

**LANGUAGE POLITICS IN THE PORTUGUESE SPEAKING
COUNTRIES: INSTITUTIONAL ASPECT**

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Abstract. Modern language politics in the countries of the Portuguese speech is a continuation of the ideological and political activities in the diverse space of the lusophonic world. The main goal of the language politics is the formation of the language environment that could be favorable to the state, to the authorities that realize the political communication. The language environment is created within the limits of state formations and, therefore, depends on the state structure.

The language environment is an integral area of national culture. In the language politics, a literary language is a powerful means for the formation and construction of national-cultural identity.

Language politics measures can be applied in three areas - institutional, educational and economic ones. The institutional aspect of the language politics helps to determine the status of a language. It normally occurs in various documents (from state constitutions to documents on intercultural cooperation) and serves multiple activities in the intergovernmental institutions.

Language politics is usually considered to be a sum of rational measures that could help to catch the language problems. The realization of the language politics is associated with the government, which chooses the principles of behavior concerning the language.

It is not easy to draw the difference between the official and state languages. There are some states in which native (indigenous) languages are also official and state. In some cases, the state and official languages are identified. The difference between them is drawn on the basis of the sociolinguistic situation. If the status of the official language is emphasized in the linguistically diverse state, the part of the state/national language is determined mainly in mono-ethnic states. On the other hand, it is only in the relation to the state language that its integration function and capacity to serve as a state symbol are mentioned. The official language is usually described as the language of a multinational state, endowed with various official functions.

In the Portuguese-speaking countries there are different documents that vary in content, level and degree of legislative influence. Thus, the main

documents that emphasize the question of language, are the basic laws in the countries of the Portuguese language, i.e. their constitutions. Some state laws, laws of regional level, acts, decrees, which are issued by state institutions also refer to the language problems.

In the formation of legislation on language in the Portuguese-speaking countries, several stages can be distinguished: promotion and adoption or updating of constitutions; integration of the legislative initiatives; preparation of the documents concerning the common language standard (especially, in the field of spelling).

In lusophonic countries, the division into official language (*língua oficial*), co-official languages (*línguas co-oficiais*), native/indigenous language or mother tongue (*língua materna*) and national language (*língua nacional*) is accepted. Combinations of official, co-official, native (autochthonous) and state languages form complicated configurations - language profiles. Language profiles vary in different countries of the Portuguese world.

In the Portuguese-speaking countries, which are ethnically heterogeneous, the Portuguese language is mainly official, what is declared in the respective Constitutions.

In Portugal and in Brazil, for example, Portuguese is considered to be the official language. In the People's Republic of Angola, Portuguese is recognized as the official (state) language alongside with the indigenous languages. In other countries of the Portuguese speech - in the republics of Cape Verde, Bissau, Guinea, São Tomé and Príncipe, East Timor and Equatorial Guinea, - Portuguese has the status of an official language.

The integration activity in the lusophonic world, supported by the linguistic unity, is supported with the help of the Commonwealth of the Portuguese-speaking Countries.

Keywords: Language politics, institutional aspect, official language, state languages, indigenous languages

Introduction

Modern language politics in the countries of the Portuguese speech is a continuation of various ideological and political measures adopted in the multidimensional space of the lusophonic world. These activities are historically predetermined and, in accordance with the so-called atlantic politics, refer to the integration of countries within the framework of the Portuguese empire that has suffered collapse.

Language politics is usually considered to be as a sum of rational measures that could resolve some problems concerning language. The implementation of the language politics depends on the government, which chooses the

principles of behavior concerning the language. Language politics measures are applied in three areas - institutional, educational and economic.

The main goal of the language politics is the creation of the language environment that could be favorable to the state, to the authorities that fulfill the political communication. The language environment is formed within the limits of state formations and, therefore, depends on the state structure.

The language environment is an integral area of state culture. Within the framework of language politics, a literary language is a powerful means for the formation and construction of national-cultural identity.

Language politics also presupposes language planning (or language engineering, or language management) which deals with the political and official function of the language.

Purpose of the study

The purpose of the study is to characterize the modern language policy in the Portuguese-speaking countries, analyze the language environment in the lusophonic world as an integral area of the national culture.

Methodology

In the Portuguese-speaking countries there are many documents concerning the language that vary in content, level and degree of legislative power. Thus, the main documents that raise the issue of language, are the basic laws of the respective countries, that is, their constitutions. There are also some state laws, laws of regional level, acts, decrees, which are issued by state institutions and refer to the language problems solving.

In the formation of legislation about language in the Portuguese-speaking countries, three stages are distinguished:

- promotion and adoption or updating of constitutions and the appearance of articles about the language in them;
- integration legislative initiatives aimed at the promotion of the Portuguese language;
- preparation of the documents that relate to a common language standard (in the field of spelling).

In the language politics, it is necessary to distinguish between the official language and the state language. In some cases, the state and official languages are identified. The difference between them is set on the basis of the sociolinguistic situation. If the status of the official language is emphasized in the linguistically diverse state, the part of the state/national language is determined mainly in mono-ethnic states. On the other hand, it is only in the relation to the state language that integration function and capacity to serve as a state symbol are emphasized. The official language is usually described as the language of a multinational state, endowed with various official functions.

The state language is considered to be a language that “enjoys legislative status (in accordance with the constitution or a special law) in the state that is mandatory in use in official spheres of life. It performs an integration function within a given state in the political, social and cultural fields, acting as its symbol. The status of the state language is usually given to the language of the titular nation. One language or several languages (in most countries) can be declared as the state language (Tchirkine B.E., 2019: 34)”. The official language, in its turn, is “the main language of the state, used in legislation and official business, judiciary proceedings, training, etc. in countries with a multi-ethnic population (for example, India, Canada, Switzerland). The constitutions define which language (s) is official (Great Juridical Dictionary, 2001: 368).

Lusophonia is the world of the Portuguese language, existing in different national, regional, territorial and social variants. There are various forms of the language (written and oral), different registers and functional styles.

The term *lusophonia* appeared due to the neologism *lusófono* < *lusó* + *fono*. This term was formed by analogy with the French word *francophone*, which since 1949 has entered into the *Le Petit Robert de la Langue Française Dictionary*.

Results / Findings

Lusophonic community is a supranational association, which arose on three grounds: a common language - the Portuguese, heterogeneous ethnic composition of the population and common cultural traditions. The lusophonic world was formed in the process of the creation and life of the Portuguese empire, which existed nearly five hundred years.

In lusophonic countries, the division into official language (*língua oficial*), co-official languages (*línguas co-oficiais*), native language (*língua materna*) and state language (*língua nacional*) is accepted. Combinations of official, co-official, native (autochthonous) and state languages form complicated configurations - profiles. Language profiles vary in different countries of the Portuguese language. In the multilingual countries of the lusophonic world the multiglottic configuration is generally common: an official language (Portuguese – exogenous) and a mother-tongue (ethnic – endogenous languages).

In Portugal and in Brazil, for example, Portuguese is considered the official language.

In the field of language planning in Brazil, for instance, great attention is paid to the development of indigenous languages, in particular, the Kaingang languages (the group of languages *je-* in the states of Sao Paulo, Paraná, Santa Catarina and Rio Grande do Sul) and Guaraní. The *lingua geral* that almost disappeared in the 20th century is not ignored. The

German dialects of *hunsrückisch* and *pomerano* are also very important among the languages of Brazilian immigrants. In Rio Grande do Sul and in Santa Catarina, *talian*, or *venetian*, is still common. In Brazil, there are about 180 autochthonous languages and about 30 languages of immigrants.

Minority language support activities in Brazil are coordinated by the Institute for Language Studies and Development, *Instituto de investigação e desenvolvimento em política linguística*. Under the Brazilian Ministry of Culture, descriptions of minority languages are made within the National Institute of Historical and Artistic Heritage *Instituto Nacional do Património Histórico e Artístico*. This institute made a full description of the Guaraní language. In 2010, the *Inventário nacional da diversidade linguística* National Description of Language Diversity was prepared.

In the People's Republic of Angola, Portuguese is recognized as the official (state) language alongside with the native languages - kimbundu, umbundu, kikongo, kokwe and kvanyama. The status of the Portuguese language as the official language of the country is approved in the Constitution of the Republic of Mozambique. In other countries of the Portuguese speech - in the republics of Cape Verde, Bissau, Guinea, Sao Tome and Principe, East Timor and Equatorial Guinea, Portuguese has the status of an official language.

The integration movement within the framework of the lusophony led to the creation of the Commonwealth of Portuguese Countries *Comunidade dos países da língua portuguesa* CPLP.

The Declaration of the Commonwealth formulates the main organization's objectives: to strengthen national-cultural and multinational identity, to implant mutual ties of friendship and cooperation on the basis of a common language that has an official status in the countries. In this regard, it is emphasized that the Portuguese language is a common property, an instrument of historical connection that has arisen in the process of centuries of coexistence. The Portuguese language is considered a basis by which the national identity is defined.

The Community Declaration provided for the opening of the Interstate Institute of the Portuguese Language *Instituto Internacional da Língua portuguesa* (IILP). The aim of the institute is to plan and realize the programs related to the promotion *promoção*, the defense *defesa*, the enrichment *enriquecimento* and the spread *difusão* of the Portuguese language.

The development of the Common spelling dictionary *Vocabulário ortográfico comum da língua portuguesa* VOC is an important branch in the activities of the International Portuguese Language Institute. In 1990, An international agreement on the spelling *Acordo Ortográfico da Língua*

Portuguesa was concluded, the task of which was to consolidate the spelling forms (including optional) and create a corpus of words used in the Portuguese language countries.

Discussion

Language politics is a system of measures applied to promote and defend the rights of the language. Such measures are declared in the documents on various levels of legislation: in the respective state constitutions, in regional decrees, acts and declarations, and in the linguistically oriented documents, such as the convention of the common spelling standard.

For the ethnically and linguistically diverse states it is very important to distinguish between the state and official language. The state language presupposes state integration and serves a symbol of the state unity. The official language is the constitutionally accepted means of communication in the multinational state.

The Portuguese – speaking countries (lusophonic ones) form a great community, united by language, culture and religion. Language and culture are basic grounds for the modern association in the Community of the Countries of the Portuguese Language. The Community, using the same language, realizes various measures to bring together nations of the lusophonic world.

The lusophonic world is well-known for the colinguism, meaning acceptance of the official language (Portuguese) constitutionally recognized alongside other (indigenous) languages, or mother-tongues.

Portuguese language in the lusophonic world is considered to be a means of culture, education, information and access to scientific, technological knowledge, as well an instrument of international communication. Besides the institutional status of the Portuguese language in the lusophonic world it is worth investigating the economic aspect of its promotion and its educational value.

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