcoming). French (Swiss) speech development. In S. McLeod (Ed.). *The Oxford handbook of speech development in languages of the world*. Oxford University Press.

Presentation

- Kehoe, M. & Niederberger, N. (2023). *French (Swiss): Multilingual children's speech development*. Charles Sturt University, Australia.

<https://www.csu.edu.au/research/multilingual-speech/languages>

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