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0521821738 - Languages in a Globalising World - Edited by Jacques Maurais and Michael

A. Morris

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Languages in a globalising world

Throughout human history, the fate of languages has been closely linked to political power relationships. Political shifts in the international system continue to affect linguistic patterns, which today are still in a state of flux following the end of the Cold War. This book considers the effects of present-day trends in global politics on the relative status of languages, and the directions in which the linguistic hierarchy might develop in the future. What are the prospects for the continuing spread of English? Will other traditionally prominent languages such as French and German gain or lose influence? Will languages such as Arabic and Japanese increase in international status? Will minority languages continue to lose ground and disappear? Part I of the book considers theoretical and practical issues, while Part II focuses on language patterns in the main world regions. Part III considers change and continuity in the global language hierarchy by focusing on six languages of wider communication. With its interdisciplinary approach, this book will appeal to researchers and students of sociolinguistics and language planning as well as of international relations.

Jacques Maurais is currently with the Conseil de la langue française in Québec City. He has edited various works on sociolinguistics and language planning and is the author of more than one hundred specialised articles and chapters in books on language planning, sociolinguistics and terminology, as well as monographs.

Michael A. Morris is Professor of Political Science at Clemson University where he holds a joint appointment as Professor of Languages. Dr Morris has written and edited some twenty books and monographs and over fifty articles on subjects including language politics and maritime affairs.

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Editors

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Contributors

ULRICH AMMON is Professor of Linguistics of German with a focus on socio-linguistics at the Gerhard Mercator University, Duisburg, Germany. He has been visiting professor at various universities, e.g. the University of North Carolina, Chapel Hill, the University of Sydney, the Australian National University at Canberra, Dokkyo University at Soka, Japan, and the University of Vienna. In addition to authorship of numerous books, monographs and articles, Professor Ammon is co-editor of *Sociolinguistics: An International Handbook of the Science of Language and Society* (2 vols., Berlin/New York 1987/88) and of the journal *Sociolinguistica*, Tübingen (since 1987).

RICHARD B. BALDAUF JR. PhD is Associate Professor of Applied Linguistics and Director of the Language Centre at the University of Sydney, Australia. From 1992 to 1997 he was Research Manager at the National Languages and Literacy Institute of Australia, and from 1975 to 1992 he was a Lecturer and then Associate Professor of Education at James Cook University, where he has served as Head of Department. He has published more than eighty articles in refereed journals and chapters in books as well as contributing reviews and more informal work. He is a Member at Large on the Executive Board of the International Association of Applied Linguistics, for whom he edits *AILA News*, and he is also Executive Editor of the journal *Current Issues in Language Planning* (Multilingual Matters).

ROLAND J.-L. BRETON attended the Political Sciences School and the Sorbonne, Paris, and received the Agrégation in History and PhD in Geography. He has been a member of the French Education service for thirty years, being attached to universities and research institutes mainly in India, Poland, sub-Saharan Africa, the USA and China. He has published a dozen books, which are translated in eight languages, including several language atlases, as well as around 150 articles mainly on geolinguistics and the defence of language diversity, ethnic identity and understanding of civilisations.

ROBERT CHAUDENSON is Professor at the University of Provence, France, President since 1976 of the International Committee on Creole Studies, and

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Director of the Francophonie Institute. His research has focused on relationships between creole studies and the Francophonie (French-speaking world).

PAULIN G. DJITÉ is Associate Professor and Research Coordinator in the School of Languages and Linguistics at the University of Western Sydney, Macarthur, Australia. Professor Djité has worked in the area of language planning and policy in Africa (since 1985) and in Australia (since 1989). He has published widely and is the author of *From Language Policy to Language Planning: An Overview of Languages Other than English in Australian Education* (National Languages and Literacy Institute of Australia, now Language Australia, 1994).

MARK FETTES gained his PhD from the Ontario Institute for Studies in Education, University of Toronto, Canada, in 2000. He writes on theoretical aspects of language planning and interlinguistics, and the sociology and philosophy of language and education. He edits the interlinguistics section in the journal *Language Problems and Language Planning*, and is the Executive Director of the Esperantic Studies Foundation. He is Assistant Professor, Faculty of Education, Simon Fraser University, Burnaby, British Columbia, Canada.

FERENC FODOR was Lecturer at the Lajos Kossuth University in Debrecen, Hungary, and is now a semiotician and linguist in the Research and Development Division, Électricité de France (EDF), France.

RAINER ENRIQUE HAMEL is Professor of Linguistics at the Department of Anthropology, Universidad Autónoma Metropolitana, Mexico City. He gained his PhD in 1988 in Romance Linguistics at the University of Frankfurt, Germany. He has been a visiting researcher and professor in Brazil (Campinas), the USA (Stanford, UC Santa Barbara), Germany (Frankfurt, Mannheim) and in other countries. He is an Editorial or Advisory Board Member for *The International Journal of Bilingual Education and Bilingualism*, *Language Problems and Language Planning*, *The Southwest Journal of Linguistics* and *Ethnicities*. His publications in various languages cover a wide range of fields and topics.

STEFAN KAISER is Professor at the Institute of Literature and Linguistics, University of Tsukuba, Japan. He holds a Master's degree in Japanese Linguistics from the University of Tokyo and a PhD from London University. His interests include writing systems, especially East Asian writing, and the history of western research on Japanese.

DOUGLAS A. KIBBEE is Professor of French and Linguistics at the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign, USA. His books include *For to Speke*

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Freche Trewely, a description of the status and the study of French in Medieval and Renaissance England, and *Language Legislation and Linguistic Rights* (editor). He is currently working on a history of language policy in France.

MARIA DA GRAÇA KRIEGER is Professor of Portuguese Language at the Institute of Arts, Federal University of Rio Grande do Sul (UFRGS), Brazil, and Coordinator of the TERMISUL Project (UFRGS). She holds the Master of Portuguese Language from UFRGS and a PhD in Linguistics and Semiotics from São Paulo University, Brazil.

JEAN LAPONCE is Professor Emeritus at the University of British Columbia and Visiting Professor at the University of Ottawa, Canada. He graduated from the Institut d'études politiques, Paris, and gained his PhD from the University of California at Los Angeles. He was president of the Canadian Political Science Association (1972–73), of the International Political Science Association (1973–76), and of the Academy of Humanities and Social Sciences of the Royal Society of Canada (1988–91). His works in the field of language and politics include *Langue et territoire* (Presses de l'Université Laval, 1984), revised for the English edition as *Languages and Their Territories* (Toronto University Press, 1987).

FOUED LAROUSSI is Professor and Member of UMR (Unité Mixte de Recherche) DYALANG (Dynamiques sociolinguistiques) of the CNRS (Centre National de Recherche Scientifique) of the University of Rouen, France. His publications include sociolinguistics and immigration issues of the Maghreb as well as language policies of the Francophonie (French-speaking world).

WILLIAM F. MACKEY, FRSC (Fellow of the Royal Society of Canada), CQ (Chevalier de l'Ordre du Québec), docteur ès lettres (Geneva), is author of two dozen books and some 200 articles on geolinguistics, bilingualism, language policy and language education. He was Senior Lecturer (1948–51) at the University of London, and Founding-Director (1968–71) of the International Centre for Research on Bilingualism at Laval University in Quebec City, where he is now Professor Emeritus.

JACQUES MAURAI is Researcher at the Conseil de la langue française in Quebec City. He holds degrees from Laval and Cambridge Universities. He has edited various works on sociolinguistics and language planning and is the author of more than 100 articles and chapters in books as well as some monographs. He sits on the editorial or scientific committees of *Le français moderne*, *Terminogramme*, *Cahiers francophones d'Europe centre-orientale*, *Diversité Langue*, *Marges Linguistiques* and *Glottopol*.

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GRANT D. MCCONNELL worked for most of his career at the International Centre for Research on Language Planning (previously the International Centre for Research on Bilingualism) at Laval University, Quebec City, where he represented the International section. In addition to other projects, he directed jointly with Heinz Kloss two long-term projects leading to publications on the *Written Languages of the World* and *Linguistic Composition of the Nations of the World* (Laval University Press).

VIDA IO. MIKHALCHENKO is Professor and Head of the Research Centre of Ethnic and Language Relations of the Institute of Linguistics of the Russian Academy of Sciences, Moscow. She is also a member of the Russian Academy of Sciences. Her extensive research includes language situations, language policy and language legislation in the Russian Federation and the former Soviet Union as well as the theory and methods of sociolinguistics.

MICHAEL A. MORRIS is Professor of Political Science at Clemson University where he also holds a Joint Appointment as Professor of Languages. He holds an MA in Hispanic Studies from the University of Madrid/Middlebury College and an MA and PhD in International Relations from the School of Advanced International Studies of the Johns Hopkins University. He has published four books of sole authorship in addition to numerous monographs and articles as well as edited works on various topics of international affairs.

SANDRINE PELUAU was Assistant Lecturer at the Lajos Kossuth University, Hungary, and is now a research student at the École Normale Supérieure of Lyon, France.

BIRGIT N. SCHLYTER is Associate Professor and Head of the Forum for Central Asia Studies at the University of Stockholm, Sweden. She is a lecturer in Turkish, Uzbek, Central Asian linguistics and Central Asian cultural history. She has published works on modern Turkish and is at present conducting research on language development and language policies in the Central Asian region. She is a board member and Editor-in-Chief at the Swedish Research Institute in Istanbul.

HUMPHREY TONKIN is President Emeritus and University Professor of the Humanities at the University of Hartford, CT, USA. He holds degrees from Cambridge and Harvard Universities. He is an editor of the journal *Language Problems and Language Planning*, and he has published widely on language, international studies and literature.

CLAUDE TRUCHOT is Professor at the Faculté des langues vivantes, Marc Bloch University (UMB), Strasbourg, France, where he teaches history of English, sociolinguistics and language policy. He is founder and director

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of the Groupe d'étude sur le plurilinguisme européen (GEPE), a research centre of UMB specialised in language policies and language contacts. He consults for the Council of Europe as an expert on language policies. His major publications include books on the role of English in the contemporary world as well as linguistic diversity.

YULIA TRUSHKOVA holds a PhD in Linguistics and is Research Fellow of the Research Centre of Ethnic and Language Relations of the Institute of Linguistics of the Russian Academy of Sciences, Moscow. She is engaged in several research projects detailing sociolinguistic profiles of the languages of the Russian Federation and describing sociolinguistic terminology.

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de Swaan, Abram 1988a, A political sociology of the world language system (1): The dynamics of language spread, *Language Problems and Language Planning*, 22(1): 63–75.

de Swann, Abram 1988b, A political sociology of the world language system (2): The unequal exchange of texts, *Language Problems and Language Planning*, 22(2): 109–128.

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