



OPEN PEER REVIEW

Language, Law, and Power: The Politics of Official Languages in Multilingual States

Thabo. Mokoena¹, Andrew. De Smet^{2*}, Sophie. Chenier³

¹ Department of Public Law, University of Pretoria, Pretoria, South Africa

² Department of Law, KU Leuven, Leuven, Belgium

³ Department of International Relations, McGill University, Montreal, Canada

* Corresponding author email address: Andrew.desmet@kuleuven.be

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EDITOR: Ghasem Eftekhari  Associate Professor, Department of Political Science, University of Tehran, Tehran, Iran. Email: eftekhari@ut.ac.ir			
REVIEWER 1: Jeremiah Thuku Thuku  Department of Literary and Communication Studies, Laikipia University, Nyahururu, Kenya. Email: jerethukuthuku@gmail.com			
REVIEWER 2: Agwu Sunday Okoro  Lecturer & Clinical Law Administrator at Baze University Abuja, Abuja, Nigeria. Email: agwuokoro@gmail.com			

1. Round 1

1.1. Reviewer 1

Reviewer:

Consider providing a clearer operational definition of "official language" in this paragraph. While the conceptual link to power is compelling, the article could benefit from a precise legal definition to establish analytical clarity early on.

While Foucault's relevance is acknowledged, the text could be enriched by briefly illustrating how discourse theory has been applied in recent language policy analyses in multilingual states.

The framework would benefit from referencing key authors (e.g., Philippe Van Parijs or Will Kymlicka) who have advanced the normative theory of linguistic justice.

Please consider specifying whether translanguaging has had any measurable impact on policy reform in the jurisdictions discussed (e.g., Macau).

Consider adding a reference to the Pan South African Language Board (PANSALB) to substantiate claims about implementation challenges.

Authors revised the manuscript and uploaded the document.

1.2. Reviewer 2

Reviewer:

The argument would be strengthened by referencing specific constitutional cases or state doctrines that exemplify this tension between unity and linguistic diversity.

The paragraph would benefit from an elaboration of how bureaucratic language affects access to welfare services, perhaps with an example from a multilingual welfare administration.

This important point would benefit from a brief comparison of the effects of different colonial legacies (e.g., British vs. French) on postcolonial language policy.

Please distinguish between EU-wide language norms and member-state sovereignty in shaping language policy, especially in post-Soviet states.

Authors revised the manuscript and uploaded the document.

2. Revised

Editor's decision: Accepted.

Editor in Chief's decision: Accepted.