**Paper title:** Attitudes towards French-English Bilingualism in Quebec and Cameroon: a Comparative Analysis

**Abstract:**

A common denominator to both Cameroon, a central African country, and Quebec, a French-speaking Canadian province is that, despite their being somewhat blessed with two international languages of wider communication, namely French and English, both being *de jure* the official languages in the former and French being the sole official language in the latter at the provincial level and English a language taught to and spoken by a great number of people in the Montreal city, attitudes towards each of these languages by non-bilingual speakers in these country and province are not always favorable or are rather diverse. In Cameroon where 2/3 of the population speak French and only 1/3 English, the attitude of some top-ranking French-speaking Cameroonian officials and ordinary citizens towards English is very unfavorable as evidenced by a report in *The Post Online*, a local newspaper which alleges that a government official categorically refused to speak English to an English-speaking audience. However, studies on French-English bilingualism in Cameroon nowadays reveal that there is an overmuch of children originating from French-speaking Cameroonian homes and areas literally flooding English-medium schools (cf. Ayafor 2005, Mforteh Ambe 2006). This new situation in Cameroon is probably due to economic reasons. Such a scramble towards English may augur positive attitudes towards this language in Cameroon nowadays. Note that the attitude of English-speaking Cameroonian towards French has generally been thought to be more favourable than that of French-speaking Cameroonian towards English. This study is experimental and intends to compare the attitudes of French-speaking Quebecers and French speaking Cameroonian towards English. From my preliminary observation as a teacher of English in Quebec, the most favourable attitudes towards English in Montreal for example come from immigrants.
References

