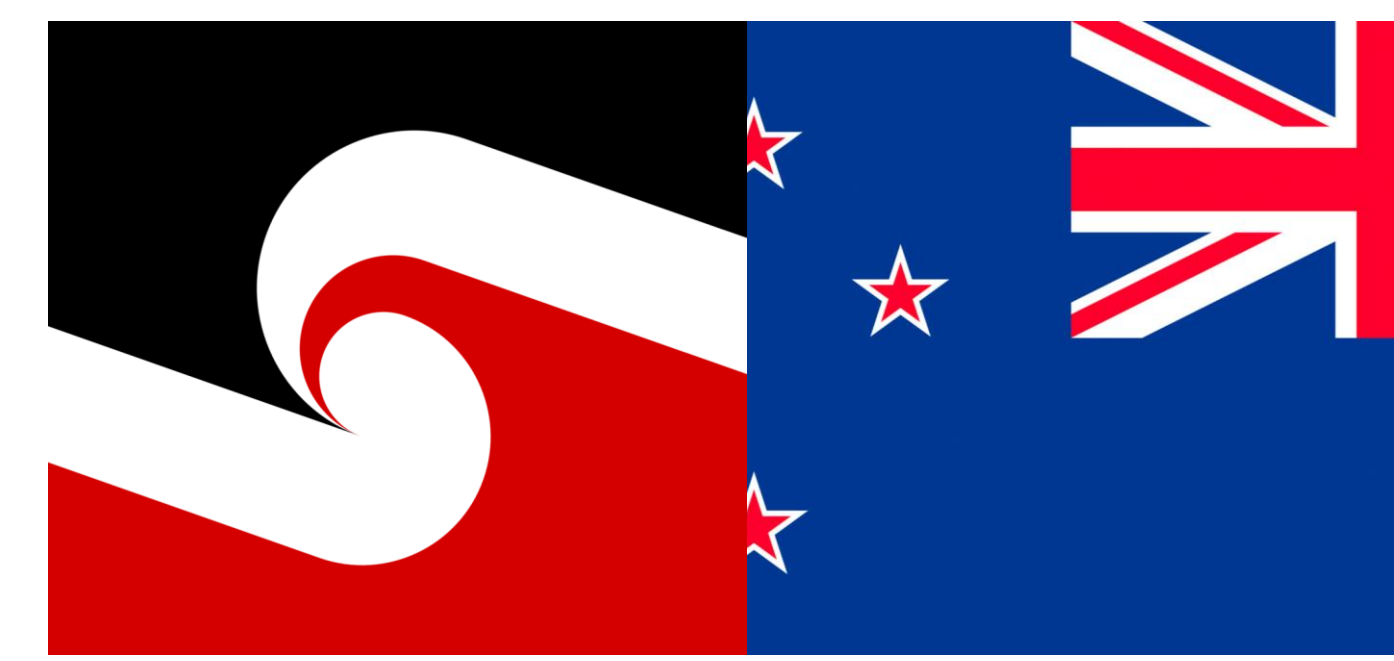


# The 'New' New Zealand English

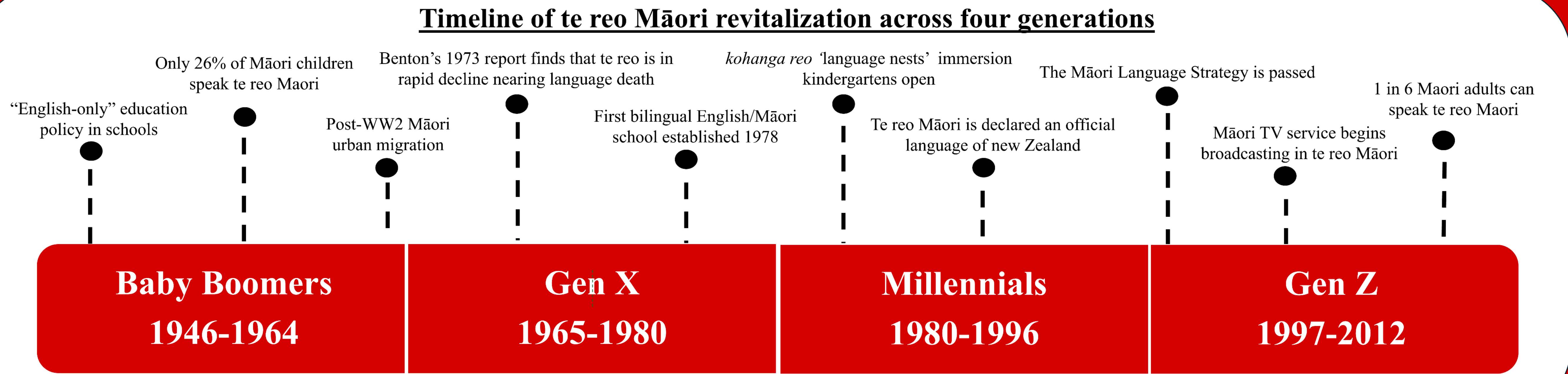
## An Intergenerational Comparative Analysis of Te Reo Māori Loanwords and Pronunciation

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### The Study

Four generations of NZE speakers were qualitatively interviewed and then compared based on quantitative differences in their usage of te reo Māori loanwords. The study identifies significant generational differences in the frequency, diversity, and pronunciation of te reo Māori loanwords, furthering our understanding of how post-colonial language contact and sociolinguistic attitudes effect language change in New Zealand.



### Data

- 16 native speakers of NZE from the Canterbury region of New Zealand completed a questionnaire and participated in an online interview.
- Participants were categorised into four generational groups: Baby Boomers (born 1946-1964), Gen X (born 1965-1980), Millennials (born 1981-1996), and Gen Z (born 1997-2012).
- Four participants identified as ethnically Māori and twelve as Pākehā (NZ European).
- A questionnaire gathered demographic data and included sociolinguistic questions on a Likert scale concerning their attitudes towards te reo Māori and frequency of loanwords use.
- The primary dataset was compiled from qualitative interviews with the participants through online video calls, ranging between 15-35 minutes long.
- Ten open-ended interview questions were designed to prompt conversational reflection on the participant's experience of te reo Māori in the spheres of social opinion, education and occupation, vocabulary and pronunciation, and generational differences.
- Each participant was asked to read aloud five sentences of a set elicitation task that included ten te reo Māori loanwords within a narrative format.

### Methods

Video interviews were recorded and each instance of loanword use was marked auditorily and coded as either TR (te reo Māori pronunciation) or A (anglicised pronunciation). Words that were intentionally produced contrary to the speaker's normal pronunciation were marked as TR(ex) or A(ex).

To compare quantitative frequency, the total number of spontaneously produced loanwords during the interview portion was counted and repetitions were excluded to find the number of unique loanwords. The total number of loanwords were divided by the interview length (rounded to the nearest minute) to calculate the average for loanwords per minute.

Percentages of TR versus A pronunciation were calculated from the total number of spontaneous loanwords produced during the interview (including repetitions), plus the number of te reo Māori words in the elicitation task.

### Elicitation word list

|    | Te reo Māori word | IPA            |
|----|-------------------|----------------|
| 1  | kia ora           | [ki'ora]       |
| 2  | Waitangi          | ['waitaŋi]     |
| 3  | whanau            | ['ʔa:nau]      |
| 4  | waka              | ['waka]        |
| 5  | Ngāi Tahu         | ['ŋai: 'tahu:] |
| 6  | marae             | [ma'rae]       |
| 7  | Akaroa            | [aka'roa]      |
| 8  | Whangarei         | [ʔaŋa:'rei]    |
| 9  | Tauranga          | ['tauraŋa]     |
| 10 | Taupō             | ['taupo:]      |
| 11 | te reo            | ['te'reo]      |
| 12 | Māori             | [ma:ori]       |

### Generational averages for loanword frequency

|              | Interview Length in Minutes | Avg. Loanwords per Minute | Avg. Loanwords per Minute | Unique Loanwords |
|--------------|-----------------------------|---------------------------|---------------------------|------------------|
| Baby Boomers | 26.8                        | 1.6                       | 43.3                      | 10               |
| Gen X        | 24.8                        | 2.5                       | 66.3                      | 14.3             |
| Millennials  | 19                          | 1                         | 20                        | 8                |
| Gen Z        | 22                          | 2                         | 43.8                      | 15.3             |

### Generational averages for loanword pronunciation

|              | TR%  | A%   | TR(ex)% | A(ex)% |
|--------------|------|------|---------|--------|
| Baby Boomers | 47.5 | 51.5 | .65     | .38    |
| Gen X        | 86.6 | 10.4 | 0       | 2.9    |
| Millennials  | 77.9 | 20.4 | 0       | 2.4    |
| Gen Z        | 93.9 | 2.7  | 0       | 3.4    |

### Results

#### Frequency

- Baby Boomers and Gen X participants had longer interview durations and used more loanwords overall, but with less diversity.
- Millennials displayed a surprising decrease in loanword frequency, possibly due to shorter interview durations and different educational or occupational backgrounds.
- Gen Z demonstrated the highest diversity of loanwords, indicating a broader lexicon.

#### Pronunciation

- Pronunciation analysis revealed a trend towards increased use of authentic Māori pronunciation among younger generations, with Baby Boomers showing the highest percentage of anglicised pronunciations and Gen Z the lowest.

#### Educational Factors

- Participants who had taken te reo Māori classes showed an almost doubled rate of both loanwords per minute and average total loanwords.

### Conclusions

The results showed that generational shifts in language exposure and attitudes have significantly influenced the use and pronunciation of te reo Māori loanwords. Younger generations, exposed to te reo Māori through education and media, show greater acceptance of the language and an increased effort to produce loanwords as authentic to the original phonology. Pronunciation data followed the hypothesis, showing greater anglicisation of loanwords in older generations. However, an unexpected finding was that education and occupation were greater predictors of loanword frequency than age or ethnicity.

Overall, the positive shift in attitudes and authentic pronunciation among younger generations indicates a successful integration of te reo Māori into NZE, contributing to the language's revival and cultural preservation.