Language Planning and Policy

LNG 1100 Week 8

Why do we have to care about language policy and planning?

https://www.insideedition.com/media/videos/woman-defends-2-spanish-speakers-harassed-colorado-supermarket-47406

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=7m_wvtm4wIg

Language Planning and Policy

Language planning refers to...

- deliberate efforts to influence the behavior of others with respect to the acquisition, structure, or functional allocation of their language codes" (Cooper, 1989, p. 45). (Language code = languages or language varieties)
- a deliberate, systematic and theory-based attempt to solve the communication problems of a community" (Crystal, 2008, p. 268)
- official, government-level activities … coherent efforts by individuals, groups, or organizations to influence language use or development" (Robinson, 1988)

Why language planning?

- Language policies, implicit or explicit, are used to influence and control social behavior, and the U.S. is no different.
- A country often uses language planning to promote a national identity and to meet the needs of governing. It is important to note that language planning in multi-ethnic and multi-lingual pluralistic nations is of great significance because it shapes the process of nation building.
- It should be noted that “language planning is often done to benefit already powerful sectors of society, as opposed to benefiting all members of society equally” (Wardhaugh and Fuller, 2014, p. 367).

Three types of planning

- **Status Planning:** Status planning changes how a language or a variety of a language is used in society.
- It involves affecting the use of a language in various public domains: the courtroom, higher education, publication of official documents, media and broadcasting, etc.
- The distinction of dialect and language is an area of status planning.
  - Mandarin is a Beijing dialect, but was allocated the statu of the official language in China. It is now widely known as the standard Chinese.
  - What American dialect do you hear on the radio? (Say, NPR or ABC news?)

Three types of planning

- **Corpus Planning**: Corpus planning seeks to develop a variety of a language, usually to standardize or modernize it, that is, to provide it with the means for serving every possible language function in society. Consequently, corpus planning may involve such matters as the development of an orthography, new sources of vocabulary, dictionaries, and a literature.

Examples of corpus planning

- The Revival of Hebrew - In the late 19th century, Hebrew was considered a ‘dead’ language with no native speaker; now, Hebrew has eight million speakers.
  - Creating a modern Hebrew literary - Examining vocabulary in religious texts and inventing new vocabulary
  - The Hebrew Language Council was founded to begin codifying grammatical rules and modernize new vocabulary (e.g. elevator, umbrella, etc.)
- China
  - The provision of a romanized alphabet (pin-yin) for the common spoken language, Mandarin (Putonghua) → which literally means “common language” in 1950s.

Three types of planning

- **Acquisition Planning:** Acquisition planning is concerned with efforts to enlarge the range of language users and the distribution of literacy. It complements and interacts with status planning (which is about the social role or function of a language) and corpus planning (used to modify the structure of a language).
- Example:
  - English Education in Asian countries
  - Back in the 50s, government officials from the North of China needed 7 interpreters in order to communicate with people in a small town in the South.
  - Teaching Mandarin (“Putonghua”, the common language”) and using it as the medium of instruction.

Official Language vs National Language

- Official Language and national language are NOT synonymous.
- Official language is the language in which a government decides it will operate. Official languages are in place primarily for nationalist reasons, those concerned with the day to day practical tasks of governing.
- National language enjoys some form of government recognition, the government is not required to operate in that language.

Discussion - What are the official languages of the following countries?

- New Zealand
- South Africa
- Kenya

Examples

- New Zealand
- South Africa
- Kenya

New Zealand > Official languages

English	New Zealand Sign Language
Māori	

South Africa > Official languages

English	Southern Sotho	Tsonga
Afrikaans	Tswana	Swati
Zulu	Northern Sotho	Ndebele
Xhosa	Venda	South African English

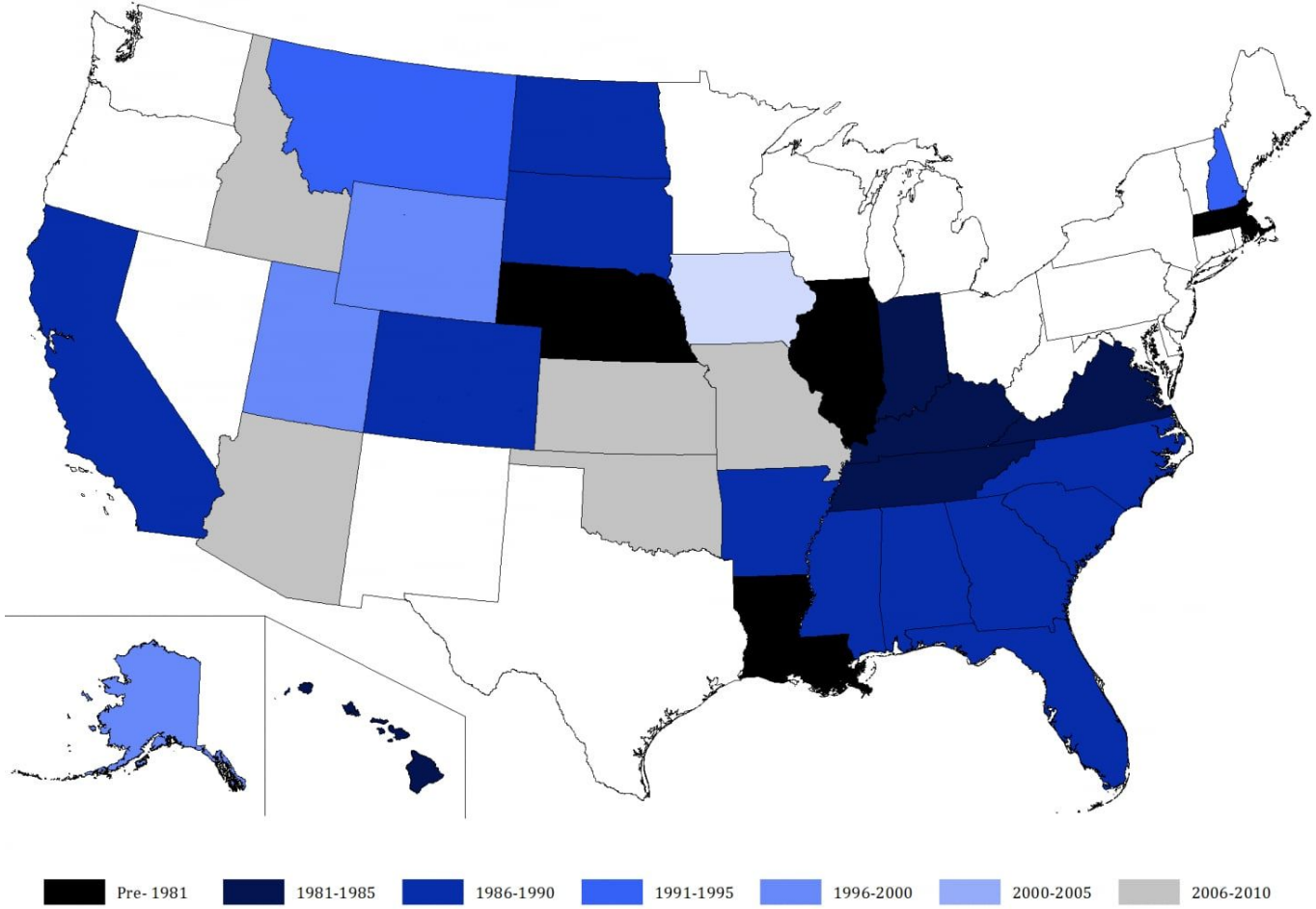
Kenya > Official languages

English	Swahili

The United States

- Unlike many other countries, the United States does not have an official language policy at the federal level.
- 31 states have designated English their official language policies.
- The Common Wealth of Puerto Rico have designated both English and Spanish as co-official languages. (New Mexico state constitution grants Spanish a special status, but it is not an official language.)
- The state of Hawaii also has two official languages, English and Hawaiian (‘Ōlelo Hawai‘i).

The English-Official Movement in the U.S.



Washington Post 6/18/2014

Using the terms we have just discussed, what is Rick Santorum proposing here?

Rick Santorum. Made in America. Not "Hecho en América" (Mike Stone/Reuters)

During his 2012 campaign for the GOP Presidential nomination, Rick Santorum – while visiting Puerto Rico – declared that the territory must adopt English as its primary (i.e., official) language if it wanted statehood. The statement was not altogether unexpected from a conservative candidate on the national stage. Indeed, we have seen a number of calls for

What type of language planning is this?

PUERTO RICO SPANISH

P. Rico Senate declares Spanish over English as first official language

EFE | San Juan | 4 Sep 2015

View of the Senate of Puerto Rico in San Juan, Puerto Rico. EFE

What type of language planning is this?

US News and World Report, Oct 25, 2016

A brief review of language planning and policy in the US

Native American children in the United States were coerced into attending so-called ‘Indian Schools” (or Indian Boarding Schools) where they were forbidden to speak their native languages (García, 2009, p.161).

Late 1800s

First World War

Because of anti-German sentiments, German teaching was stopped. 30 states required foreign-born residents who did not speak English to attend evening schools, and 34 states made English the only language of instruction.

The New York Times

Judge Orders City to Run Bilingual Elections Nov. 6

By MURRAY ILLSON

A Federal District Court judge here ordered the city's Board of Elections to run a bilingual election on Nov. 6, with all amendments, propositions and voting instructions printed in Spanish as well as English.

The ruling was handed down yesterday by Judge Charles E. Stewart, Jr., who also directed the board to assign translators at all polling places in areas where the 1970 census showed 5 per cent or more Spanish-speaking residents.

The order was in a preliminary injunction issued by Judge Stewart to avoid "irreparable damage" to Spanish-speaking voters, who in this city are

Bilingual elections have been held in many other places in the country. They are common practice, for example, in Los Angeles and parts of New Mexico.

In ruling for the plaintiffs, the Court stated that "the conduct of an election in English only, violates plaintiffs' rights under the Voting Rights Act of 1965, the Voting Rights Amendments of 1970, which enforce the 14th Amendment to the Constitution of the United States, and the Civil Rights Act of 1871."

Herbert Teitelbaum, staff lawyer for the fund, hailed Judge Stewart's ruling as "a

National Defense Education Act supported the teaching of Russian, Chinese, and other critical languages.

***Sputnik* and Civil Rights movement in 60s and 70s**

Bilingual Education Act in 1968 provided funding for educational programs that taught students in languages other than English.

Defense Language Institute aims at improving officers' competence in foreign languages. (e.g. CIA).

Post 9/11

1988 amendment to Title VI of the Higher Education Act

"The security, stability, and economic vitality of the United States in a complex, global era depends upon American experts in and citizens knowledgeable about world regions, **foreign languages** and international affairs, as well as upon a strong research base in the areas."

2001 No Child Left Behind

Math and English became the focus of instruction, and foreign language teaching did not get much attention.

California - the past and the present

- Sociolinguistic Justice in California
- An excerpt from Mary Bucholtz’s talk in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil. International Applied Linguistics World Congress 2017.

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=tEQY1NDS5uE

4:48

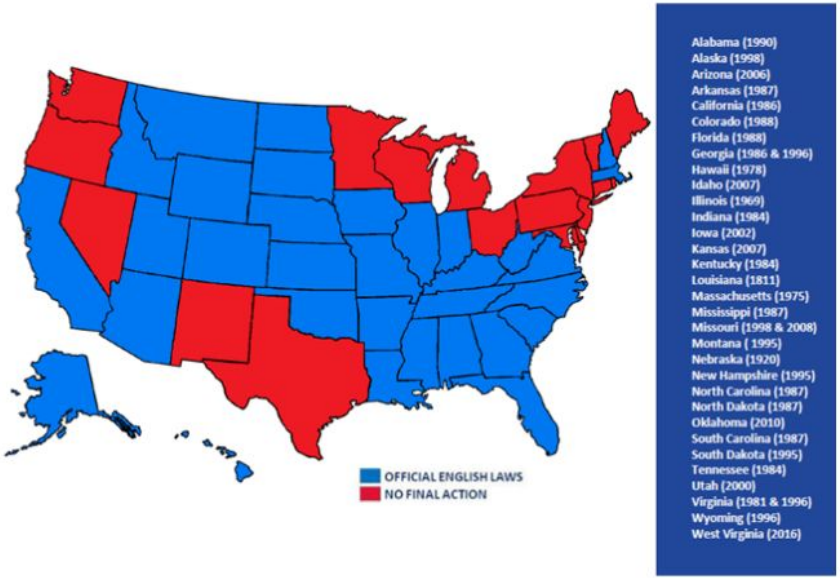
Language and anti-Latina/o racism in the United States

- Julio Cammarota and Michelle Aguilera 2012, " 'By the Time I Get to Arizona': Race, Language, and Education in America's Racist State"
  - Arizona's anti-Latina/o laws
    - 2000: Ban on bilingual education (2000)
    - 2010: Ban on Chicano studies classes on the grounds that they "promote the overthrow of the United States government" and teach students to "resent or hate other races or classes of people"
    - 2010: Legalized racial profiling of anyone "suspected" of being an unauthorized immigrant

California: Another racist state

Proposition 63 (1986)

- Amended the California constitution to make English the official language of the state
  - Still in effect
- First in an ongoing wave of xenophobic official-English laws across the U.S.



Proposition 227 (1998)

- Banned almost all bilingual education and replaced it with one year of structured English immersion
- The entrepreneur who funded the campaign also funded similar initiatives in several other states
- Repealed in 2016 with the passage of Proposition 58

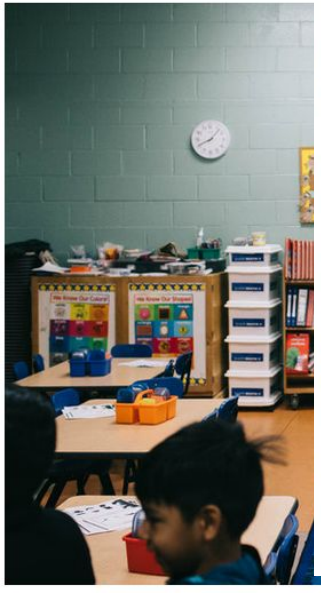
Latest Ln

5 MILLION VOICES

After Nearly 2 Revisit Ban On

October 29, 2016 · 8:47 AM ET
Heard on Weekend Edition Saturday

CLAUDIO SANCHEZ



5 MILLION VOICES

The Return Of Bilingual Ed California?

October 26, 2016 · 6:16 AM ET

CLAUDIO SANCHEZ

A new era for bilingual education: California's Proposition 58

SARAH TULLY, EDSOURCE

What is Proposition 58?

Proposition 58, placed on the ballot by the state Legislature, was approved by voters with a 73.5 percent majority on Nov. 8, 2016. The proposition implements the California Multilingual Education Act of 2016, which was introduced in the Legislature by Sen. Ricardo Lara, D-Bell Gardens. A full legislative digest is available here.

Discussion

1. What are the advantages and disadvantages of language planning?
2. Reflect on the languages that you speak and how well you speak them. If you are bilingual, is your bilingualism “additive” or “subtractive”? How does language planning shape your linguistic resources?

Reflection

- You have just learned that there are three types of language planning (status planning, corpus planning, and acquisition planning). In the readings, many authors call for the importance of tapping into and enriching our linguistic resources. What are some suggestions you have for the the US government or the New York State government?

Principles for U.S. Language Policy

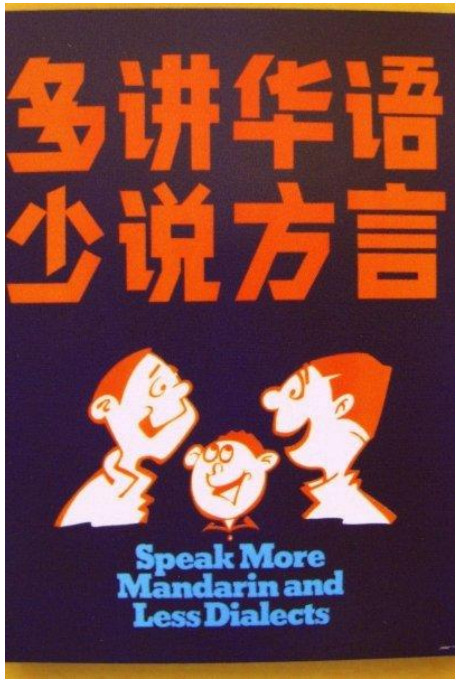
1. “Protective rights” - Ensuring no linguistic discrimination (e.g. Civic services should be provided to speakers of different languages.
2. “Rights to access” - teaching English to all, native-born or immigrant, old or young.
3. Respect multilingual capacity and for diverse individual languages. (e.g. Enhance the status and enrich the knowledge of heritage and community languages)

Center for Applied Linguistics Digest - Spolsky (2011)

Lessons from global models

NYT - *In Singapore, Chinese Dialects Revive After Decades of Restrictions*

- Only 12 percent of Singaporeans speak a Chinese dialect at home, according to the survey, compared with an estimated 50 percent a generation ago.
- “In 1979, the government launched a “Speak Mandarin” campaign. In some schools, pupils who spoke dialects were fined and made to write out hundreds of times, “I will not speak dialects.” The population was bombarded with messages that dialect speakers had no future.”
- By 1981, television and radio were banned from broadcasting almost all dialect shows, including popular music. That left many people cut off from society.

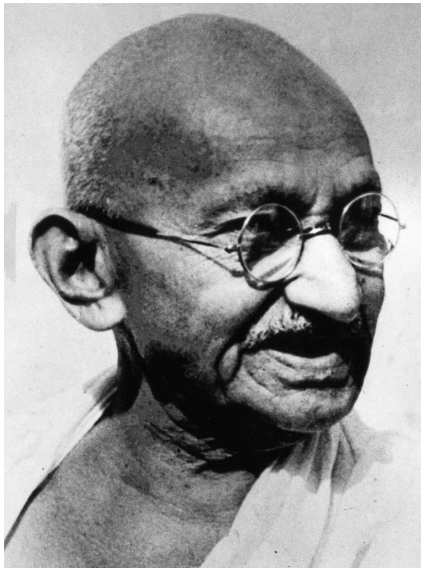


Now

- TV series was recently broadcast in Hokkien, a main Chinese dialect
- Many young people began to study Hokkien in order to communicate with the older generation
- The government endorsed a multi-dialect film project

India - incredible linguistic diversity

- The 2001 Census of India reports 122 languages within India's 28 states and 7 union territories.
- Annamalai (2001) reports that 87 languages are used in the press, 71 on the radio, 13 in the cinema and state administration, and 47 are used as media of instruction.
- Mahatma Gandhi promoted *Hindustani*, a language encompassing both Hindi and Urdu, significant because of the religious tensions between Hindus and Muslims. After the partition of India and Pakistan, however, Hindi took precedence in India since Urdu was associated with Muslims and Pakistan.



Language Education

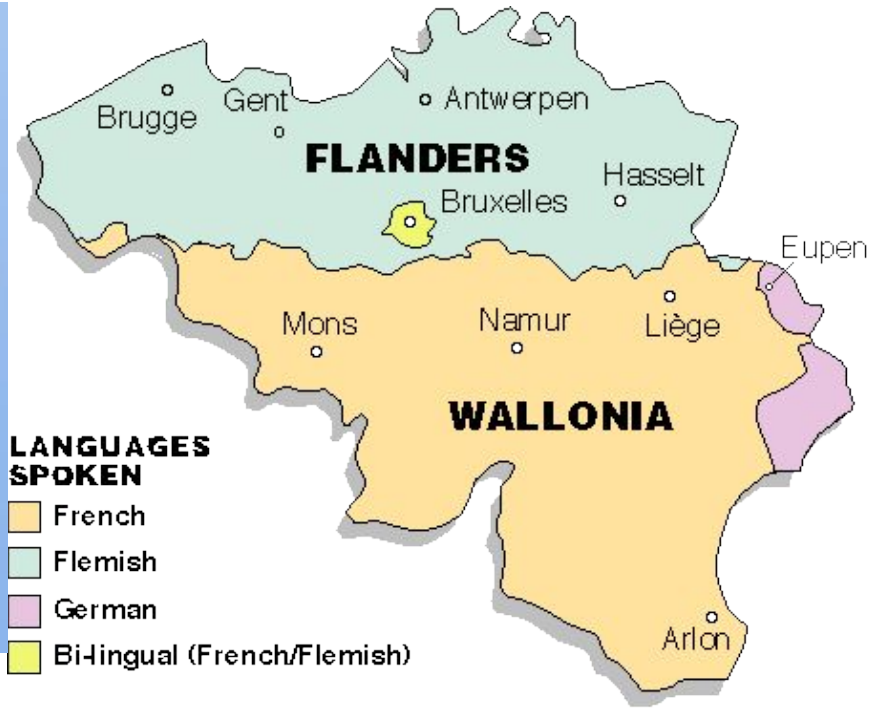
The “mother tongue” – and not the state or official language – is the desirable medium of education. The Constitution of India tried to introduce an element of equality, levelling the playing field between languages of power.

LANGUAGE POLITICS

Eight things you may not have known about language education in India

There is a serious effort to enable children to study in lesser-known languages if those are their mother tongues.

Belgium - The Great Language Divide



The Guardian - **The language divide at the heart of a split that is tearing Belgium apart**

- “Language is the fundamental flaw at the core of Belgium's existential crisis...The country operates on the basis of linguistic apartheid, which infects everything from public libraries to local and regional government, the education system, the political parties, national television, the newspapers, even football teams.”
- There are no national political parties, no national newspaper, no national TV channel, no common school curriculum or higher education.
- Following the last election in 2007, Belgium went without a government for six months because of the divisions and squabbling between Dutch-speaking Flanders to the north and French-speaking Wallonia in the south.

Linkebeek in Belgium

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=mrT1e--6iaA

What are some challenges for French speakers living in Linkebeek (the Dutch speaking district in Belgium)?

Concluding quote

“[L]anguage policy is not some de-contextualized set of protocols that can be transported from context to context, setting to setting, and applied by disinterested technicians … [The] historical settings of culture, legal and political environment, ethnic relations, socio-legal parameters of policymaking and memory influence not only what is possible in any specific setting but also serve to shape its form and its content. (Lo Bianco, 2002, p. 25)

California - the past and the present

- In December, 1996, the Oakland Unified School District passed a resolution declaring Ebonics to be the primary language of the African-American students in its schools.
- The goal of the resolution is to
  - (1) recognize ebonics (i.e., African American Vernacular English, AAVE) as a language in its own right, not a dialect of English
  - (2) to change teachers' attitude toward ebonics
  - (3) to use ebonics as a tool to teach African American children to read and write Standard American English.
- Due to strong nation-wide opposition, the decision was repealed.

The case of Belgium

“Language is the fundamental flaw at the core of Belgium's existential crisis, taking on the role that race, religion, or ethnicity play in other conflict-riven societies. The country operates on the basis of linguistic apartheid, which infects everything from public libraries to local and regional government, the education system, the political parties, national television, the newspapers, even football teams.”

https://www.theguardian.com/world/2010/may/09/belgium-flanders-wallonia-french-dutch

Ebonics, a blend of ‘ebony’ and ‘phonics’ referring to what is commonly known as ‘black English’, was coined by psychologist Robert Williams in 1973.

Ebonics is a term not generally used by linguists, who currently prefer the term *African-American Vernacular English (AAVE) and use it to refer to the* inner-city speech form in question.

Oakland School Board Resolution, Dec. 18, 1996:

African-American students utilize a language described as . . . Ebonics . . . or “African Language Systems” [which are] genetically based and not a dialect of English.

This reminds us of the debate between dialects vs. languages

The Board of Education officially recognizes the existence . . . of West and Niger-Congo African Language Systems . . . as the predominantly primary language of African-American students.

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Zz-PyvtgCmQ

Code switching

What is the reasoning behind supporting and opposing the resolution?

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=cseYyv72FBo

7:10 -

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