

Learning French: Challenges and strategies for migrants

Garine Papazian-Zohrabian, Université de Montréal

Corina Borri-Anadon, Université du Québec à Trois-Rivières

Learning French: Challenges and strategies for migrants

- **A long and demanding process**

- There is no scientific or practical basis supporting a 6-month period for learning French
- French for immigrant adults in Quebec framework (MICC, 2011): 8 levels that aim to develop linguistic competence in French

« un pouvoir d’agir, de réussir et de progresser fondé sur la mobilisation et l’utilisation efficace d’un ensemble intégré de ressources pour traiter un ensemble de situations de vie » (p. 7)

(tr.: “a power to act, the succeed and to advance based on the mobilization and efficient use of an integrated toolkit of resources to handle life situations”)

Learning French: Challenges and strategies for migrants

- **Many different factors can complicate this process**
 - For example: advanced age, problems with literacy, cognitive limits, stress, depression, grief, post-traumatic effects...
 - Post-arrival in Quebec: a period marked by stressful situations, even for people who are able to get by in French in their daily lives. Examples:
 - Health needs for the individual or their family
 - Violence and family conflict
 - Parents whose children are having difficulty at school
 - Workplace health and safety: applications for compensation, meetings with inspectors
 - Applications for Social Assistance or other essential income security programs

Learning French: Challenges and strategies for migrants

- **The importance of fostering a sense of inclusion and the integration process**
 - Coercive linguistic approaches hinder second-language learning and the sense of inclusion in a new society, as well as contributing to direct and indirect discrimination.
 - Offering essential services in a language that the user understands in no way hinders their francisation. On the contrary, access to public services is essential to the integration of migrants and refugees as full members of Quebec society.