

Language policy / Bernard Spolsky

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Abstrak

Language policy is an issue of critical importance in the world today. In this up-to-date introduction, Bernard Spolsky explores many debates at the forefront of language policy: ideas of correctness and bad language, bilingualism and multilingualism, language death and efforts to preserve endangered languages, language choice as a human and civil right and language education policy. Through looking at the language practices, beliefs and management of social groups from families to supranational organizations, he develops a theory of modern national language policy and the major forces controlling it, such as the demands for efficient communication, the pressure for national identity, the attractions of (and resistance to) English as a global language and the growing concern for human and civil rights as they impinge on language. Two central questions asked in this wide-ranging survey are how to recognize language policies, and whether or not language can be managed at all.