

## **Introduction to Sensitize Participants for Linguistic Living Spaces**

Before diving into the activity of creating your linguistic living space, we would like to set the stage by reflecting on the richness and complexity of language in our lives.

### **Step 1: Connecting with Personal Experiences**

Begin by thinking about the languages and forms of communication you use in your daily life. Consider not only spoken languages but also gestures, dialects, or any non-verbal ways you communicate. These are all part of your unique linguistic repertoire. Now, ask yourself:

- Which languages do I use at home, at work, or with friends?
- Are there languages I associate with specific people or places?
- Are there languages I no longer use but that hold personal meaning?

### **Step 2: Acknowledging the Role of Language in Our Lives**

Language is more than just a tool for communication. It shapes our identity, connects us to communities, and serves different functions depending on the situation. Some languages might feel like a part of "who we are," while others might serve as practical tools to navigate certain contexts or relationships. Reflect on the role languages play in your life—whether emotional, functional, or even aspirational.

### **Step 3: A Shared Reflection**

Before starting the activity, we will briefly share some of our thoughts as a group. This is not about comparing experiences but rather about recognizing how diverse and dynamic our relationships with language can be. You might notice how some people see language as a tool, while others connect deeply with it on an emotional level.

### **Step 4: Guided Visualization**

To prepare, close your eyes for a moment. Picture the spaces where your life unfolds: your home, school, workplace, the digital world, and even places you visit or dream about. Imagine the languages that fill these spaces. Which languages do you hear, speak, or think about in each area? How do they interact with the people and experiences in those spaces?

### **Step 5: Setting the Mindset for Creativity**

Now that you've reflected on the languages in your life, approach this activity with curiosity and openness. Remember, there are no right or wrong ways to represent your linguistic living space. It's a personal journey of discovery that will highlight not only the languages you use but also the ways they shape your connection to the world around you.

By sensitizing ourselves in this way, we can better appreciate the significance of language in our lives and approach the activity with a mindset ready for exploration and creativity.

### **Drawing a Language Portrait: Linguistic Living Spaces Adaptation**

- We invite you to visualize your linguistic and communicative resources as part of your personal living space.
- Reflect on the different languages you use and the ways you experience communication in various aspects of your life.
- Use the house outline provided, or if it feels limiting, turn the sheet over and create your own representation of your "linguistic living space" on the blank side.
- Choose colors to represent the different languages or modes of communication you use.
- Place these languages in the areas of your living space where they play a role — this could be specific rooms, spaces outside the house, or abstract areas like cyberspace.
- Start with the languages that are most significant to you now, but also consider those that have played a role in the past or might do so in the future.
- Think of the people, situations, and environments associated with each language.

This activity is designed to help you reflect on your linguistic practices and the functions your languages fulfill in your life. There is no right or wrong way to create your linguistic living space—it's a personal and creative process.