

FINAL RESUME ON THE RESEARCH UNIT:

Dynamique du langage (DDL)

UNDER THE SUPERVISION OF THE FOLLOWING INSTITUTIONS AND RESEARCH BODIES:

Centre national de la recherche scientifique –
CNRS

Université Lumière - Lyon 2

EVALUATION CAMPAIGN 2019-2020
GROUP A



In the name of Hcéres¹:

Nelly Dupin, Acting
President

In the name of the experts committee²:

Frédéric Isel, Chairman of the committee

Under the decree No.2014-1365 dated 14 November 2014,

¹ The president of Hcéres "countersigns the evaluation reports set up by the experts committees and signed by their chairman." (Article 8, paragraph 5);

² The evaluation reports "are signed by the chairman of the experts committee". (Article 11, paragraph 2).

Tables in this report were filled with data submitted by the supervising body on behalf the unit.

UNIT PRESENTATION

Unit name:	Dynamique du langage
Unit acronym:	DDL
Current label and N°:	UMR 5596
ID RNSR:	199412029F
Application type:	Renewal
Head of the unit (2018-2020):	Mr Antoine Guillaume
Project leader (2021-2025):	Mr Antoine Guillaume
Number of teams and/or themes:	3

EXPERTS COMMITTEE MEMBERS

Chair:	Mr Frédéric Isel, Université Paris Nanterre
Experts:	Ms Evangelia Adamou, CNRS (CoNRS) Ms Anāïd Donabedian-Demopoulos (CNU) Mr Steven Gillis, University of Antwerp, Belgium Mr Michel Jacobson, CNRS (Supporting personnel) Mr Johann-Mattis List, Max Planck Institute for the Science of Human History, Jena, Germany

HCÉRES REPRESENTATIVE

Ms Anne Carlier

REPRESENTATIVES OF SUPERVISING BODIES

Ms Isabelle von Bueltzingsloewen, University of Lyon 2
Ms Hamida Demirdache, CNRS

INTRODUCTION

HISTORY AND GEOGRAPHICAL LOCATION OF THE UNIT

The Dynamique Du Langage (DDL) laboratory was created in 1994 and is a joint research unit of the CNRS (UMR5596) and the University Lumière Lyon 2. Since 2011, the DDL laboratory is one of the founding members of the ASLAN LabEx "Advanced studies on language complexity" in collaboration with the Interaction, Corpus, Apprentissages, Représentations (ICAR) laboratory - UMR 5191. DDL also is a member of the Maison des Sciences de l'Homme - Lyon Saint-Étienne (MSH-LSE, USR2005) with 28 offices, a break room and a library (2,316 books including 550 grammars). These workspaces represent around 300 m². As part of the MSH-LSE, DDL also has three experimental rooms (behavior, electroencephalography and kinematics of movement). In addition, the MSH-LSE provides its member laboratories (around fifty) with 1 conference room, 9 meeting rooms, and 4 specific rooms (videoconference, soundproofed, cafeteria, server room). Moreover, the MSH-LSE offers a number of services, the most important of which for DDL are IT (network, messaging, wifi), telephony and audio-visual production support. A third important site research structure for DDL is the Lyon Collegium of French (RFIEA) and the European networks of Institutes for Advanced Studies (NETIAS), which finances annual stays of 5 or 10 months for internationally renowned researchers.

Geographically, the DDL laboratory is housed within the Maison des Sciences de l'Homme - Lyon Saint-Étienne in Lyon (USR2005).

MANAGEMENT TEAM

Head of the unit (2014-2017): Ms Sophie Kern

Head of the unit (2018- now): Mr Antoine Guillaume

HCÉRES NOMENCLATURE

SHS4 Esprit humain, langage, éducation

SHS4_1 Linguistique

THEMATICS

The two original themes of the DDL laboratory are phonology of African languages and discourse acquisition in school-aged children.

Over time, the unit has been able to evolve and reorganize, in particular under the impetus of new thematic opportunities.

Among these themes, let us mention the morphosyntactic descriptions of languages spoken in Latin America and Africa contributing to a widening of research in typology.

The work on language development then no longer relates solely to the school period but has now extended to the pre-linguistic and linguistic development of younger children.

Since the 2000s, work has emerged on cognitive language processing in typical populations (monolingual, bilingual) but also in populations suffering from pathologies (premature, children with dyslexia or with a developmental disorder of oral language, Alzheimer patients, etc.) as well as research on the origins and evolution of languages. Most of the work is carried out from a lifespan perspective.

From the 2010s, a large number of works on the question of endangered languages and their revitalization and on linguistic complexity have emerged.

Finally, more recently, a new stage has been marked by the strengthening of interdisciplinary approaches involving disciplines outside of the SSH (Humanities and Social Sciences), in particular relating to life sciences and environment.

UNIT WORKFORCE

Dynamique du langage, DDL		
Active staff	Number 06/30/2019	Number 01/01/2021
Full professors and similar positions	2	2
Assistant professors and similar positions	11	10
Full time research directors (Directeurs de recherche) and similar positions	4	4
Full time research associates (Chargés de recherche) and similar positions	5	4
Other scientists ("Conservateurs, cadres scientifiques des EPIC, fondations, industries, etc.")	0	
High school teachers	0	
Supporting personnel (ITAs, BIATSSs and others, notably of EPICs)	7	6
Permanent staff	29	26
Non-permanent professors and associate professors, including emeritus	5	
Non-permanent full time scientists, including emeritus, post-docs (except PhD students)	2	
PhD Students	16	
Non-permanent supporting personnel	10	
Non-permanent staff	33	
Total	62	26

GLOBAL ASSESSMENT OF THE UNIT

The unit DDL has been able to renew itself while continuing to position its work on functioning of language, at the interface between the diversity of languages spoken in the world and the universality of cognitive capacity that enables human beings to communicate. Its interdisciplinary approaches bring together human and social sciences (linguistics, anthropology, ethnology, psychology, cognitive sciences) but also life sciences (neurosciences, population genetics), information sciences (modeling, databases) or complexity (modeling of networks, complex dynamic systems). The recruitment of two researchers in neurolinguistics has strengthened the synergies between the different disciplines convened in the unit. Moreover, the functioning of the experimental platform in electroencephalography (EEG) is now ensured by an engineer occupying a permanent position.

DDL expertise remains both nationally and internationally recognized in key areas such as the description of endangered languages, typology, historical linguistics and the origins of language, although the positions of departed researchers in these areas have not been filled. The unit has also amplified its work on the description and documentation of little or undescribed languages, the interaction between language and cognition, language development in children and their disorders, the origins of language(s).

The unit continues to successfully develop a project policy with 2/3 of all resources coming from own fundings. During the five-year period, the unit obtained 10 ANR as principal carrier or partner, 7 international contracts (ELDP / SOAS), and a significant number of financings and grants - mainly international (France-Berkeley Funds, WGF, SATT Pulsalys, France-Canada Research Fund Grant, CEMCA Mexico, COST Action 1401 and 1406, etc.).

DDL demonstrated a realistic management of human resources in order to structure the research activities around its three research strands and to increase the inter-thematic synergies despite the absence of specific transversality instruments. For the next five-year period, the interaction between the two preserved research axes will be reinforced by the creation of one inter-thematic project (a second inter-thematic project is also being considered). DDL has also continued to develop links with different partners on its geographical perimeter such as the MSH-LSE of which he is a member, the ASLAN LabEx, and the "Collegium de Lyon".

The diversity and originality of the themes developed at DDL, its significant international visibility (publications, co-funded projects, hosting of foreign researchers), and its ability to find funding undoubtedly positions DDL in an original way at regional, national and international level on several interdisciplinary themes of excellence. DDL occupies an important place in the French research system in language sciences. Nevertheless, there are still a few challenges to be addressed such as, for example, the open access policy, the societal valorization and the exploitation of the high interdisciplinary potential of the unit. A policy of encouraging PhD students to prepare their career through international publications also remains a priority.

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