

Language Policy and National Integration in Multilingual Societies: A Case of East Timor

Multi-Ethnic Society (10)

(Jun.19, 2014)

Email Assignment

- Methods of analysis: how to choose the media (TV programs, films, ads, etc.), target group(s), quantitatively, qualitatively, etc.
- Between representation/discourse and reality
- How to represent (describe) others remains an open question: analysis of media may help self-examination of our writings

Why Language

- Necessity of language policy (plan)
 - Prevention of conflict
 - Economic development
 - National security: relations with home countries of immigrants

(Tanaka 2002)

- If recognize from individual / group's perspective (right to language), what is necessary?

Lingua Franca, Official Language, National Language, Standard Language, Dialect, etc.

- Distinction of languages and states
- Languages of suzerain states > lingua franca > ethnic languages? = Language imperialism?
 - * Mixed languages (pidgin, creole, etc.)
- Institutionalization of prestige and prestige by institutionalization
 - Establishment of orthography, utilization in education, mass media, etc.

Ideologies Relating to Languages

- Multilingualism vs. monolingualism
- Linguistic imperialism:
 - “If you were allowed to acquire only one language, which language would you like to choose?” (Miura and Kasuya 2000: 385)
 - Diffusion of French as a form of ODA (Ibid: 129)

East Timor: Before Independence

- Colonial occupation and education by Portugal:
low diffusion of education
 - Ethnic languages and the Tetum as lingua
franca
 - Domination by Indonesia and rapid diffusion of
education
- Prestige of Tetum and national identity

After Independence

- English boom by international organization
- Education by Bahasa Indonesia: absence of alternative language, teachers, textbooks, etc.
- Condition of mixed use of languages and degree of language proficiency
- Inclination toward Portuguese by independence movement leaders

- Sense of balance in official languages (Portuguese and Tetum) and working languages (English and Indonesian): usefulness and generation gap
 - ODA for Portuguese and English, no assistance for Tetum
- Influence on young elites

Discussion

- What do you think of the interviewees' reaction to languages?
- What do you think of the other countries' reaction to the East Timorese language policy (Australian and Indonesian press, Portuguese, etc.)?
- What direction will be preferable for the future language policy in East Timor?

References

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- Tanaka, Kyoko(田中恭子),2002,『国家と移民』名古屋大学出版会
- Miura, Nobuyuki and Keisuke Kasuya (eds.)(三浦信孝・糟谷啓介編),2000, 『言語帝国主義とは何か』藤原書店

- **【Email Assignment】**

How would you like to design language policy in a multilingual country? (selection of national and official languages, how to avoid concentration of prestige on one language, etc.)

- **【Preparation】**

What is ethnic tourism? What kind of similar examples can you find in other countries?