Equality isn’t all it’s cracked up to be: The price of duality and bilingualism

Alexandra Roberts-Mendel
Map of Canada

- Map taken from Wikimedia Commons
New Brunswick

- Map taken from Wikimedia Commons
Social Context

- New Brunswick
  - Population: 751,171
  - 31.9% Francophone; or 234,410
  - Only bilingual province
  - Some monolingual francophone regions

- Greater Moncton
  - Population: 138,644
  - 34.3% Francophone; or 47,525
  - Economic center
  - One of the only officially bilingual cities
  - Francophone migration
  - Language Contact: Bilingualism
Study

- 10 descriptors:
  - language, Anglophone, Francophone, English, French, duality, signage, bilingualism, Acadian, linguistic

- Proquest database
- Telegraph Journal and Times & Transcript
- 17 months, 35 articles in 2 newspapers/month
An Introduction to Discourse Analysis Theory and Method

- James Paul Gee (2010)
- Conversations
- Discourse: ways of combining and integrating language, actions, interactions, ways of thinking, believing, valuing, and using various symbols, tools, and objects to enact a particular sort of socially recognizable identity.
- Figured World
Research Questions

- What are conversations regarding language rights and legislation, and the linguistic ideologies that manifest in the discourse of Anglophone and bilingual Francophone contributors?
- How is linguistic duality in New Brunswick’s healthcare system represented in New Brunswick’s Anglophone newspapers?
Two Representative Texts

- Prescribe Restraint
  October 27, 2012
  Telegraph Journal

- Duality talks are extremely frustrating
  October 29, 2012
  Anglophone
  Telegraph Journal
Future Research

- Corpus analysis on textual data
- Representation of Francophone population by bilingual Francophone authors
- Conversations regarding bilingual education
Thank you!