

A light blue world map serves as the background, overlaid with a network of thin white lines connecting various points across the continents, suggesting global connectivity or migration patterns.

# INTERNATIONAL MIGRATION: THE IMPACT OF LINGUISTIC PROXIMITY ON PREFERRED DESTINATIONS

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A faint world map in the background, overlaid with a network of white lines and dots representing migration routes and destinations. The lines connect various points across the continents, illustrating global mobility.

## SUBHEADING

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migrants select destination countries based on:

- employment prospect
- safety and openness of the society
- linguistic proximity

A faint world map in the background with a network of white lines connecting various points across the continents, suggesting global communication or travel.

# INDRODUCTION

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- linguistic proximity's importance → it avoids creating linguistic and cultural barriers
- key to successful transfer:
  - fluency in destination language
  - ability to learn it quickly

# THE ROLE OF LINGUISTIC DISTANCE IN MIGRATION

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- 20% higher migration rates between countries with more similar languages
- impact of linguistic proximity
  - lower than impact of ethnic networks or income pro capite
  - stronger than impact of differences in unemployment rates

A light blue world map with white lines representing migration flows between various countries. The lines are more dense in some regions, particularly in Europe and North America, indicating higher migration volumes. The map is centered on the Atlantic Ocean.

# ROBUSTNESS ANALYSES

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- migration flows to countries with similar language 19-35% higher than to those with dissimilar language
- determinant like linguistic proximity affects origin countries with educated workers



# WIDELY SPOKEN LANGUAGES AS AN ADDITIONAL PULL FACTOR IN MIGRATION

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- widely spoken languages (like English) → migration pull factor
- English → language that creates fewer barriers to migration, reason:
  - widely used in international transactions and media
  - taught in many countries as second language
  - asset in labour market across the world

A faint world map in the background with a network of white lines connecting various points across the continents, suggesting global communication or migration patterns.

# LINGUISTIC ENCLAVES

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- linguistic proximity matters less in the presence, in the destination country, of large enclaves with a first similar language, because:
  - pressure to learn the country destination's language immediately is lower
  - migrants can find psychological support and practical information
- linguistic or cultural enclaves slow down migrants' socio-economic adaptation in the new country

# LANGUAGE-BASED IMMIGRATION POLICY REQUIREMENTS

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- linguistic proximity important especially in the presence of immigration policies (in destination's country)
- migration flows to countries with stricter language requirements are smaller