



Faculty of Language
and Literature, Humanities,
Arts and Education

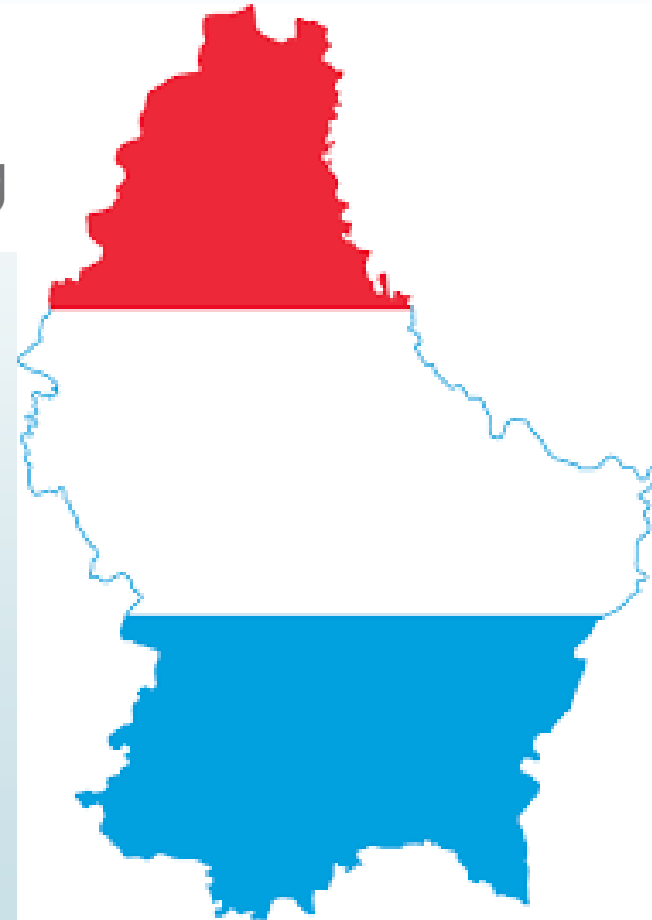
Digital Media as Language and Literacy Learning Spaces in Multilingual Families (DigiFam)

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DigiFam at a glance



Fonds National de la
Recherche Luxembourg



Research location



Why digital language and literacy learning now?



Digital Media for Language and Literacy Learning in Families

- Video calls for speaking and listening skills (King-O'Riain 2015)
- Messenger or WhatsApp for practicing writing and reading in home and societal languages (Lexander 2020, Palviainen & Kedra 2020, Al Salmi & Smith 2015)
- language and literacy learning often linked to joint activities with digital media (Kheirkhah and Cekaite, 2017; de la Piedra, 2010; Parven, 2015)
- Parents often act as mediators but there is also evidence of child agency (Eisenclas et al. 2016; Little, 2019; Palviainen and Kedra 2020)

Research questions

In what ways and to what extent are digital media used for language and literacy learning in multilingual transnational families in Luxembourg?

- SQ1: *What digital media* do different family members use for language and literacy learning?
- SQ2: *What language and literacy learning practices* do the family members engage in using these tools?
- SQ3: In what ways do different family members use digital media to create opportunities for *joint and individual* language and literacy learning?

Data collection

Preparatory stage: focus group with parents



Stage 1: Parent Survey

November-December 2021



Stage 2: Case Studies

April 2022-March 2023



Focus Group: Preliminary Insights

- Parents and children learn multiple languages and draw to various extents on digital media
- Learning on purpose vs. incidental learning :
 - **Duolingo**, WhatsApp, dedicated language learning platforms, **online translators (deepL, gogle translate)**, Skype lessons, online dictionaries
 - **gaming platforms**, YouTube, searching for information in English, Microsoft Teams (hanging out with friends)
- Digital media helpful in developing language skills: spelling, vocabulary, pronunciation (google translate!)
- Ambivalent feelings about learning with digital media: useful but too much screentime

Way forward



Thank you very much!

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