

Language Choice Bingo

Objectives:

1. Identify patterns of language choice among heritage language speakers
2. Reflect on factors (e.g., identity, context) that influence heritage vs. majority language use across different real-world scenarios
3. Foster an appreciation for both diversity and similarities in language practices across heritage language speakers

Description:

We begin the game by handing out a worksheet containing 19 real-life scenarios, such as communicating with a medical professional and chatting with old friends. In each scenario, participants are invited to reflect on what language they use in the given context: English, or their heritage language(s). Individually, participants mark each scenario with a colour indicating the language they use. Next, individuals are paired up and asked to compare worksheets and discuss their findings. The pair with the most similar bingo cards wins the game. In this way, participants can reflect on their language choices and experiences. Facilitators encourage participants to consider why these patterns exist (i.e., social networks, language-specific resources) and explore their connections to personal experiences and community practices.