



Bilingualism, Language Attitudes, Language Policy and Language Planning: A Sociolinguistic Perspective

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Abstract

This paper is a synopsis of sociolinguistic aspects in general with reference to the South African linguistic scenario. During the apartheid years South Africa had two official languages, namely, English and Afrikaans. The forced implementation of Afrikaans as a medium of instruction in black schools sounded the death knell for apartheid as black students revolted against this policy. In the new democratic South Africa, nine previously disadvantaged languages have been elevated to the status of official language. In order for the language policy of the present South African government to succeed, it is imperative that proper planning and an awareness of the dynamics of linguistics are carefully considered. It is pivotal that extensive research is undertaken on languages and their different roles in society.

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