

Language policy and practices in the Global North and South: Challenges, opportunities and future directions

Date 13/10/2021

Time: 13:00 – 14:30 CET

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When grassroots-level language practices influence institutional policies: Children and Parents' perceptions on the languages in use in a rural school context in Mozambique

Abstract: This study looks at the perceptions and views of children and parents in two primary schools in Maputo Province, in Southern Mozambique, in relation to the languages present in the school curriculum, as well as those that are used in other spheres of Mozambican society. It goes further to presenting the children's and parents' opinions and preferences regarding other languages that they believe would be important to learn and master, due to their perceived relevance, their value in a wider perspective. It is certainly a study that reflects on early language awareness, on how children, most likely influenced by what they hear within their families and in their surroundings, already at a tender age are aware of the social value associated to specific languages, and the perceived power that is embedded in them. It revisits a long-standing discussion on language hierarchies, with the ultimate goal of showing how micro level and/or individual language policies are influenced by and may also influence macro level or societal language policies. This study, which adopts a bottom-up approach to language policy, strongly argues for the need to listen to the voices of the grassroots, their views and wishes, as well as to analyse micro and/or individual language practices when taking language-policy decisions at large, and those pertaining to acquisition planning, in particular. Keywords:



Sarita Holds a PhD in Language Policy and Education Planning with a focus on Multilingual Contexts from the University of Roskilde, Denmark. She is an Associate Professor in Language Education, teaching the disciplines of English Language and Sociolinguistics, Education Policy, Language and Cultural Diversity, Translation Studies, and Introduction to Consecutive Interpreting. She is currently the Director of Cooperation at the Pedagogical University of Maputo and a member of the Doctoral School on Language Studies. She was also the Dean of the Faculty of Language Sciences, Communication and Arts and a Visiting Professor at the Universidade Federal do Paraíba, João Pessoa, Brazil, and at the University of Southern Denmark.

Registration link: <https://universiteitleiden.zoom.us/meeting/register/u5Atf-CrrDIpHtTalMQ7CV6Kbm9DRFJtOmPh>

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