

**Language *policy* and the *politics* of
language in Europe**

OR / OU

Les politiques linguistiques européennes

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”Un sujet qui peut être qualifié d’explosif en Europe”

Pierre Lequiller, Président, réunion ouverte à
l’ensemble des membres français du
Parlement Européen, le 11 juin 2003, pour
debattre

*le Rapport sur la diversité linguistique au sein
de l’Union Européenne.*

Discours et structures dans les organismes et pratiques langagiers the l'UE

1. Langues véhiculaires pour les eurocrates de la **Commission** européenne (1? 3?)
2. Réunions du **Conseil**, chefs d'état, ministres, avec interprétation et traduction : (24 1)
3. **Eurlex**, acquis communautaire (24)
4. **Parlement** Européen (plénaire, groupes)
5. UE – **citoyens, experts** (24 ... 2 ... 1)
6. Analyses des **chercheurs** (?)
7. **Débats**

langue et pouvoir à travers les siècles

- **La langue est compagne de l'empire. Elle le suit dans ses expansions. (*Nebrija, 1485*)**
- **Ce qui n'est pas clair n'est pas français. (*Rivarol 1782, Académie de Berlin*)**
- **Là où on parle français on achète français. (*période de décolonisation, cité par Coste, 1984*)**
- **Ce qui n'est pas clair, c'est l'anglais international. (*politique du gouvernement français depuis 1994*)**

Trait commun: idéologie de la supériorité de la civilisation et de la langue française

**Rapports étroits entre les pères fondateurs de l'UE,
surtout Monnet, et 'the USA Establishment'**

Pascaline Winand, 1993

***Eisenhower, Kennedy,
and the United States of Europe***

New York: St Martin's Press.

**La construction de l'Europe vers
l'Europe des nations (de Gaulle, Royaume Uni)**

ou

Les États-Unis de l'Europe (une fédération)

Linguistic imperialist discourse

The most serious problem for the European Union that it has so many languages, this preventing real integration and development of the Union.

USA ambassador to Denmark, Mr Elton, 1997

English should be the sole official language of the European Union

Director, British Council, Germany, 26 February 2002, in Frankfurter Allgemeine Zeitung

Newsweek interviewer, 31 May 2004:

A unified Europe in which English, as it turns out, is the universal language?

Romano Prodi:

It will be broken English, but it will be English.

Le discours européen : le droit ou la force?

**L'Union respecte la diversité culturelle,
religieuse et linguistique.**

*Article 22, La Charte des Droits
Fondamentaux de l'Union Européenne*

**... in the field of linguistic rights, like in other fields
of human rights, there is no right but only ...
politics.**

*Yves Marek, counsellor to
Jacques Toubon, Minister of Culture and
Francophonie, and later of Justice, 1996*

Robert Phillipson

AMERICANIZZAZIONE E INGLESIZZAZIONE COME PROCESSI DI CONQUISTA MONDIALE

Liberi dai padroni della libertà

Aggiornamento italiano di
Giorgio Kadmo Pagano



Le multilinguisme Européen

- **Débats**, surtout parmi chercheurs (Paris, Genève)
- **Colloques**: chercheurs, eurocrates (Amsterdam, Bordeaux, Vienne, Bruxelles)
- **Publications** scientifiques
- **Actions, communications, et publications** de la Commission Européenne, du Parlement Européen
en même temps
- **Point de départ**: pays/régions unilingues
- **Laissez-faire**, le marché "libre"
- **Impérialisme linguistique** de l'anglais
 - Structures, idéologies, internalisation (offre/demande)

European Civil Society Platform for Multilingualism, <http://ecspm.org/>.

- [European Commission website for LANGUAGES](#)
- [Council of Europe, Education and Languages, Language Policy website](#)
- [European Centre for Modern Languages of the Council of Europe](#)
- [European Charter for Regional or Minority languages](#)
- [Poliglotti4.eu project website](#)
- [The 'Platform' members' websites](#)
- [The Poliglotti4.eu on Facebook](#)
- [The European Civil Society Platform for Multilingualism on Facebook](#)
- [The European Language Monitor \(ELM\)](#)
- [Final Report of the European Survey of Language Competence](#)
- [European Civil Society Platform on Lifelong Learning](#)

Une terminologie farfelue des politiques de langues différentes

- **politics AND policy politiques/politik**
- **Nos concepts de base (*langue, dialecte, culture, nation*) ont des racines particulières dans chaque pays avec son histoire et sa cosmologie**
- **Le mot *nation***
***ethnonyme* dans l'hongrois, l'allemand, le danois**
et pour les écossais, catalans, ...
***politonyme* dans le français et aux USA**
- **traditions différentes du **droit**, de l'**enseignement**,**
et des **politiques linguistiques dans chaque pays**

Le mot **English**

Ethnonyme pour les anglais au Royaume Uni

Linguonyme pour les britanniques, les américains, et les élites dans les anciennes colonies, pour lesquelles l'anglais est

Un moyen de communication pour tout le monde qui utilise cette langue, mais

Un moyen de domination pour les anglo-saxons et pour certaines élites qui profitent de ce capital linguistique.

Pierre Bourdieu

”Globalization” ...le masque justificateur d’une politique visant à universaliser les intérêts particuliers et la tradition particulière des puissances économiquement et politiquement dominantes, notamment les États-Unis, et à étendre à l’ensemble du monde le modèle économique et culturel le plus favorable à ces puissances, en le présentant à la fois comme une norme, un devoir-être, et une fatalité, un destin universel, de manière à obtenir une adhésion ou, au moins, une résignation universelles.

Linguistic (neo)imperialism

- **linguicism** -- language-based inequality -- co-articulates with inequality based on class, gender, ethnicity, and nationalism
- **structure**, resources, linguistic capital accumulation or dispossession
- **ideologies, beliefs** about the value of specific languages
- articulated in **discourses** that endorse inequality
- **push and pull factors**, supply and demand, agents
- **normalisation**, internalisation, banal linguicism
- **exploitation and profit**

Les chercheurs **anglophones**:

lingua franca(s)

Les chercheurs francophones:

langues véhiculaires

Any language can be used to consolidate or resist imperialism.

Anglophone and francophone academics tend to covertly or overtly strengthen imperial languages.

le français, selon *La Délégation à la Langue Française et aux langues de France (2007)*
'tend à devenir une langue de traduction et non plus de conception'.

lingua franca : pernicious, misleading, false

- A *pernicious, invidious* term if the language in question is a first language for some people but for others a foreign language.
- A *misleading* term if the language is supposed to be neutral and disconnected from culture.
- A *false* term for a language that is taught as a subject in general education.

Historical continuity: term for the language of

1) the Crusaders, Franks (from Arabic) and later used for limited commercial translations.

2) the crusade of global corporatisation, marketed as freedom, democracy (& human rights?).

English a 'lingua franca' ?

- **lingua economica?**
corporate neoliberalism = americanisation
- **lingua emotiva?** *Hollywood, music*
- **lingua cultura?** *a subject in general education*
- **lingua bellica?** *Afghanistan, Iraq, arms trade*
- **lingua academica?** *publications, conferences, medium for content learning*
- **lingua frankensteinia?** *subtractive in specific domains*

Two scenarios for 'global' English (globalisation ou mondialisation)

Many factors, structural and ideological

- domain loss *processes* = linguistic capital dispossession, e.g. in higher education
- *products* occupy space that earlier was occupied by the national language
- *project*: linguistic neoimperialism of English

OR

to strike a *balance* between English and the national language and others, through *processes* towards the *project* of parallel competence.

terra nullius

- *Roman Catholic Papacy 1513*: **Occupy the Americas!**
- *John Locke 1698*: Europeans have a God-given right to occupy territory elsewhere. ‘God, by *commanding to subdue, gave Authority so far to appropriate*’ - ‘In the beginning, *all the World was America*, and more so than it is now; for no such thing as *Money* was any where known’ - ‘*disproportionate and unequal* Possession of the Earth’, this inequality being ‘tacitly but voluntarily *agreed on* by society. *Terra nullius* can justify slavery, indigenous dispossession and genocide.

cultura nullius

- USA foundation funding for **research in Europe** from 1919 in social and natural sciences.
- In the **cultural cold war**, all western European countries experienced massive efforts by the USA, often funded by the CIA, to project Hollywood, influence intellectuals, reading habits and cultural and political life in general (Saunders 1999).
- **McDonaldisation** (Hamelink 1994, Ritzer 2011) has penetrated academia, the business world, the media, lifestyles and entertainment, clothing *et al* in countless ways.
- **Neoliberal economic** principles dovetail with **cultural norms**. American consumerist capitalism is projected as **a cultura nullius** of universal relevance, a necessity in the modern world (Kayman 2004).

English the *lingua nullius*

In contemporary neoimperial discourse, English is **projected** as a language that everyone needs. Its advocates ignore the **inequalities** that capitalism generates by and through English. In **British Council policy texts**, that are used in advising governments worldwide, 'English is now seen as a "**basic skill**" which all children require if they are fully to participate in 21st century civil society ... It can now be used to communicate to people from almost any country in the world ... We are fast moving into a world in which **not to have English is to be marginalised and excluded**' (Graddol 2006).

lingua nullius discourse

- Martin Davidson, Chief Executive, British Council Annual Report 2009-10: '*English Next India* tells us that from education to the economy, from employability to social mobility, the prospects for India and its people will be greatly enhanced by bringing English into *every classroom, every office and every home*' (italics added, RP).
- cf. *Gandhi, Tagore, Nehru, UNESCO*.
- *Amartya Sen*, the Nobel Prize for economics laureate, pleads for new, more equitable policies that could enable the needs of the entire population of India to be met (Drèze and Sen 2014).

The purported inevitability of neoliberalism

The *lingua nullius* arguments are comparable to the way political apologists for neoliberalism claim that

There Is No Alternative.

(Margaret Thatcher, cited in McMurtry, 2002, 19).

The **Margaret Thatcher Center** for Freedom at the Heritage Foundation in Washington DC has as its goal the promotion of US/UK dominance worldwide <http://www.thatchercenter.org>.

Immobilisme européen

Recommendations in *English-only Europe?*
Challenging language policy (2003)

- National and supranational language policy infrastructure
- EU institutions
- Language teaching and learning
- Research