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LINGUA POLICY

Multilingual approaches.

A reply to Jim D'Angelo and an introduction to this conference

Outline

- Development of Language regimes
- Linguistic purism and Linguistic Ignorance
- Linguistic education
- Global networks: Business, Internet, Education
- Languages regimes
- Challenges and Activities

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Development of Language regimes: France

One reason of the "successful" French revolution was a strong emphasis on one country-one language policy, which suppressed local movements in:

- Brittany (Breton)
- Alsace
- Lorraine 'allemande'
- Flandre maritime (Flemish)

and forced language standardization, against occitan language and other varieties.



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Development of Language regimes: USA

After the "Tea-party" not the state (as in France) but academic circles started with the standardisation oops standardization of American English. Important for this process was the creation of the Webster Dictionary ("American Dictionary of English Language"), which is now one of the center-varieties of the English languages. Because of the fact, that the USA are states and not one state, there is no official language of the USA.

Language and (personal) Identity

A strong interrelation between language and identity isn't an issue in the US. Language is more like a tool to express facts and opinions. Although there is an "English only" Movement in the US, issues of language policy are not directly observable.

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linguistic Purism

- The idea, that only one language should be capable of representing the truth can be seen as complete dump idea, but
- as for German linguistic purism (17th, 18th, 19th century) created a lot of useful concepts which made the German Language richer. The ideal of this linguistic purism was to replace loanwords with generic German with led to extensive translations of key-concepts in Philosophy. (see: Ricken 1992). Christian Wolff was not a linguistic purist (he wrote in Latin, French and German), but some of his concept were influenced by the "Fruchtbringende Gesellschaft" ("Fruitbearing Society"), which had some language-purifying goals.

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linguistic Ignorance

- And some even scientific concepts of language are based on the concept to extract a language out of a timeless process ("langue"). Some others are then called Pidgin and Creole-Languages. These concepts could be called linguistic ignorance and is politically less harmful, but not helpful for the research of multilingualism at all. The still very dominant Universal (Chomsky) approach is blocking the research of multilingualism. The idea, that the illogical language is obstructing the truth has still a big impact in linguistics (Trabant 2003)

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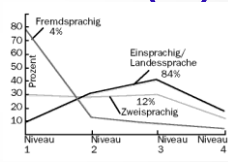
Language(S) in/plus/for Education

- Very important in history of the development of Language regimes was the standardization of language use in the classroom. The process started end of 19th century and is still forming the ideological basis of nations. Many of the structures (like time-table at schools) were international movements: progressive education (German: Reformpädagogik, see references), a movement which still yields lots of criticism (see: Wpengl: Talk, "Progressive education")

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core competence READING (1)

- It is too easy to say, that (all) children in monolingual countries doing better in reading, but we all know how difficult it is to get used to a new reading-system, see also: "OECD skills surveys"



University of Zurich (1996, see URLs)
einsprachig = monolingual children
zweisprachig = bilingual children
fremdsprachig = children speaking other languages, (not national language of Switzerland)

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core competence READING (2)

- But of course multilingual reading comprehension is possible!



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GLOBAL



- Globalization is an economically driven process, but...
- created opportunities beyond economy



Although a lot of articles are to be criticized Wikipedia revolutionized knowledge processing. But more than that: As international and Multilingual encyclopaedia it is fostering Knowledge exchange.

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(Other) Language Educators



- Founded: 1977 (beginning of the process of organizing 1974)
- 10 to 12 years after TESOL
- at this time more than 1000 members
- **now:** with a monthly newsletter and annual publications
- with local chapters all around Japan
- with National Special Interest Groups
- And with a multilingual (English, Japanese and Others Languages) focus

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LanguageS

Regimes

- OECD
- NATO
- UNO
- ASEAN
- European Institutions: EU

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LanguageS

Regimes and Networks in Europe

- The EU has 24(!) official languages and all important documents are translated in all these languages.
- During the 1950s and 1960s the French Language had probably the biggest impact of all languages.
- Since the first enlargement of the EU English use is growing.
- But also the European Council has an active language policy

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LanguageS



Regimes and Networks in Europe: The CEFR

The multilingual Language policy in Europe shows a growing influence of English. Although the "Common European Framework of Reference for Languages" (CEFR) has been translated into more than 20 languages, the coordination and reception process of implementing and (case-)studying the CEFR was mainly an English-driven process. The Reception of the CEFR is covered in Byram/Parmenter (2012). Whether the agenda of CEFR is for English, or for multilingualism, isn't an issue in the book.

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Challenges and Activities (1)

- How to organize a conference , where language is not only a topic, but where (different) languageS are also (consistently) media of communication?
- This time "only" three languages are presentation-languages: English, Spanish and German
- Japanese of course presents itself, here in Japan!

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Challenges and Activities (2)

- Without the experience of the OLE-Team, especially Rudolf Reinelt, this wouldn't be possible.
- But we need more languages: Chinese, Russian, Portuguese and French and.....

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