



CSLS Lecture - 27 March 2013
Unitobler, Lerchenweg 36, 3012 Bern
18-20 Uhr, Raum F 005

Philosophisch-historische Fakultät
Center for the Study of Language
and Society (CSLS)

Potentials and limitations of Lingua Receptiva in multilingual communication

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Lingua Receptiva (LaRa) entails that partners use different languages or varieties when conversing, but mutual understanding nevertheless occurs, if each of them has sufficient receptive skills in her/his partner's language (Rehbein, ten Thije & Verschik. 2011). Initially, this mode may seem somewhat unnatural, if it has not been seen in action, but empirical work (Beerkens 2010) suggests that people get used to it quite quickly. In this lecture the concept and practices of Lingua Receptiva will be discussed and compared with related concepts such as *intercomprehension* (Conti, Grin & Cassen 2008), *receptive multilingualism* (ten Thije & Zeevaert 2007) and the *Swiss Model* (Lüdi 2007).

Conti, V., Grin, F. & Cassen, B. (éds.)(2008). *S'entendre entre langues voisines: Vers l'intercompréhension*. Chêne-Bourg: Georg.

Lüdi, G. (2007). The Swiss model of plurilingual communication. In: Bührig, K. & Thije, J.D. ten (eds.) *Beyond misunderstanding. Linguistic analyses of intercultural discourse* (pp. 159-178). Amsterdam: Benjamins.

Rehbein, J., ten Thije, J.D. & Anna Verschik, A. (2012). Lingua Receptiva (LaRa) - Introductory remarks on the quintessence of Receptive Multilingualism. *The International Journal of Bilingualism*, 16(3), 248-264. (Special issue on "Lingua Receptiva", ed. by Thije, J.D. ten, Rehbein, J. & Verschik, A.)

Beerkens, Roos (2010). *Receptive multilingualism as a language mode in the Dutch-German border area*. Münster: Waxmann (*Zivilgesellschaftliche Verständigungsprozesse vom 19. Jahrhundert bis zur Gegenwart*. Vol. 4).