

عنوان المحاضرة: Language, Migration, and  
Superdiversity

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# Language, Migration, and Superdiversity

A Seminar Prepared By PhD Candidate  
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# 1. Introduction

The contemporary era is characterized by **unprecedented levels of global mobility**, leading to the formation of societies that are not just multilingual or multicultural, but 'superdiverse'.

The 'new immigration' of the late 20th and early 21st centuries is qualitatively different, involving a much wider range of nationalities, ethnicities, and languages, as well as greater diversity in terms of migration histories, legal statuses, educational backgrounds, and socio-economic positions.

*This 'diversification of diversity' is what the concept of superdiversity seeks to capture.*



# Defining Superdiversity (Vertovec, 2007)

Coined by Vertovec (2007), the term '**superdiversity**' describes a level of societal complexity that surpasses previous experiences of diversity.

It is a multidimensional phenomenon, encompassing not only a greater number of ethnicities, languages, and countries of origin, but also a diversification of migration channels, legal statuses, and socio-economic backgrounds.

This intricate social fabric presents profound challenges and opportunities for a range of academic disciplines, particularly sociolinguistics and translation studies.

| Dimension               | Description                                                       |
|-------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Ethnicities & Languages | Greater number of ethnicities, languages, and countries of origin |
| Migration Channels      | Diversification of migration channels                             |
| Legal Statuses          | Varied legal statuses                                             |
| Socio-economic          | Diverse socio-economic backgrounds                                |

# Implications for Sociolinguistics and Translation Studies

## For Sociolinguistics

Superdiversity demands a move beyond the study of **stable, bounded speech communities** and a greater focus on the **dynamic and fluid language practices** of mobile individuals.

## For Translation Studies

It necessitates a critical re-examination of the role of translation and interpreting in mediating communication in these complex social contexts. We must move beyond a narrow focus on professional practice to encompass the full range of **informal, ad-hoc, and community-based translation activities** that are a feature of everyday life in superdiverse societies.

“Therefore, we will consistently draw connections, throughout this seminar, to the field of translation, highlighting how the insights from superdiversity research can enrich our understanding of translation as a **social practice** and a **force for social change**.”

# 02

## Section

# Mobility and Scale: The Shifting Sands of Linguistic Legitimacy

In the context of superdiversity, the traditional sociolinguistic model of a **stable, geographically bounded speech community**, where language is seen as a **static and monolithic entity**, is no longer tenable.

The **increased mobility** of individuals and groups across a multitude of scales, from the local to the transnational, fundamentally challenges our understanding of what constitutes **'legitimate' language**.