Independence in Catalonia, Spain: The Causes Which Impel Them to Separation

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Why Catalonia?

- Personal experience
- Global context
Literature

- Language revolutions
- Ethnic identity
- Culture and language as tactics
- Evolution of nationalism
Research Question

- To what extent does language affect or play a role in the independence movement of Catalonia, Spain?

- Global significance: Culture and language in independence movements occurring across the world
Research Design

Hypotheses

Language has:
- No effect
- Moderate effect
- Major (sole) effect

Data

- Are there political and economic factors?
- Do citizens view language as a factor?
- Opinion poll results, studies on language, and scholarly articles
Results

Language plays a moderate to major role as a motivator for independence

- Language acts as a sign of identity
- Language value causes cultural disparity
- Economy is an equal motivating factor
Results

Language plays a **moderate to major role** as a motivator for independence

- Language acts as a sign of identity
  - Catalan people feel immense pride
  - Distinct culture and language
  - It belongs to a particular people
Language plays a **moderate to major role** as a motivator for independence

- **Language value causes cultural disparity**
  - Hierarchy in school and social systems
  - Language can gain popularity through language planning
  - Language is topic of social injustice
Results

Language plays a **moderate to major role** as a motivator for independence

- Economy is an equal motivating factor
  - …but not the pivotal factor of independence
  - Fiscal deficit is reducing economic growth and wellbeing
Conclusion

Implications and Significance

■ Many factors act as motivators:
  ○ Economy, politics, society, culture, etc.

■ Language has a moderate to major effect on independence movement