



The Effect of Language on Labour Market Success for Immigrants and Citizens in South Africa

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Introduction

Advantaged in the labour market

Immigrants in South African Studies

Immigrants in International Studies

Disadvantaged in the labour market

Language effects on labour market outcomes

Chiswick (1978), Bloom and Gunderson(1991), Borjas (1994), Dustmann and Fabbri (2004), Zuberi and Sibanda (2004), Peters and Sundaram (2015), Deumert *et al.* (2005) and Posel and Casale (2011).

Research Questions and Methods

Research Questions:

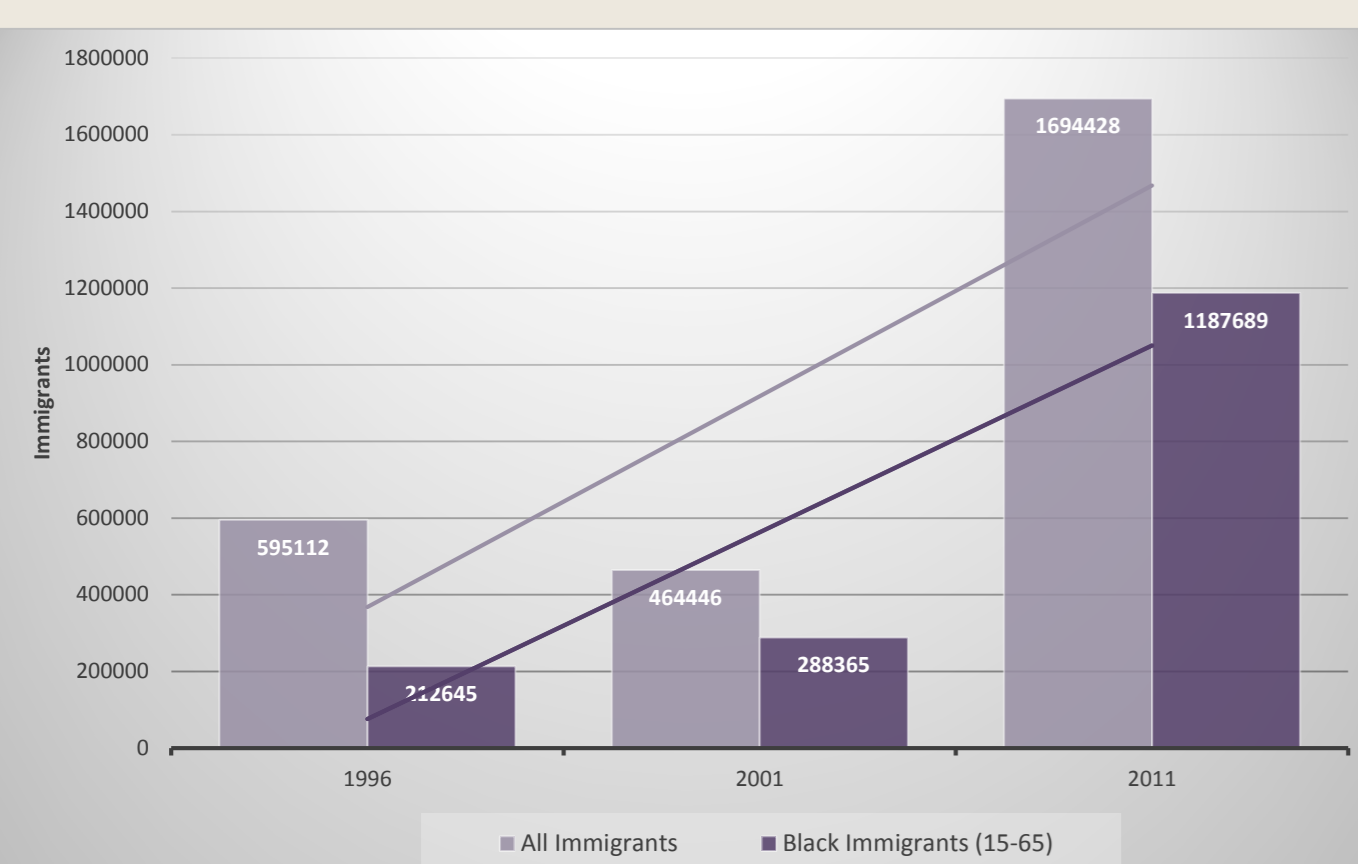
- I. How have immigration policies changed during the last ten years (2001-2011)?
- II. How does **labour force participation**, **employment** probability and **earnings** vary between immigrants whose first language is English and immigrants whose second language is English?
- III. Are immigrants at an advantage or a disadvantage when compared to citizens with respect to the English language effect on labour market outcomes?

Methods:

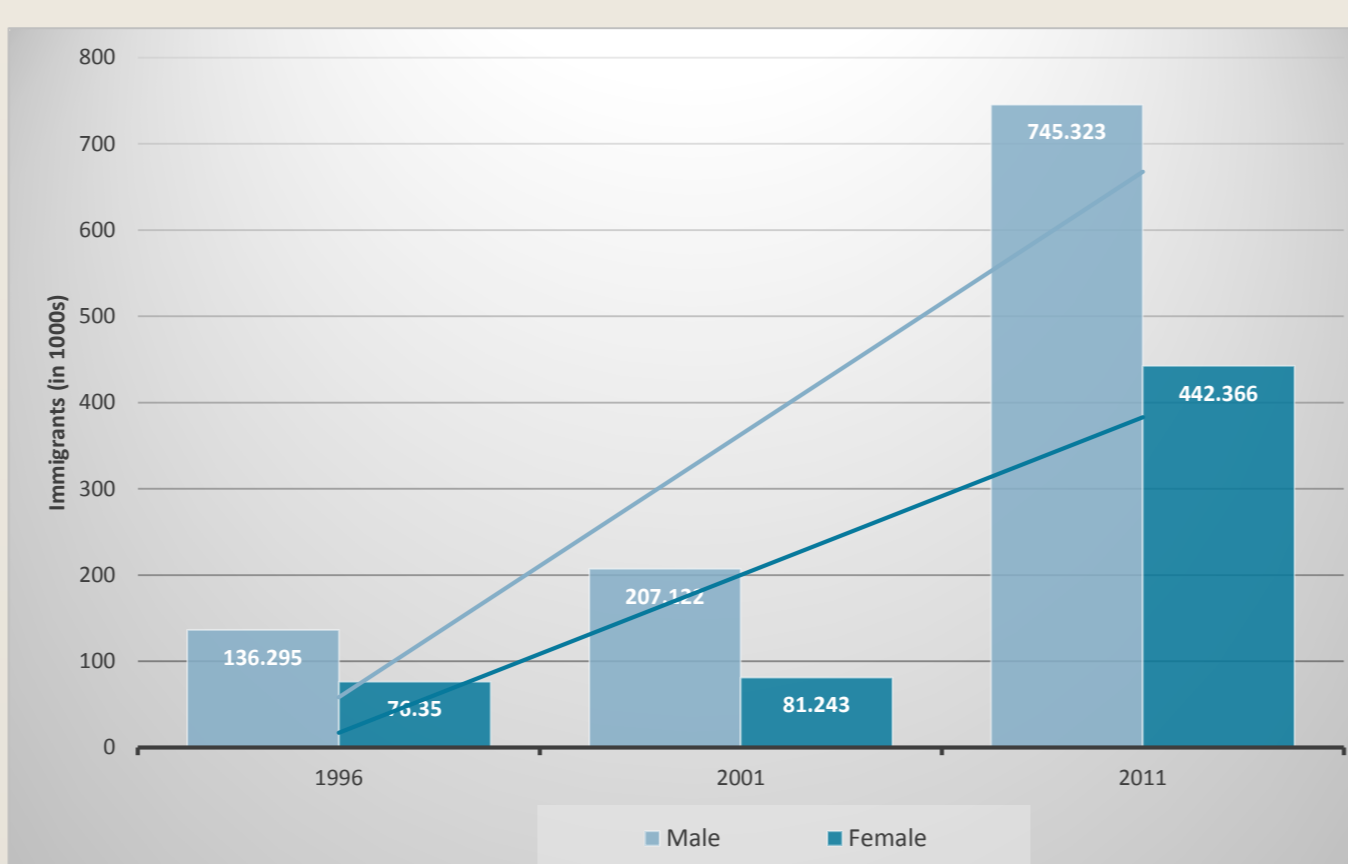
- South African Census 2011 data (STATS SA).
- Labour force participation and Employment → **Probit** models.
- Income → **Interval Regression** model.

Immigration and Language Trends

Immigration Trend

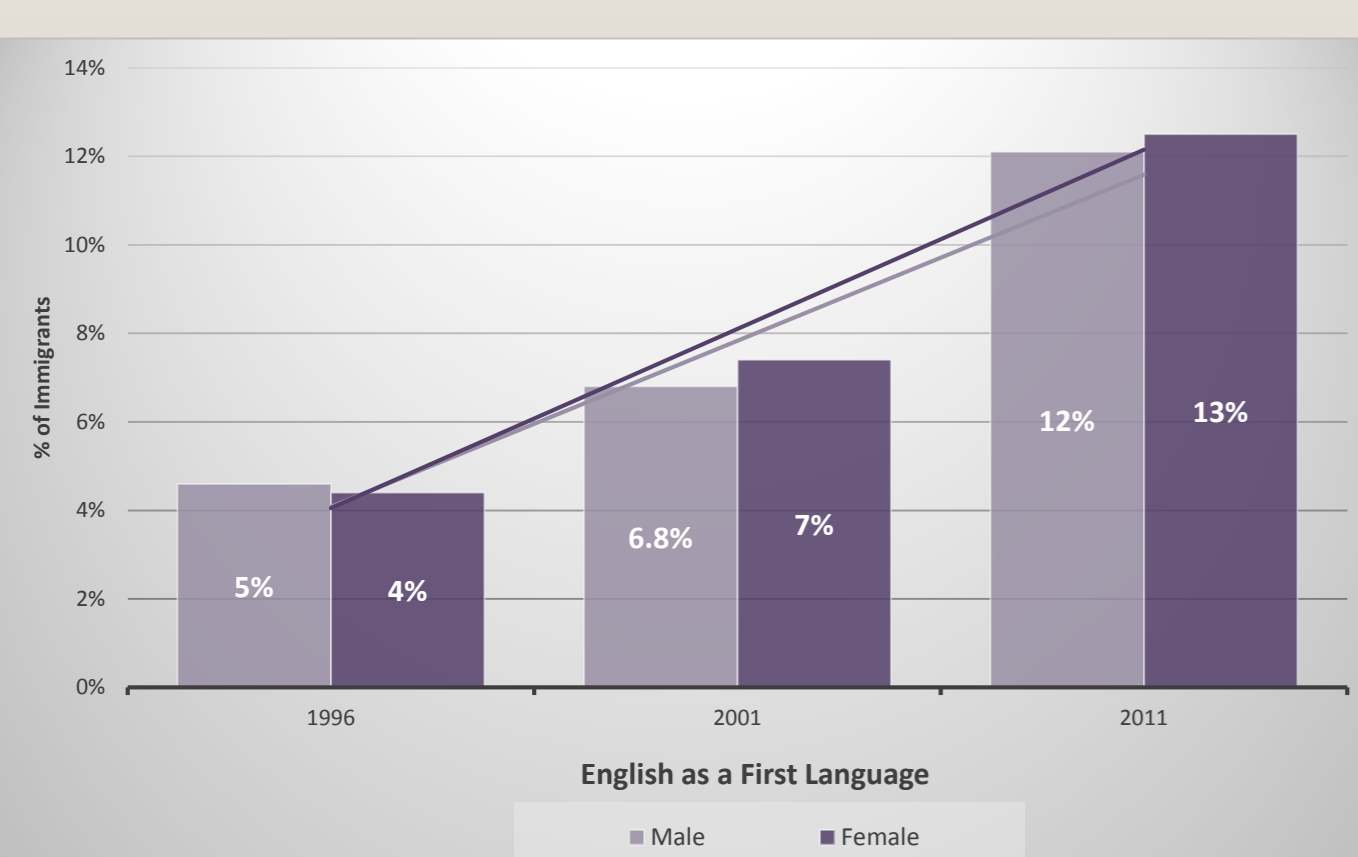


Source: Census 1996, 2001, 2011. author's calculations.
Note: the results are weighted.

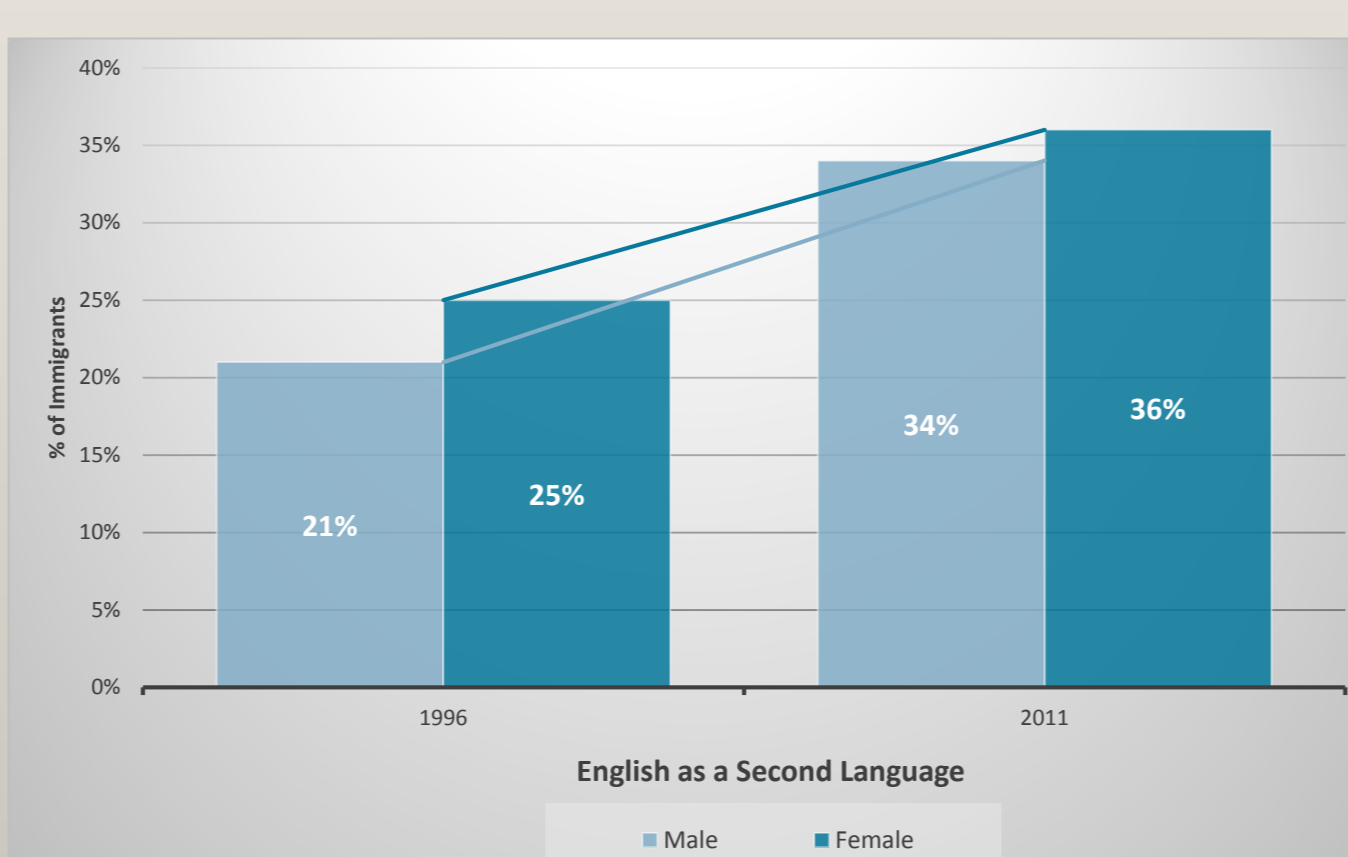


Source: own calculations, Census 1996 and 2011.
Note: estimates are weighted.

Language Trends



Source: Census 1996, 2001, 2011. author's calculations.
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Results and Discussion

Labour Market Success (Immigrant-Citizen comparison)

Net Effects of immigrants and language by gender

	Labour force participation	
	Female	Male
Immigrants with English as first language	0.9%	0.2%
Immigrants with English as second language	8.8%	10.6%
Employment		
Female		
Male		
Immigrants with English as first language	14.7%	22.8%
Immigrants with English as second language	17.1%	26.8%
Income		
Female		
Male		
Immigrants with English as first language	57.6%	48.6%
Immigrants with English as second language	104.2%	70.2%

Labour Market Success (Immigrant- Immigrant comparison)

	Language	
	English as first language	English as second language
Labour force participation	-4.4%	- 1%
Employment	2.4%	3.2%
Income	39%	37%

- On balance, immigrants tend to be more successful in the labour market compared to citizens irrespective of gender.
- The English language plays an important role in one's success in the labour market specially for immigrants.
- Among immigrants, speaking English influences the employment probability and the level of earnings, however, it is of less/no influence regarding one's activity in the labour force.

Conclusion

The inclusion of **Females**

Combining **Language** with all labour market **Functions**

what's new?

Key findings!

Reveals that South Africa is an **Attractive** country for English speaking immigrants

English language skills are especially valuable for immigrant **Females**

Promotes the enhancement of **English** skills due to its acknowledged importance in the labour market