


Chapter 13

Language Policy, Planning, and Advocacy in Language Education

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ABSTRACT

This chapter examines the central role of policy development and advocacy in shaping language education landscapes globally. Focusing on the intersection of language policymaking and planning, the chapter highlights the multifaceted features of effective language education policies that promote linguistic and cultural diversity. Drawing upon theoretical frameworks, the chapter aims at revealing the complexities of language policy formulation, and implementation, highlighting the critical importance of stakeholder engagement, research-based practices, and advocacy efforts in driving meaningful change. By providing language policy and planning in the USA, the European Union and Türkiye, different policy approaches are shown in line with historical changes. In short, this chapter aims to empower educators, policymakers, and advocates with the knowledge and strategies needed to navigate the ever-evolving landscape of language education policy.

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INTRODUCTION

Language, as a structure-based system used for communication by individuals within societies, serves to meet not only individual needs in daily life but also to enable interaction across communities. Thus, it fulfils various purposes, such as communication, and cultural transmission from the past generations to the future ones (Holmes & Meyeroff, 2003). In this regard, the language we speak influences our identity and our society's cultural landscape reflecting both individual and societal understanding of life (Simpson, 2019). Languages as social products emerging from the communicative and cultural needs of societies can thus be regarded as the index of societal progress (Awuor, 2019). Due to the close relationship between language and power within a society, national language planning and policy development initiatives play a significant role in shaping and promoting national language of a country by also creating links with other languages and their users. Therefore, countries set and develop language policies to strengthen unity, create national identity, increase country image, and foster economic development (Grzywacz, 2012).

Although the terms language policy and language planning are used interchangeably on some occasions, they generally refer to different aspects. As Tollefson (2011) states, language planning entails purposeful actions acted to affect the language status, structure and acquisition while language policy involves language planning conducted by official bodies in a country, such as ministry of education, policy makers, or administrators. Tollefson (2011) further states that language policies are the guiding principles or rules for the use and acquisition of language designed and enacted nationally in schools or workplaces. These principles may be explicit as in official documents or implicitly implemented out of an official statement. The official bodies in countries may attribute different functions to language. In fact, language may be used for fostering membership, inclusion and exclusion, determining loyalty to citizenship, categorizing people and identities and showing economic status (Shohamy, 2006). Thus, official bodies of a country may develop micro and macro level language policies placing mother tongue into the core and set close and distant relationships with other languages in and out of the country borders in line with the country's political, social, and economic ideologies. From the sociolinguistics perspective, since language policy is a subfield of this, language policy also aims at building and consolidating strong ties between language and society. In language policy development, the existence of more than one language spoken by different groups in the society within a nation-state makes it inevitable for the policy makers to go in line with the state ideology, regional relations with other countries and communities as well as global influences. Thus, in countries with diverse societies, language policy determines which language to use officially

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