

Language Planning & Language Policy in Sociolinguistics

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Definitions

- **Language planning:** deliberate efforts to influence the behavior of others with respect to the acquisition, structure, or functional allocation of their language codes

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Definitions

- **Language policy:** official policies resulting from language planning and imposed in a deliberate attempt to influence language behavior by means of official codes

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Types of Language Planning

- **Corpus planning:** activities such as coining new terms, reforming spelling and adopting a new script;
 - The creation of new forms,
 - The modification of old ones, or
 - The selection from alternative forms in a spoken or written code

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Types of Language Planning

- **Status Planning:** the recognition by a national government of the importance or position of one language in relation to others.
 - The allocation of languages or language varieties to given functions
 - Medium of instruction
 - Official language
 - Vehicle of mass communication
 - Language of international communication

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Types of Language Planning

- **Acquisition Planning:** planning directed toward increasing the number of users – speakers, writers, listeners, readers – of a language
 - Literacy education
 - Second & foreign language education efforts

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Language Policy & Planning in the U.S.

- The founders of the U.S. chose not to designate English as the official language
 - Dominance of English was self-evident
 - Respect for linguistic diversity & minority rights
 - Support for minorities who supported the revolution
- English has functioned as if it were the official language

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Bilingual Education Types

- **Transitional**
 - Purpose: to transition to an all-English curriculum
- **Maintenance**
 - Purpose: to maintain & develop the first language

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Bilingual Education Types

- **Enrichment**
 - Purpose: to develop an appreciation for & fluency in the heritage language
- **Two-way immersion**
 - Purpose: to develop 2nd language proficiency among mainstream students & to maintain & develop first language proficiency among minority students

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Some Current Language Policy Issues in the U.S.

- To what extent can / should room be made for the existence of other languages?
- How are language minorities advantaged or disadvantaged by policies involving language rights, accommodations, or restrictions?

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Some Current Language Policy Issues in the U.S.

- What are the advantages / disadvantages of intergenerational language shift to English?
- How is the monolingual language majority affected by these language policies?
- What kinds of language policies would assist the English-speaking majority?

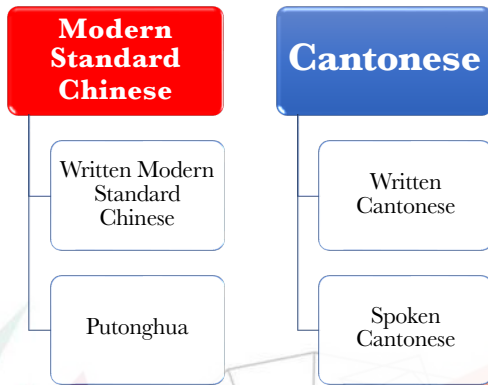
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Language Planning in Hong Kong

- Historical and political development
- Economic development
- The impact of historical, political, and economic development on the language situation in Hong Kong
- Ordinances on official languages in Hong Kong
- Definition problems
- The national language
- Language policy

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Chinese in Hong Kong



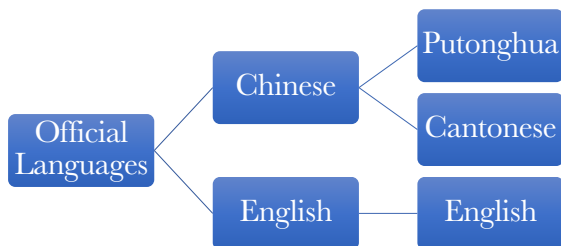
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The National Language

- The concept of ‘national language’ was vague to Hong Kong people during the colonial period.
- In the post-colonial period, the Hong Kong government starts to promote the national language – Putonghua.

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Language Policy



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Biliteracy

- All children studying at local government-aided schools learn both Chinese and English from Primary 1 for 12 years through the end of senior secondary education.

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Trilingualism

Proportion of the population able to speak English as another language

Year	Percentage
1991	29.4%
1996	34.9%
2001	39.8%
2006	41.9%
2011	42.6%

Source: Census and Statistics Department, Hong Kong Government

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Discussion Questions

- How does globalization and the increasing use of English as a global language impact national language planning and language policies?

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Discussion Questions

- How do national language policies impact multilingualism and language minorities in a country?
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Discussion Questions

- What are some examples of successful language policies that have been implemented in different countries, and what factors contributed to their success?
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