CANCELLED: Superdiversity or acculturation? Evidence form Swedish migrants in France.

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Research from postmodernist theories have rejected and deconstructed notions such as ‘native speaker’ and ‘L1/L2’. Instead notions such as ‘superdiversity’ (e.g. Blommaert & Rampton, 2011) and ‘liquid modernity’ (Bauman, 2013) have been proposed. For some language use contexts and for some individuals, these reframings are highly useful and applicable – it can indeed be difficult to determine native speaker status and also meaningless from the individual’s and from society’s perspective. However, not all social contexts are the same, which obviously puts its limitations to the theoretical extension of a notion such as ‘superdiversity’. Research within critical sociolinguistics definitely have a strong case for pointing out the pivotal role of social contexts and power relations for SLA research and I will argue that this has been neglected in mainstream SLA. Nevertheless, critical sociolinguists tend to focus on individuals and learners in certain contexts (big cities, socially disfavoured migrants), with some exceptions such as Moyer (2013, 2016). More monolingual contexts and more socially favoured migrants tend to be overlooked. Migration can indeed take place for many reasons and migratory experiences and language learning outcomes will differ in just as many respects. In this presentation, I will discuss data from Swedish adult migrants in France who have moved to Paris for ‘cultural’ reasons i.e. they appreciate the culture and language and make a deliberate choice to live in this host community. Through linguistic analyses and ethnographic interviews it becomes quite clear that a native speaker norm is highly present for these participants and that their language use is highly oriented towards nativelikeness. I will argue that, for this specific population of migrants and language learners, ‘acculturation’ (Schumann, 1986) is a more adequate term than ‘superdiversity’ and that the native speaker norm is highly vital in this context.

Keywords: superdiversity, acculturation, native speaker, norm, migrant.