

**Title:** Willingness to Communicate in a Second Language: Situational Variation in Identity and Control Motives

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#### Abstract

MacIntyre, Clément, Dörnyei, and Noels (1998) proposed that two broad motives underlie Willingness to Communicate (WTC) in a second language (L2): affiliation and control. Affiliation motives have been well studied but control motives have received less attention. The current research was conducted with 108 French-as-a-second-language high school students. We employed a series of 9 vignettes in which variation in identification with L2 group, identification with L1 group, desire for control, personal control, extraversion, language anxiety, and competence speaking French could be used to predict L2 WTC. A series of multiple regression analyses revealed that L2 identity was a consistent predictor across all 9 situations. Further, desire for control and personal control tended to have an influence only in situations where another person is doing something for the respondent, such as getting assistance from a sales clerk. Control has less influence in situations where the respondent is doing something for another person. Perceived competence was a significant predictor of WTC during potentially stressful communication situations, such as talking to a teacher about a test. Mediation analyses, using Sobel's test, revealed that identification with Francophones partially mediates the relationship between perceived competence and WTC. The implications of these findings are discussed.