

The Cambridge Handbook of Language Standardization

Language standardization is traditionally defined as the process that creates and promotes a consistent norm for language usage and typically involves the reduction or loss of optional variability. Bringing together internationally renowned experts, this handbook provides a comprehensive overview of standardization, norms and standard languages. Chapters are grouped into five thematic areas: models and theories of standardization; questions of authority and legitimacy; literacy and education; borders and boundaries; and standardization in Late Modernity. Each chapter addresses a specific issue in detail, illustrating it with linguistic case studies and taking into account the different political, social and cultural contexts. Showcasing cutting-edge research, this handbook offers fresh perspectives that go beyond traditional accounts of the standardization of national European languages and affords new insights into minoritized, indigenous and stateless languages. Surveying a wide range of languages and approaches, the volume is an essential resource for all those interested in language standards and standard languages.

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