



Linguistic Justice Division

Research Consortium on Gender-Based Violence

Integrating a Linguistic Justice Approach When Creating a Research Budget

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Budget Considerations

■ Overview

This brief document a) outlines the importance of language access, b) highlights the differences between language access and linguistic justice and c) offers general considerations when creating a budget for a study that will include survivors of gender-based violence that may not identify English as their preferred language.

■ Human and Civil Rights

According to the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, Art. 22, all individuals are entitled to “the economic, social and cultural rights indispensable for [his/her] dignity and the free development of [his/her] personality.” Language is an intrinsic part of a person’s identity. If deprived of access to information in their native language, a survivor will likely experience a set of uncomfortable and potentially harmful consequences. Additionally, in the US, Title VI states that “no person in the United States shall, on the ground of race, color, or national origin, be excluded from participation in, be denied the benefits of, or be subjected to discrimination under any program or activity receiving Federal financial assistance” (Civil Rights Act, 1964).

In the context of research with survivors of gender-based violence, ensuring meaningful and equitable access to language support is critical to protect survivors from further victimization. When interviewing survivors, language access typically refers to providing participants with all the research materials and information in their preferred language and is a central part of ensuring survivors’ safety.

■ From Language Access to Language Justice

Language or Linguistic Justice goes beyond language access. The term ‘linguistic justice’ is defined as the right everyone has to communicate in the language in which we feel most comfortable, proficient, and powerful (Antena Aire, 2014). That means providing opportunities for research participants to materials in their preferred language and the opportunity to engage and communicate in that language as well. Integrating a language justice framework to research procedures is critical to not only ensure that the research process is not causing harm, but also to create a space where participating in research can foster participants’ healing process.

In multilingual research with survivors, it is important to consider what it will take to integrate a linguistic justice framework throughout the research process. That is, what are the issues to consider in every stage of the study, from the preparation of research materials in multiple languages, to hiring and supervision of data collection procedures, to the analysis and interpretation of the data.

■ Budget Considerations

When creating a budget for a study that may involve interviews in multiple languages with survivors from diverse backgrounds, it is important to determine whether your funding will support these efforts. For example, you may need to translate research materials and data, hire multilingual and multicultural data collection staff, and ensure that you have a diverse data analysis team to support a culturally and contextually responsive interpretation of the data.

If your funding does not support these efforts, you might need to engage a team of volunteers. Consider, what other benefits/skills can you offer if you are unable to pay for their work? Alternatively, you may need to consider whether it is appropriate to conduct interviews with participants who do not identify English as their preferred language if funding is not available to support multilingual and multilingual staff.

The following questions may provide a guide for estimating a project's language justice needs (See **Planning Worksheet** for a more structured guide):

- What is your estimated sample size? How many participants do you estimate will not identify English as their preferred language?

- What are the other languages you anticipate working with? How many participants per language?

- Will you hire multilingual and multicultural data collectors? How will you assess their language fluency and cultural competence? How will you supervise them?

- Will you need to translate materials? What materials need translation?

- Will you need to hire interpreters?

- Do you have multilingual and multicultural members in your data analytic team that will participate in the interpretation of results?

References

Antena Aire. (2014). *How to Build Language Justice*. http://antenaantena.org/wp-content/uploads/2012/06/langjust_eng.pdf

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