

Linguistic landscape in Parisian and its suburbs refugee camps : Focus on Urdu-speaking asylum seekers in France



14th Linguistic Landscape Workshop – Utopia and Dystopia
6-8 September 2023, Madrid

Universidad Complutense de Madrid
&

Research Center Multilingualism, Discourse
and Communication (MIRCo)

Shahzaman HAQUE
INALCO, PARIS

Research context

ANR LIMINAL

- French National Research Agency funded project on « Linguistic and Intercultural Mediations in a context of International Migrations »

Migratory crisis

- See infographics [Migratory influx in Europe](#)
- Migration peak in 2015
- Numbers are low since 2016

Some numbers from France

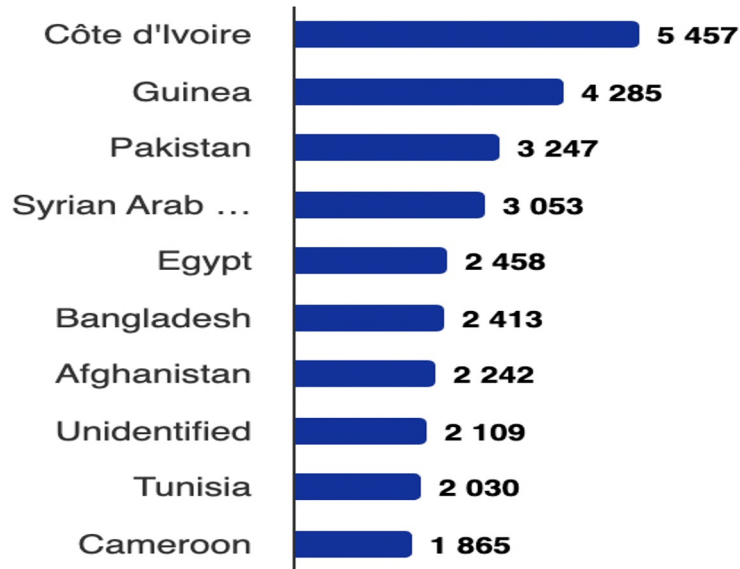
- CIMADE > the number of migrants sent back has augmented by 34% in 2017
 - OFPRA says that the asylum seekers have gone upto 17,5% in 2017.
- In April 2018, the Home Minister Gérard Collomb estimated the number of illegal migrants to around 300/400.000 in France **(Source: Le Journal du Dimanche)**

Arrival of Migrants to EU (Recent data)

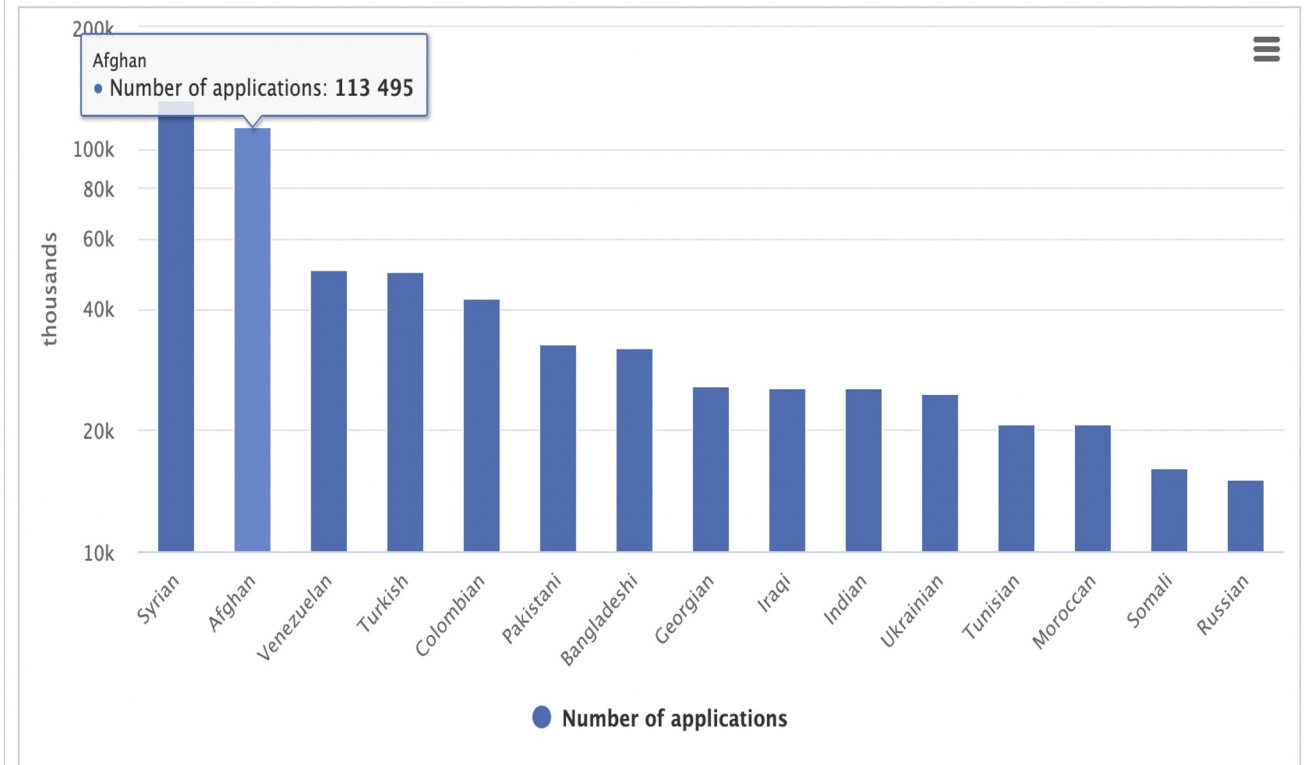
Source : European Commission

Top 10 nationalities of arrivals to Europe

2023



Top 15 nationalities of first time asylum applicants (2022)



Afghanistan / Pakistan

Why Pakistan & Afghanistan ?

Arrival of migrants every month in France

Country Linguistic profile :

	Pakistan	Afghanistan
Language	Urdu, English, Punjabi, 120 +	Dari, Southern Pashto, 41+
Population	240 million	41 million
Religion	Muslim 96.4%	Muslim 99.7%
Literacy	57.9%	37.2%



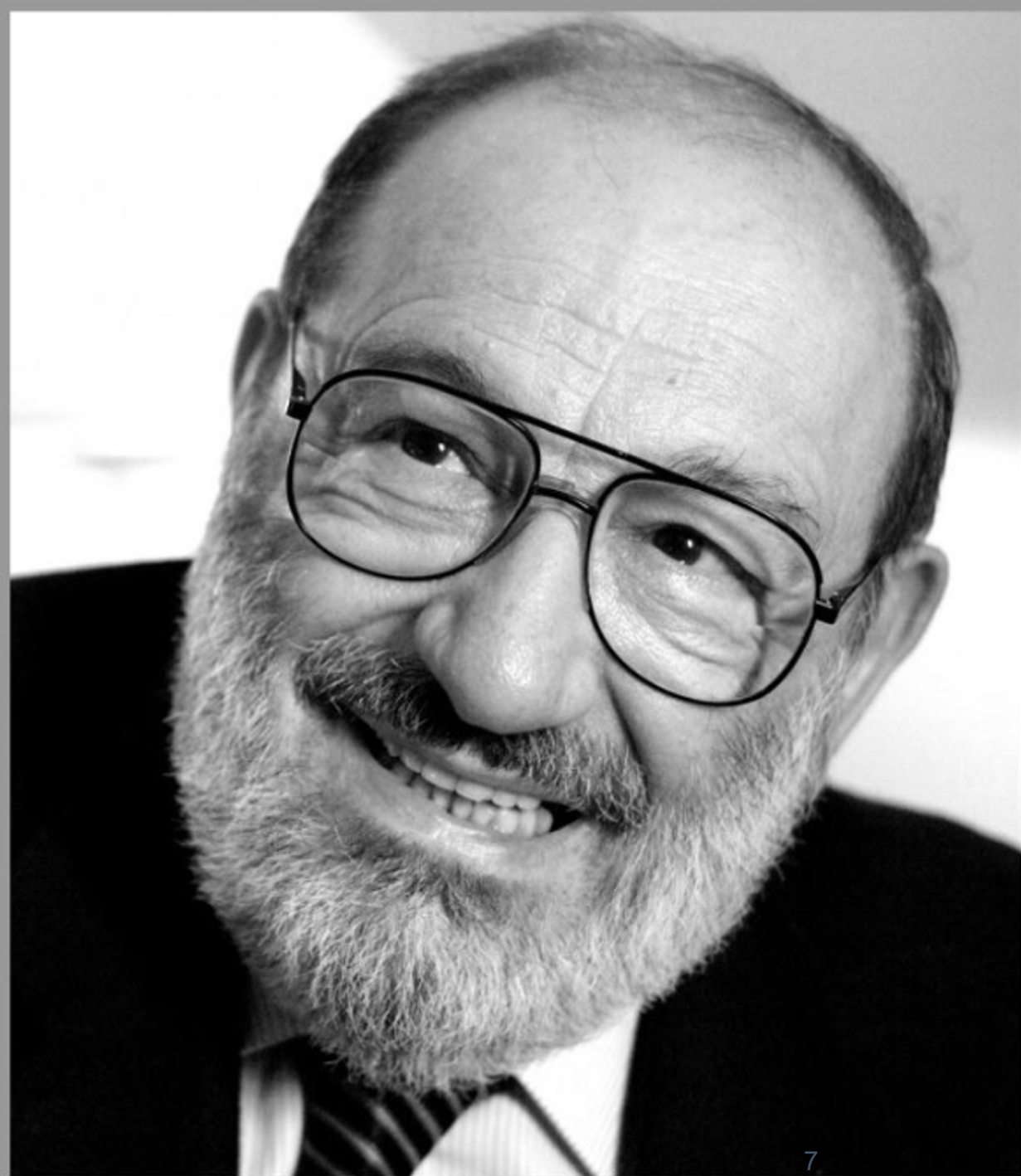
Language usage in different organisms related to migrants

Organisms	Migrants	Language	Translation demand
EMMAÜS	Asylum Seekers	French	Yes Little bit English lingua franca & volunteering
OFPRA	Asylum Seekers	French	Yes, Urdu & Punjabi
CNDA	Asylum Seekers	French	Yes, Urdu Punjabi
CADA	Asylum seekers	French	Yes Urdu & Punjabi
ASE	Minor children	French / English	Yes Urdu & Punjabi
Ecole	Minor children	French	No
Entreprise	Minor children	French	No
OFII	Family Reunion	French	Yes Urdu mostly Punjabi
Prefecture	Family Reunion, AS, Minor children	French	No
Mayor Hall	All above	French	No

“The language of
Europe is the
translation”

Umberto Eco

Italian Philosopher & Novelist
1932-2016



Methodology in the Fieldwork

Ethnographical & qualitative
approach

Participant observation

Narratives of Migrant (De Fina 2003)

Story-telling by Migrants

Fieldwork 1 – Porte de la Chapelle

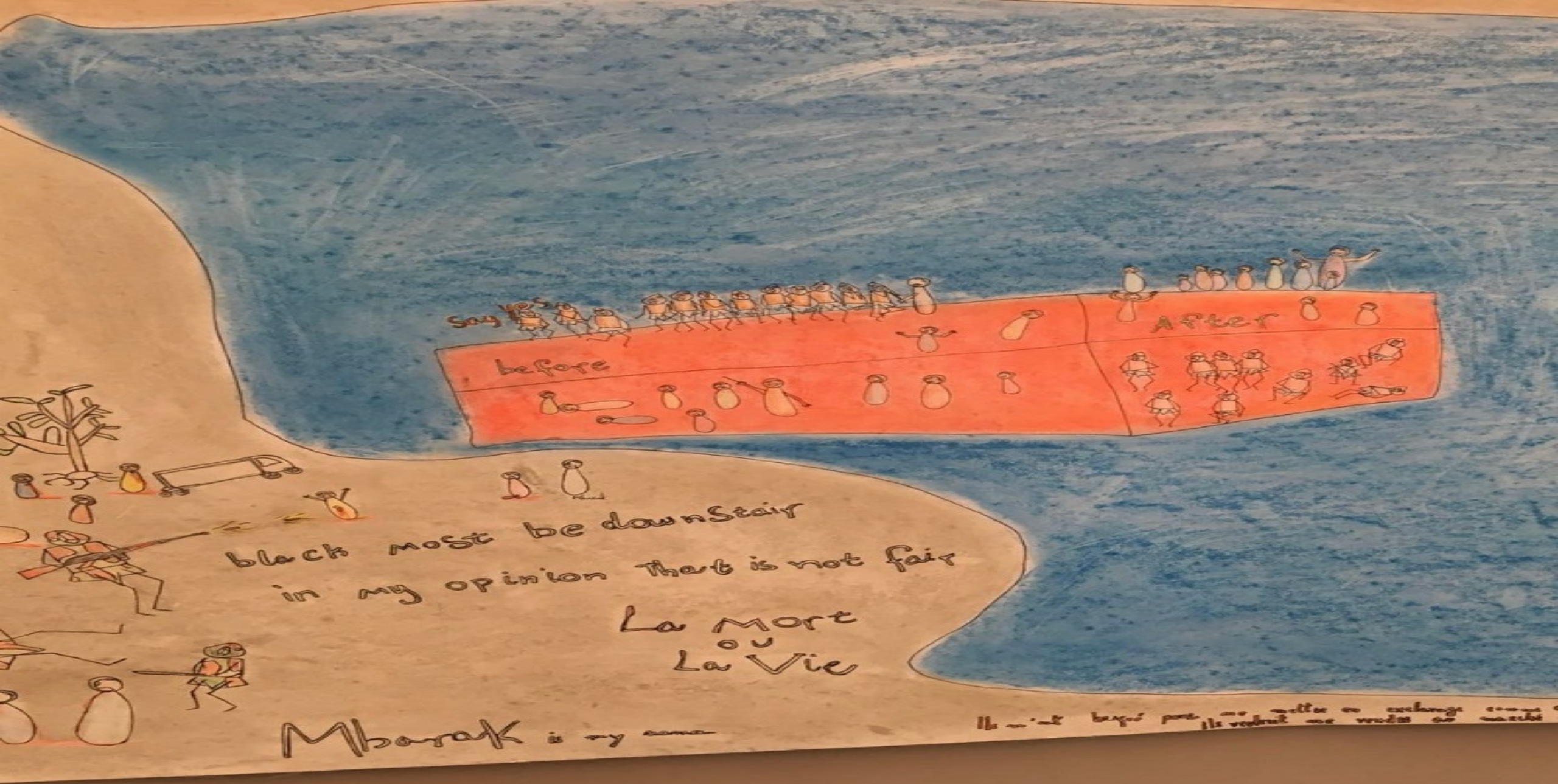
The Balloon (La Bulle)– open in October 2016, closed in April 2018



Image : Google



Image : Shahzaman Haque



S'IL VOUS PLAÎT N'APPORTEZ PAS
D'ALCOOL À L'ACCUEIL DE JOUR !!!
ALCOOL IS FORBIDDEN IN THIS
DAY CENTER, EVEN IN THE COURTYARD !!!

دوسان عزیز در این مکان نوشیدن مشروبات الکلی شدیداً ممنوع میباشد. متشکرم
شکر

دوسان عزیز در این مکان نوشیدن مشروبات الکلی شدیداً ممنوع میباشد. متشکرم
شکر

به هبیب پورتا، ماسکروبا و ده، عالی جوهر ۱۶۷
فرغیوه

Si TU VOYAGES LOIN ----
INTERDIS - TOI L'ALCOOL

L'ALCOOL RÉCHAUFFE UN QUART D'HEURE
MAIS TE FAIT PERDRE TES AMIS ----

من الممكن ان يكون للكحوليات تعذيب
جيد لفترة قصيرة ولكنه سيضر لك كثيراً

ICI PAS D'ALCOOL SVP

منه ممنوع المشروبات الكحولية

Fieldwork 2 : Camping in the North



Image : Shahzaman Haque

Fieldwork 3 – CHUM Ivry-sur-Seine



Image : Shahzaman Haque



Image : Shahzaman Haque



CANICULE, FORTES CHALEURS

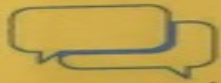
ADOPTÉZ LES BONS RÉFLEXES



Mouiller son corps
et se ventiler



Maintenir sa maison
au frais : fermer
les volets le jour



Donner et prendre
des nouvelles
de ses proches



Manger en
quantité suffisante



Ne pas boire
d'alcool

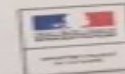


Éviter les efforts
physiques

**BOIRE RÉGULIÈREMENT
DE L'EAU**

EN CAS DE MALAISE, APPELER LE 15

Pour plus d'informations : 0 800 06 66 66 (appel gratuit depuis un poste fixe)
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Santé
publique
France

HORAIRES REPAS

Times for meals

توقيت وجبات الطعام والمشروبات الساخنة



Petit déjeuner

Breakfast time

الفتور

7h/9h

7:00 am to 9:00 am

Déjeuner

Lunch time

الغداء

12h/14h

From 12:00 to 2:00 pm

Diner

العشاء

18h30/20h

6 :30 pm to 8 pm

MERCI DE JETER LES DETRITUS
DANS LA POUBELLE



Please throw the waste in the garbage

يرجى رمي القمامة في سلة المهملات

ATTENTION AUX VOLS !

Gardez vos portables, vos papiers
et votre argent sur vous.



Be careful to pickpockets, keep your papers,
phone, and money secure.

المرجو الانتباه من السرقة المركز (أوراق، نقود، هواتف)
غير مسؤول عن ضياع أغراضكم الخاصة

IL EST INTERDIT DE
FUMER SUR L'ENSEMBLE
DE LA HALLE



Smoking is forbidden inside the center
ممنوع التدخين في كل أرجاء المركز.

INTERDICTI



Décret n° 2017-833 du 25 04 17 re-
conditionne d'application de l'interdit
voter dans les lieux de travail fermés
à usage collectif.

Pour arrêter de fumer, faites-vous aid,
appelez le :

3900 (0,15€/min, depuis un poste fixe, Tabac
Service)



NE PAS DEBRANCHER LE PHOTOMATON
DO NOT DISCONNECT



POUR CHARGER LES TELEPHONES PORTABLES
TO CHARGE MOBILE PHONES



Emma & Nasr

Travailleur sociaux

Social workers

ማህበራዊ ስራተኞች

الأخصائيين الاجتماعيين














shaqaalaha bulshada

asistenți sociali

تولنيز كارمندان





ADULTS FRENCH CLASS

	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY
M O R N I N G	<p>10:00 - 11:00 am</p> <p>Beginner Advanced</p>  <p>YOURTE 7 YOURTE 8</p>	<p>10:00 - 11:00 am</p> <p>Beginner Advanced</p>  <p>YOURTE 7 YOURTE 8</p>	<p>10:00 - 11:00 am</p> <p>Beginner Advanced</p>  <p>YOURTE 7 YOURTE 8</p>	<p>10:00 - 11:00 am</p> <p>Beginner Advanced</p>  <p>YOURTE 7 YOURTE 8</p>
	<p>11:30 - 12:30 am</p> <p>Groupe 4 Advanced</p>  <p>YOURTE 7 YOURTE 8</p>	<p>11:30 - 12:30 am</p> <p>Beginner Advanced</p>  <p>YOURTE 7 YOURTE 8</p>	<p>11:30 - 12:30 am</p> <p>Beginner Advanced</p>  <p>YOURTE 7 YOURTE 8</p>	<p>11:30 - 12:30 am</p> <p>Beginner Advanced</p>  <p>YOURTE 7 YOURTE 8</p>
A F T E R N O O N	<p>1:30 - 3:30 pm</p> <p>FOR EVERYBODY</p>  <p>in the school</p>	<p>1:30 - 3:30 pm</p> <p>FOR EVERYBODY</p>  <p>in the school</p>	<p>1:30 - 3:30 pm</p> <p>FOR EVERYBODY</p>  <p>in the school</p>	
E V E N I N G	<p>7:30 - 8:30 pm</p> <p>Beginner Advanced</p>  <p>YOURTE 7 YOURTE 8</p>	<p>7:30 - 8:30 pm</p> <p>Beginner Advanced</p>  <p>YOURTE 7 YOURTE 8</p>	<p>7:30 - 8:30 pm</p> <p>Beginner Advanced</p>  <p>YOURTE 7 YOURTE 8</p>	

Room 1 - 5 Blue pâle
Chambre 1-5 Bleu pâle
Room 6 - 9 Green Fonce
Room 6 - 9 Vert fonce
Room 10 - 13 Vert pâle
Chambre 10 - 13 Vert pâle

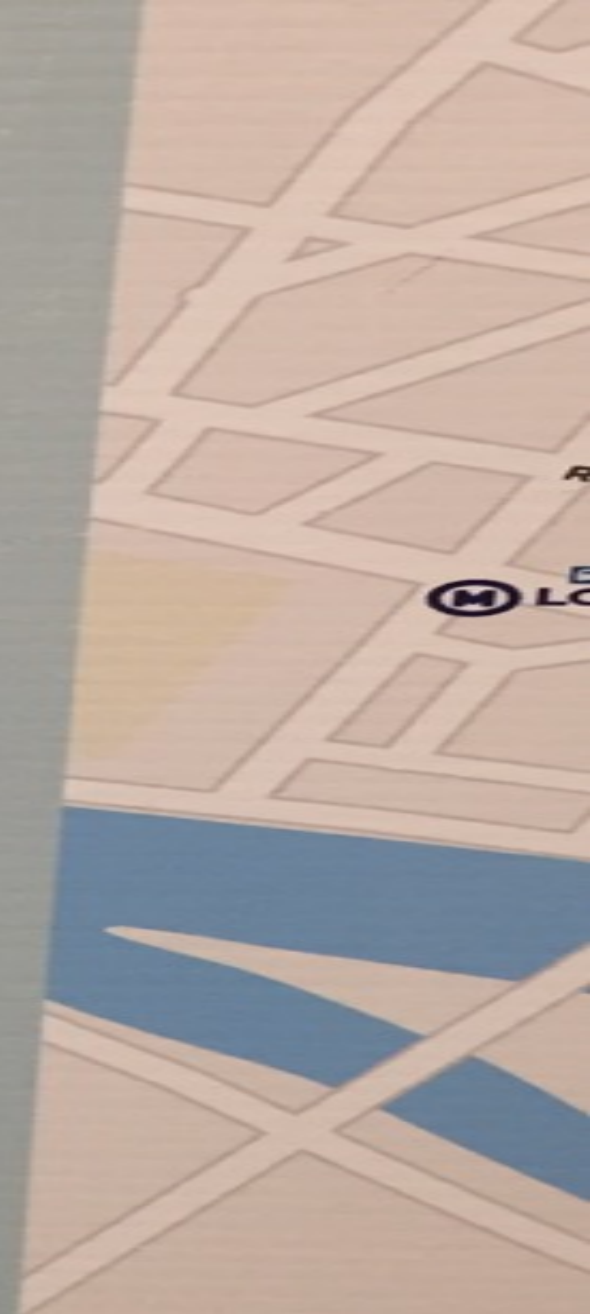


OÙ ME FAIRE SOIGNER ?

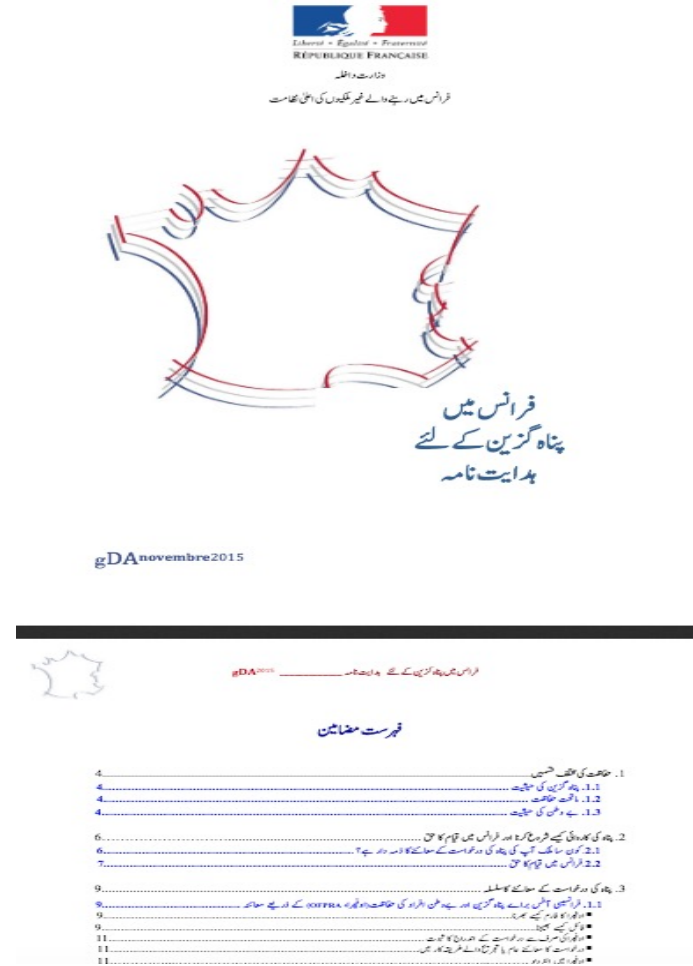
- 22** **HÔPITAL LARIBOISIÈRE - PASS**
Du lundi au vendredi 8h-16h hors
jours fériés
2, rue Ambroise-Paré 75010 Paris
01 49 95 81 73/85 65
- 23** **HÔPITAL SAINT-LOUIS - PASS**
Du lundi au vendredi 8h-17h30 hors
jours fériés
1, avenue Claude-Vellefaux 75010 Paris
01 42 49 91 30
- 24**  **HÔPITAL ROBERT-DEBRÉ**
PASS / FEMMES ET FAMILLES
Moins de 18 ans et femmes enceintes
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01 71 28 25 76
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HORS CARTE

HÔPITAL PITIÉ- SALPÉTRIÈRE - PASS



Translated documents in Urdu for migrants



Immigrants from Pakistan/Afghanistan

Asylum-seekers



Linguistic landscape in refugees centres

Total of 106 signs

- Primarily informative or directive in nature

Instruction

- *signs to washing facilities/canteen/social area*
- *in canteen = menu, meal times, cleaning, instructions*
- *in sleeping quarters: instructions re heating, lights, noise, drying*
- *to the sanitary facilities - toilets and washing facilities*

Some general signs

- Visits
- Events
- Transport
- Pick up point for interviews
- Allocation of rooms

Few monolingual signs in France
Omnipresence of English
Some presence of Arabic
Linguistic sign + Pictogram
Some pictograms without language

Audioscape and linguistic interaction Fieldwork :

Porte de la Chapelle & CHUM Ivry

Porte de la Chapelle

- *Observed in social spaces : recreational area and canteen*
- *Marked by relative silence*
- *Sounds of French from television playing softly in background*
- *Subdued sounds of various languages from the mobile phone interactions between residents and their families (skype/wechat/whatsapp, etc.)*
- *Meal times : sounds of French and English (some Arabic) from canteen staff to the residents*
- *Rather minimal conversation between residents at meal times even if they share the same language (minimal use of vehicular languages for this interaction)*

CHUM Ivry-sur-Seine

- *Several igloos fabricated pour la cantine et pour l'atelier de français*
- *French is spoken by the social workers or in the offices of Emmaüs who runs the centre.*
- *Several languages are spoken in the Centre among the migrants : Pashto, Urdu, Dari, Arabic, Rromani, Tigrigina. English remains the lingua franca*
- *Meal times : French, Arabic, English, Other languages*

Migralecte

Concept of Migralect

Case of Urdu

Some Examples :

Prefecture (French) → Prafekchar

Agent (English) → ejant

Case (English) → asile

<https://www.migralect.org/article56.html>

10-11
SEPT
2019

L'urgence dans les langues

interactions, médiations et
inventions langagières en migration



Colloque international Liminal @ Inalco
65, rue des Grands Moulins - 75013 PARIS
Entrée libre sans inscription



Mara Matta (U. La Sapienza, Rome) : Words of Hope, Rehearsals of Freedom: the Glossary of Survival and Other Bengali Language 'Travel Documents'.

« Prafekchar », « ejent », « waraq » : les mots des demandeurs d'asile racontent leur histoire

Publié: 28 juillet 2020, 20:02 CEST · Mis à jour le : 8 septembre 2020, 19:46 CEST



Une femme somalienne réfugiée sous une tente dans un camp sur le bassin de la Villette à Paris le 27 mai 2020. Christophe ARCHAMBAULT / AFP

auteur



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Co-Directeur, Département Asie du sud et l'Himalaya, Institut national des langues et civilisations orientales (Inalco)

Déclaration d'intérêts

Shahzaman Haque est membre du projet Liminal (<https://liminal.hypotheses.org/> *) 2017-2021 (Médiation linguistique et culturelle entre acteurs en situation de crise migratoire, programme ANR porté par l'INALCO-Langues'O) qui se renseigne sur les questions des pratiques langagières des migrants.

Partenaires



Institut national des langues et civilisations orientales (Inalco) apporte un financement en tant que membre adhérent de The Conversation FR.

[Voir les partenaires](#) de The Conversation France



Conclusion

The linguistic environment and landscape introduce the residents to the language regimes they will be subjected to in France

01

The endorsement of English as the global lingua franca

02

The reliance of 'multilingual' volunteers as interpreters

03

Truncated competency allows to have a minimum functional contact

04

Urdu emerged as a link language among the South Asian Asylum seekers

05

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