

Challenges of linguistic diversity in Formosa

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This paper explores the complexities of the multilingual and multicultural map exhibited by indigenous societies in the Province of Formosa (Northern Argentina) and the intricate connections between language acquisition, language learning and language policies that have characterized the area for the last decades.

Five indigenous languages are spoken in Formosa: Guaraní, Nivaclé, Wichí, Pilagá and Qom (Toba). Most speakers of these languages are bilinguals in the broad sense, as they are able to communicate in their two languages (indigenous / Spanish), but at different levels of competence and fluency. Despite of contributing almost half of the inhabitants of some counties, the indigenous population is not fully integrated into the educational system and virtually excluded from sociopolitical decisions. In order to explain this lack of integration, we will analyze and compare the conditions of socialization and linguistic biographies in each group as well as their relationships to the non-indigenous population.