

Multilingual The Hague

Municipal language policy, politics, and practice

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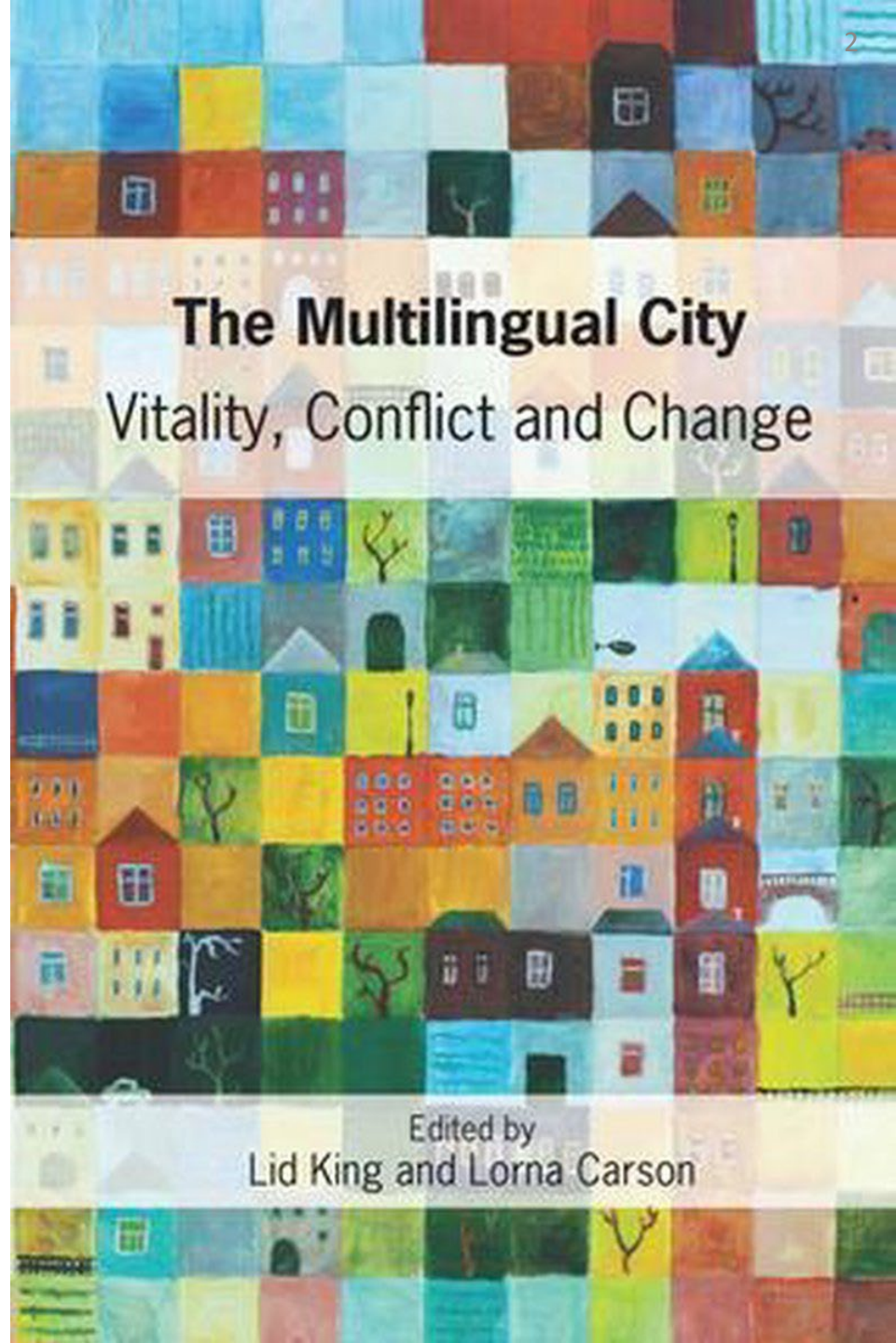
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The Multilingual City

- Linguistic superdiversity in cities
- How do municipalities deal with this multilingualism?
- Municipal level very important

Blommaert & Rampton, 2001; Backhaus, 2012;
Skrandies, 2016



Contents

- Why The Hague?
- Methodology and results
- Discussion

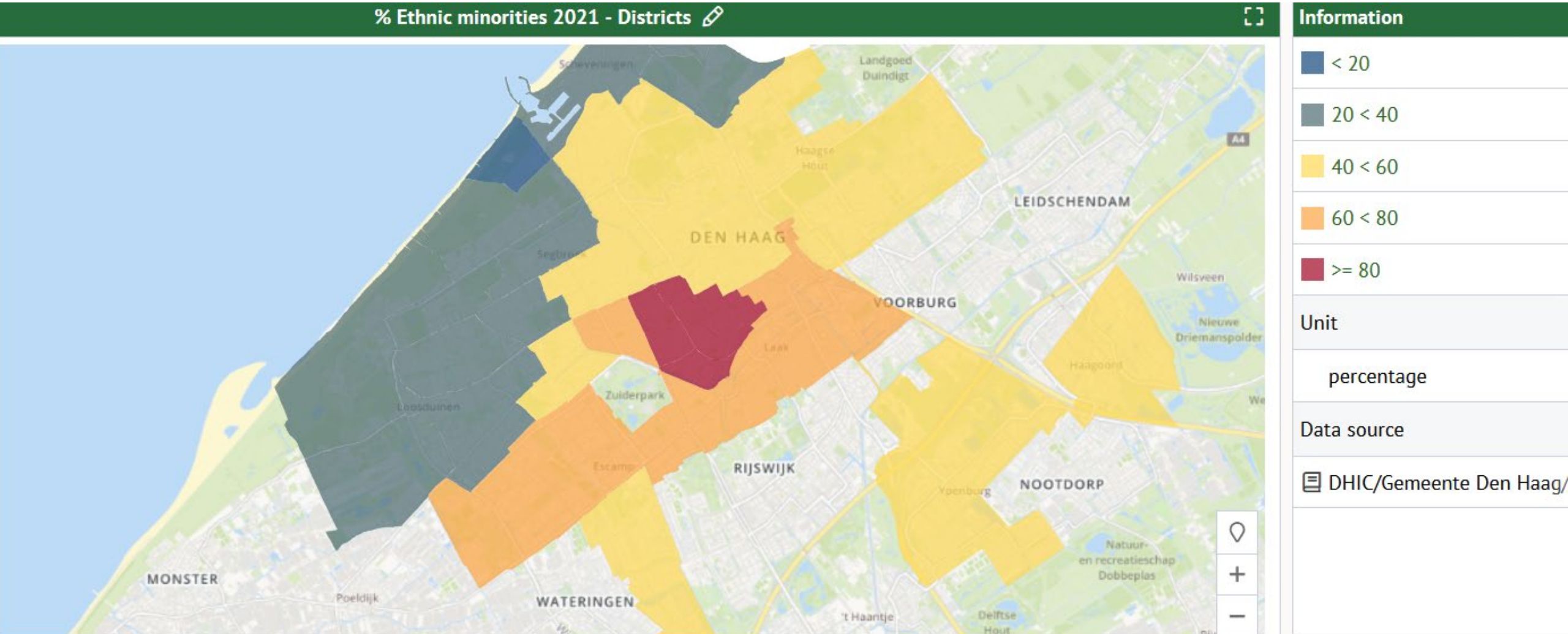
Why The Hague?

- Third largest city
- Very diverse: >50% migration background
- Not included in previous studies
- Languages of The Hague (Em Prof Ingrid Tieken-Boon van Ostade)

Cornips et al., 2018; Nortier et al., 2014; Tieken-Boon van Ostade, 2019



The most segregated city in the Netherlands?



Research questions and methodology

How does the municipality deal with multilingualism in their language...

politics?

(corpus analysis)

policies?

(critical discourse analysis)

practice?

(linguistic landscape analysis)

Multilingualism in municipal language politics

- Municipal political documents 29 March 2018 – 9 May 2019
- 3,028,118 tokens and 76,060 types
- Corpus analysis
 - search terms related to language and multilingualism (taal*, talen, *talig*)
 - in which contexts do they occur (e.g. collocations)?

Taal* (n=409): insufficient Dutch proficiency

Collocate translation	Collocate	R/L	MI ²	Frequency (coll.)	Frequency (corpus)
learn	leren	R	17.5	75	217
Dutch	nederlandse	L	17.2	87	382
have a command of	beheersen	R	16.9	29	52
proficient	machtig	R	16.3	11	11
Arabic	arabisch	R	15.9	17	34
explained	uitgelegd	R	15.3	20	75
language competence	taalbeheersing	L	14.7	5	7
insufficient	onvoldoende	L	14.4	33	361
has a command of	beheerst	R	14.3	7	18
make an effort	inspannen	L	14.2	9	32

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Dutch	nederlandse	L	17.2	87	382
have a command of	<p>“Do you agree with the VVD in The Hague that texts in foreign languages [Arabic and Turkish] send off the wrong message to people who should learn the Dutch language?” (RIS300865, 30 October 2018, p. 2)</p>				52
proficient					11
Arabic					34
explained	uitgelegd	R	15.3	20	75
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More multilingual search terms

talen (n=18): **controversial translations to e.g. Arabic and Turkish**

- low SES residents (poverty, welfare benefits)

talig (n=30): **positive about English**

- tourists and high SES 'expats'
- “[by translating statue signs to English] the artistic and cultural offer for expats is increased, and, furthermore, we make The Hague more attractive for English-speaking tourists.” (RIS300627, 2 October 2018 by VVD, p. 7)

Multilingualism in municipal language policies

- Two policy documents:
 - Coalition agreement
 - Translation policy
- Adjusted critical discourse analysis following Wodak (2009)

Translation policy

Dutch, unless...

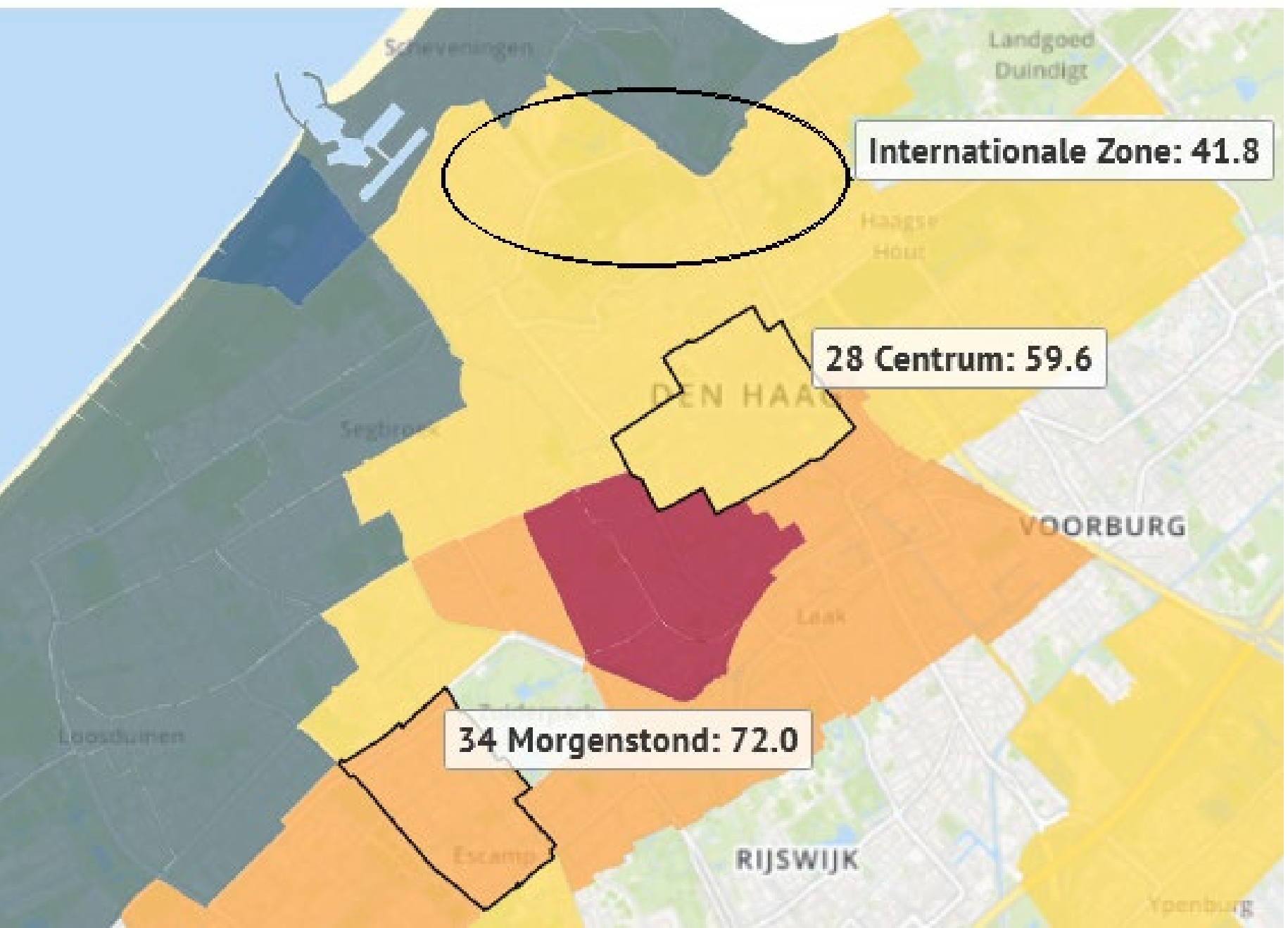
- Life-threatening situation
- If people cannot (legally) be expected to know Dutch (e.g. Polish seasonal workers): only short translated summaries
- “should be formatted in such a way that one encourages the target group to get a better command of the Dutch language” (Den Haag, 2019, p. 2)

Exception

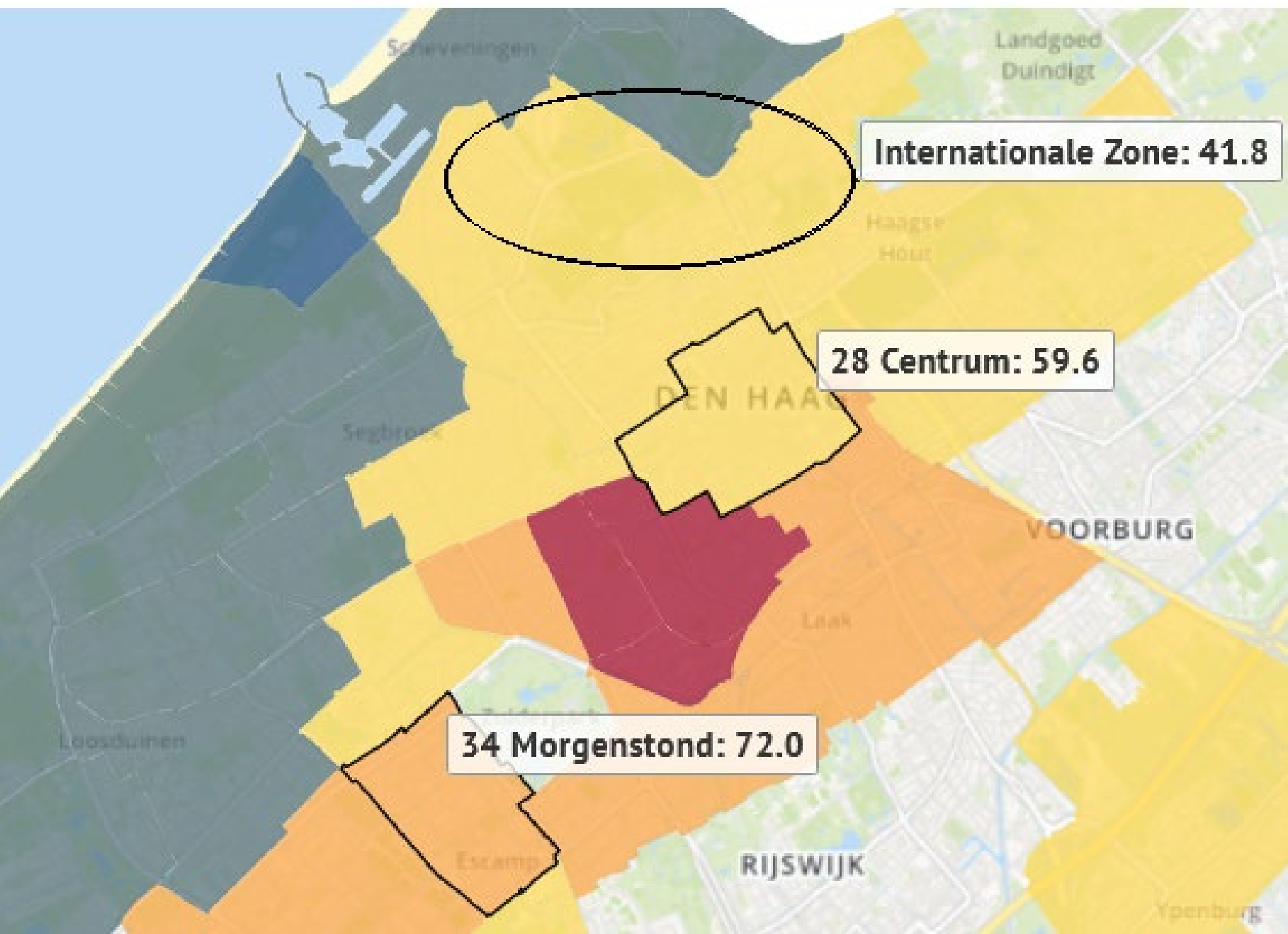
- “The basic rule ‘Dutch, unless...’ does not hold for expats/the international community in The Hague” (Den Haag, 2019, p. 1)
- “In fact, it fits the municipal goals concerning city marketing and hospitality that we communicate in English with them as much as possible and – to a lesser extent – in French as well.” (Den Haag, 2019, p. 1)

Multilingualism in practice: municipal signs

- Photographing every multilingual municipal sign in three multilingual neighbourhoods
- Linguistic Landscape Analysis of Gaiser & Matras (2016)



- In each neighbourhood, visiting similar areas:
- Shopping area
 - Park
 - Residential area
 - Municipal public service office (2x)



19 multilingual mun. signs

52 multilingual mun. signs

4 multilingual mun. signs

Tourists and 'internationals'

HOFKWARTIER

Hoffelijk, historisch en intiem



Om te knuffelen zo leuk, het Haagse Hofkwartier nét buiten de loop van de grote winkelstraten. In een wirwar van historische straatjes tussen Paleis Noordeinde en de Grote Kerk vind je hippe kledingboetiekjes, gezellige cafés en verborgen binnentuinen, zoals de Paleistuin. De vorstelijke historie van het Hofkwartier wordt voelbaar in de luxe winkelstraat Noordeinde, waar koning Willem-Alexander zijn werkpaleis heeft. Aan de wapperende vlag op het dak zie je of hij aan het werk is.



Hofkwartier

The Hague is the perfect city for 'shopping in style'. The name Hofkwartier (Court Quarter) says it all, and lends itself perfectly to this pursuit. In addition to admiring the architecture, enjoy the unique merchandise in this small district with plenty of allure. Although this luxury shopping street is also home to the working palace of King William Alexander, inhabitants of The Hague are familiar with chic Noordeinde primarily because of its characteristic fashion boutiques, galleries, antique and art stores.

Hofkwartier

Den Haag ist die ideale Stadt für stilvolles Shopping. Vor allem das Schlossviertel (Hofkwartier) ist dafür bestens geeignet. Einerseits ein freundliches Wirrwarr historischer Straßen mit ausgesuchten Läden und Cafés, andererseits ein Stadtviertel von Format. In der luxuriösen Einkaufsstraße Noordeinde hat König Wilhelm-Alexander seinen Arbeitsplatz. Doch vielen Den Haagern sind die schicken Straßen Noordeinde und Hoogstraat vor allem wegen der besonderen Modegeschäfte, Galerien, Antiquitäten- und Kunstläden ein Begriff.

Hofkwartier

La Haye est la ville idéale pour le shopping de style. le quartier de la cour, Hofkwartier, est l'endroit parfait pour le shopping de classe. Le long de rues historiquement très intéressantes, les boutiques de ce quartier valent le détour. Dans la rue commerçante luxueuse Noordeinde, le roi Guillaume-Alexandre a son bureau. A ce propos, une petite anecdote. Lorsque le drapeau est hissé au sommet du bâtiment, cela signifie que le roi est présent dans les lieux. Pour beaucoup de Haguenois, la rue Noordeinde et la rue Hoogstraat sont surtout connues pour les belles boutiques de mode, les galeries et les magasins d'antiquités et d'art.

LAW. NOT WAR.

On May 15, 2017, representatives of the City of The Hague were joined by members of the international community in The City of Peace and Justice together with local school children in a ceremony whereby the wooded walkway adjacent to the Peace Palace was named in honour of Benjamin Ferencz. His career as an advocate for strengthening the rule of law in world affairs began while serving as a prosecutor at the The Nuremberg Proceedings after World War II. Ferencz's motto "Law. Not War." is engraved on this bench, which has been contributed to the people of The Hague as a gesture of his appreciation for the important role that The Hague plays as a centre for the advancement of international law and respect for human rights. Contemplating his motto while looking at the Peace Palace, it is important to know that Judges, Arbiters and staff in the Palace work on a daily basis to prevent war and to promote peace through law. To those who strive for a more humane world, Benjamin Ferencz offers these words of advice:

Never give up! Never give up! Never give up!



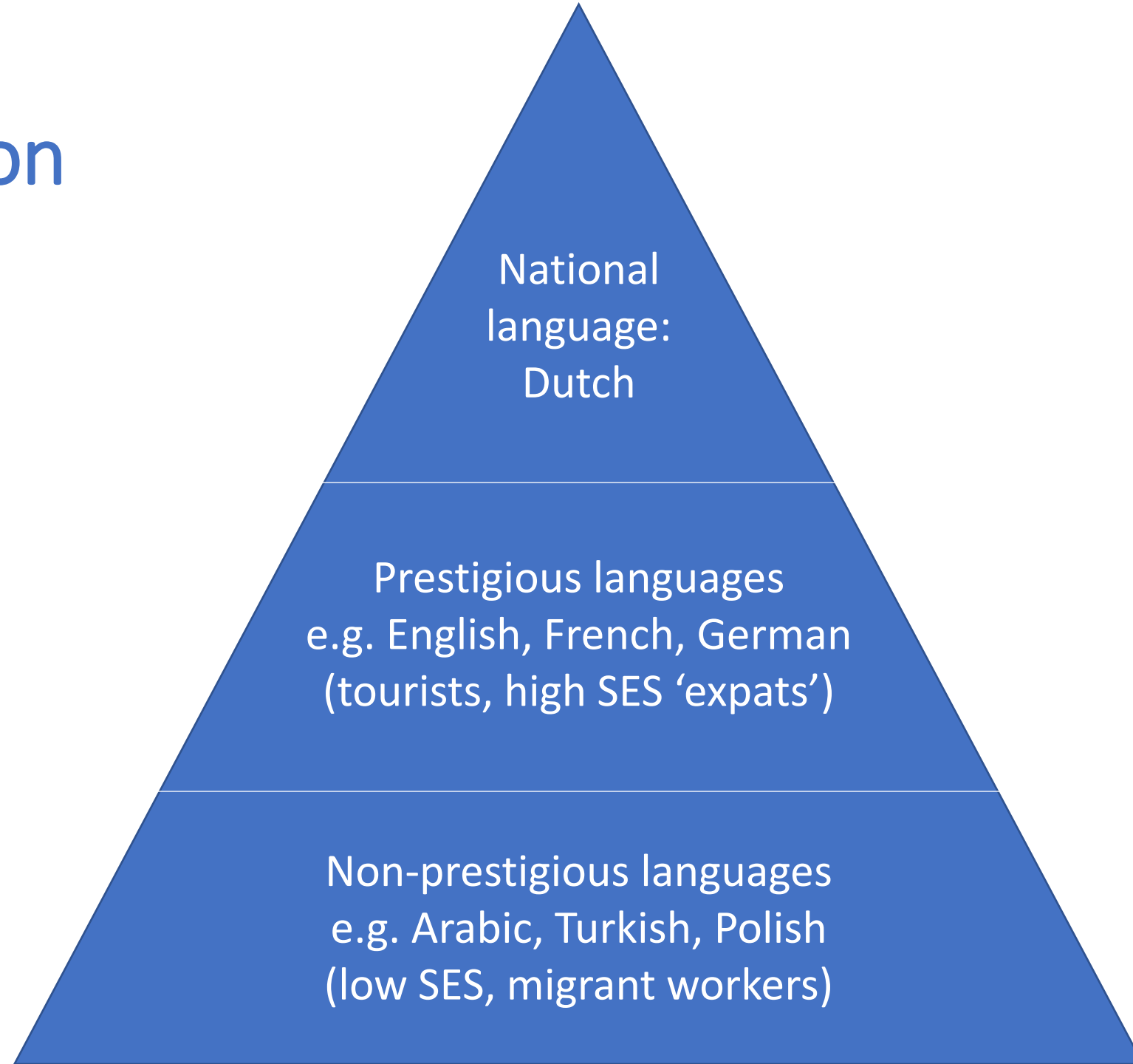
Erected by the City of the Hague, April 2018

Prestige languages on municipal signs

Included languages	Frequency
Dutch	65
English	62
French	21
German	21
Mandarin	7
+ more infrequent languages	



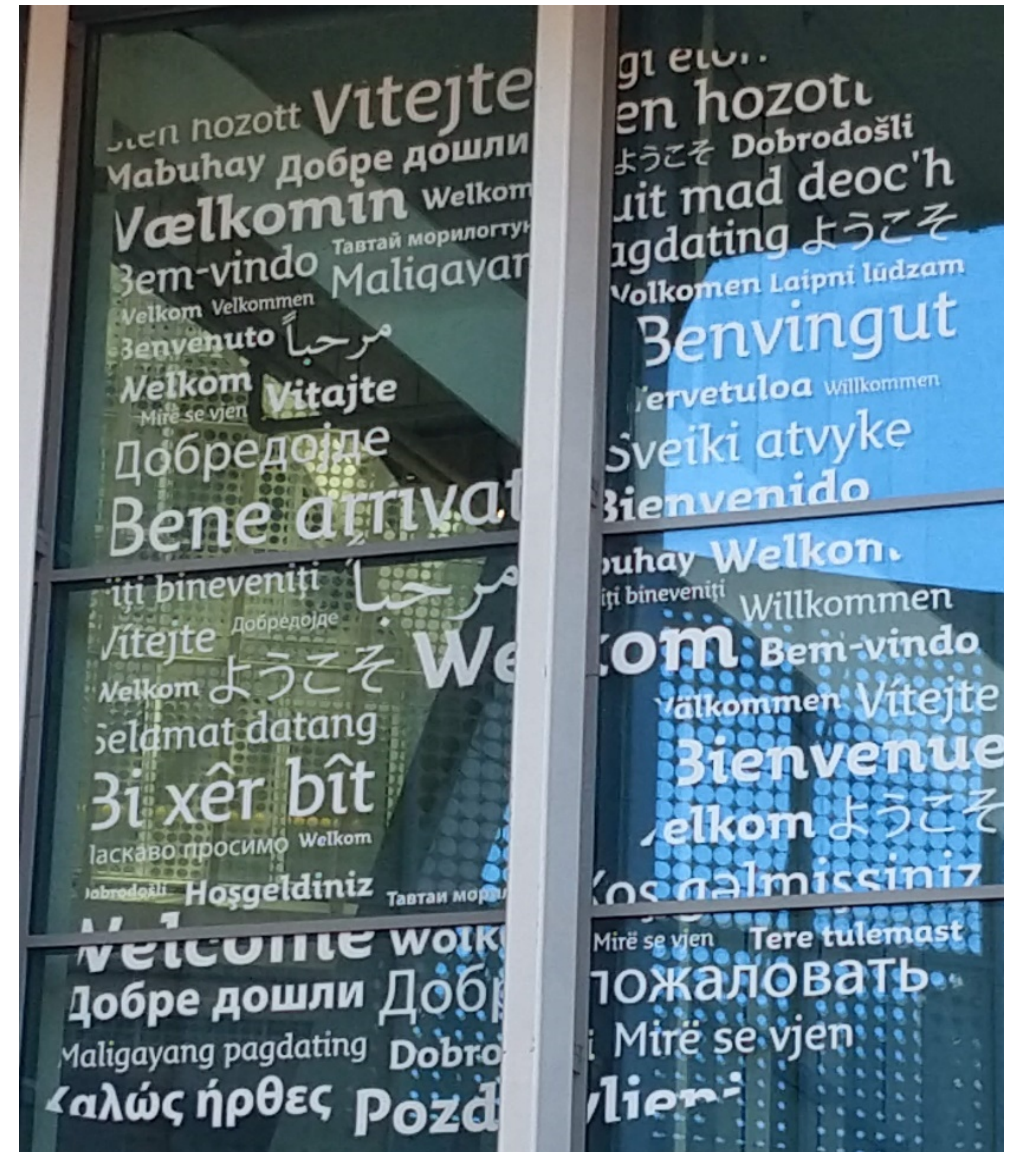
Discussion



Jaspers &
Verschuieren, 2011;
Skrandies, 2016

Discussion

- “linguistic integration and linguistic diversity can be fully compatible and complementary goals of [language policy and planning]” (Skrandies, p. 125)
- New coalition, elections
- New municipal language politics, policies and practices with more room for multilingualism?



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Thank you so much!

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