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# Linguistics In A Colonial World A Story Of Language Meaning And Power

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Legacies of Colonial English  
 English and the Discourses of Colonialism  
 Languages and Nations  
 Colonial and Decolonial Linguistics  
 The Colonial Expansion of English - English as a global language  
 Language, Nations, and Multilingualism  
 Aspects of (Post)Colonial Linguistics  
 Involuntary Associations  
 Postcolonial English  
 Language Contact, Colonial Administration, and the Construction of Identity in Ancient Israel  
 Cannibalism and the Colonial World  
 Creolization and Pidginization in Contexts of Postcolonial Diversity  
 The Rise of English  
 Handbook of Language and Communication: Diversity and Change  
 The Spread of English in the World  
 State-Building and Multilingual Education in Africa  
 Linguistic Imperialism  
 Not Like a Native Speaker  
 Innovations and Challenges in Applied Linguistics from the Global South  
 The Politics of Language in the Spanish-Speaking World  
 Africa in Translation  
 Empires of the Word  
 The Impact of French on the African Vernacular Languages  
 The Politics of Language in Colonial and Postcolonial Discourses  
 History and Language in the Andes  
 World Englishes  
 Multidisciplinary Perspectives on Multilingualism  
 Decolonising the Mind  
 The Politics of English as a World Language  
 Language and Colonial Power  
 Linguistics in a Colonial World  
 Colonizing Language  
 A History of African Linguistics  
 The Cultural Politics of English as an International Language  
 Decolonizing Foreign Language Education  
 World English  
 Mining Language  
 Language and Tourism in Postcolonial Settings  
 The Colonial Expansion of English - English As a Global Language

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## JEFFERSON CABRERA

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Legacies of Colonial English BRILL  
 Language, Nations, and Multilingualism explores the legacy of Herder's ideas about the relationship between language and nationalism in the post-colonial world. Focusing on how anti-colonial and post-colonial nations reconcile their myriad multilingualisms with the Herderian model of one language-one nation, it shows how Herder's model is both attractive and problematic for such nations. Why then does the Herderian model have such valency? How has the Herderian ideal of one nation-one language continued to survive beneath the uncomfortable resolution struck by new multilingual nations as they create fictions of a singular national mother tongue? To what extent is Herder still relevant in our contemporary world? How have different nations negotiated the Herderian ideal in different ways? What does the way in which multilingual post-colonial nations deal with this crisis tell us about a possible alternative framework

for understanding the relationship between language and nation? By approaching this investigation from diverse archives across Asia, Africa, Europe, Latin America, and the Caribbean, Language, Nations, and Multilingualism proposes answers to the aforementioned questions from a global perspective that takes into account the specificities of a range of colonial experiences and political regimes. And by extending the discussion backwards in time to offer a more historical reading of the making of modern nations, it allows us to see how multilingualism has always disrupted constructions of monoglot nations.

*English and the Discourses of Colonialism* Walter de Gruyter GmbH & Co KG

Involuntary associations : "Postcolonial Studies" and "World Englishes"--Grammars of living break their Tense : world Englishes and cultural translation -- English in the conversation of mankind : world Englishes and global citizenship -- Declarations of linguistic independence: the postcolonial dictionary -- Writing after the end of empire : Composition, community, and creativity -- Slow reading : the opacity of world literatures -- Conclusion :

English remains, englishes remain

**Languages and Nations** GRIN Verlag

Nicholas Ostler's *Empires of the Word* is the first history of the world's great tongues, gloriously celebrating the wonder of words that binds communities together and makes possible both the living of a common history and the telling of it. From the uncanny resilience of Chinese through twenty centuries of invasions to the engaging self-regard of Greek and to the struggles that gave birth to the languages of modern Europe, these epic achievements and more are brilliantly explored, as are the fascinating failures of once "universal" languages. A splendid, authoritative, and remarkable work, it demonstrates how the language history of the world eloquently reveals the real character of our planet's diverse peoples and prepares us for a linguistic future full of surprises.

Oxford University Press

Multilingualism is a typical aspect of everyday life for most of the world's population; it has existed since the beginning of humanity and among individuals of all backgrounds. Nonetheless, it has often been treated as a variant of bilingualism or as a phenomenon unique to individual areas of study. The purpose of this book is to review current knowledge about the acquisition, use and loss of multiple languages using a multidisciplinary perspective, highlighting the common themes and stimulating insights that can emerge when multilingualism is viewed from different but related areas of investigation. The chapters focus on research evidence, showing that multilingualism is a complex phenomenon that involves a myriad of linguistic and extra-linguistic forces and that should be studied in its own right as evidence of human potential and capacity for language. The book is primarily addressed to students and scholars interested in deepening their understanding of the different facets of multilingualism, including the individual and societal circumstances that contribute to it, the cognitive and neural mechanisms that make it possible, and the dynamics involved in the acquisition, use and loss of multiple languages.

*Colonial and Decolonial Linguistics* Routledge

Drawing on both original texts and critical literature, *Linguistics in a Colonial World* surveys the methods, meanings, and uses of early linguistic projects around the world. Explores how early endeavours in linguistics were used to aid in overcoming practical and ideological difficulties of colonial rule. Traces the uses and effects of colonial linguistic projects in the shaping of identities and communities that were under, or in opposition to, imperial regimes. Examines enduring influences of colonial linguistics in contemporary thinking about language and cultural difference. Brings new insight into post-colonial controversies including endangered languages and language rights in the globalized twenty-first century.

**The Colonial Expansion of English - English as a global language** Walter de Gruyter

"...a work of very high scholarship and of a particularly valuable cultural critique... Fabian shows that European scholars, missionaries, soldiers, travellers, and administrators in Central Africa during the late nineteenth and early twentieth century used Swahili as a mode of extending their domination over African territories and people. The language was first studied and characterized, then streamlined for use among laboring people, then regulated as such fields as education and finance were also regulated. Any student of what has been called Africanist discourse, or of imperialism will find *Language and Colonial Power* an invaluable and path-breaking work (from Foreword).

*Language, Nations, and Multilingualism* GRIN Verlag

In line with the overall perspective of the Handbook series, the focus of Vol.9 is on language-related problems arising in the

context of linguistic diversity and change, and the contributions Applied Linguistics can offer for solutions. Part I, "Language minorities and inequality," presents situations of language contact and linguistic diversity as world-wide phenomena. The focus is on indigenous and immigrant linguistic minorities, their (lack of) access to linguistic rights through language policies and the impact on their linguistic future. Part II "Language planning and language change," focuses on the impact of colonialism, imperialism, globalisation and economics as factors that language policies and planning measures must account for in responding to problems deriving from language contact and linguistic diversity. Part III, "Language variation and change in institutional contexts," examines language-related problems in selected institutional areas of communication (education, the law, religion, science, the Internet) which will often derive from socioeconomic, cultural and other non-linguistic asymmetries. Part IV, "The discourse of linguistic diversity and language change," analyses linguistic diversity, language change and language reform as issues of public debates which are informed by different ideological positions, values and attitudes (e.g. with reference to sexism, racism, and political correctness). The volume also contains extensive reference sections and index material.

*Aspects of (Post)Colonial Linguistics* Cambridge University Press

How do governments in Africa make decisions about language? What does language have to do with state-building, and what impact might it have on democracy? This manuscript provides a longue durée explanation for policies toward language in Africa, taking the reader through colonial, independence, and contemporary periods. It explains the growing trend toward the use of multiple languages in education as a result of new opportunities and incentives. The opportunities incorporate ideational relationships with former colonizers as well as the work of language NGOs on the ground. The incentives relate to the current requirements of democratic institutions, and the strategies leaders devise to win elections within these constraints. By contrasting the environment faced by African leaders with that faced by European state-builders, it explains the weakness of education and limited spread of standard languages on the continent. The work combines constructivist understanding about changing preferences with realist insights about the strategies leaders employ to maintain power.

*Involuntary Associations* GRIN Verlag

Research in (Post)Colonial Linguistics has experienced a significant increase in contributions from different fields of linguistics. This volume aims to showcase the variety of topics relevant to the study of language(s) in colonial, postcolonial and decolonial contexts. The new paradigm invites research on subject matters such as language typology, meta-linguistics and research on language ideology as well as discourse analysis and pragmatics.

**Postcolonial English** Routledge

Spanish is now the third most widely spoken language in the world after English and Chinese. This book traces how and why Spanish has arrived at this position, examining its role in the diverse societies where it is spoken from Europe to the Americas. Providing a comprehensive survey of language issues in the Spanish-speaking world, the book outlines the historical roots of the emergence of Spanish or Castilian as the dominant language, analyzes the situation of minority language groups, and traces the role of Spanish and its colonial heritage in Latin America. The book is structured in four sections: Spanish as a national language: conflict and hegemony Legislation and the realities of linguistic diversity Language and education The future of Spanish. Throughout the book Clare Mar-Molinero asks probing

questions such as: How does language relate to power? What is its link with identity? What is the role of language in nation-building? Who decides how language is taught?

**Language Contact, Colonial Administration, and the Construction of Identity in Ancient Israel** Routledge

The first global history of African linguistics as an emerging autonomous academic discipline, covering Africa, the Americas, Asia, Australia, and Europe.

Cannibalism and the Colonial World Univ of California Press  
Publisher description

**Creolization and Pidginization in Contexts of Postcolonial Diversity** Boydell & Brewer

The spread of English around the world has been and continues to be both rapid and unpredictable. *World Englishes: The Study of New Linguistic Varieties* deals with this inescapable result of colonisation and globalisation from a social and linguistic perspective. The main focus of the book is on the second-language varieties of English that have developed in the former British colonies of East and West Africa, the Caribbean, South and South-East Asia. The book provides a historical overview of the common circumstances that gave rise to these varieties, and a detailed account of their recurrent similarities in structure, patterns of usage, vocabulary and accents. Also discussed are debates about language in education, the rise of English in China and Western Europe, and other current developments in a world of global travel and migration.

**The Rise of English** UNC Press Books

Covering a wide range of areas including international politics, colonial history, critical pedagogy, postcolonial literature and applied linguistics, this book examines ways to understand the cultural and political implications of the global spread of English. Including a useful mixture of theory, research and practice, this will be of use to advanced students of education, English and applied linguistics, for courses on teaching second languages, critical pedagogy, comparative education and world Englishes. It will also be of interest to students of postcolonial literature and international relations.

*Handbook of Language and Communication: Diversity and Change* Cambridge University Press

Ngugi wrote his first novels and plays in English but was determined, even before his detention without trial in 1978, to move to writing in Gikuyu.

*The Spread of English in the World* Taylor & Francis

Although the era of European colonialism has long passed, misgivings about the inequality of the encounters between European and non-European languages persist in many parts of the postcolonial world. This unfinished state of affairs, this lingering historical experience of being caught among unequal languages, is the subject of Rey Chow's book. A diverse group of personae, never before assembled in a similar manner, make their appearances in the various chapters: the young mulatto happening upon a photograph about skin color in a popular magazine; the man from Martinique hearing himself named "Negro" in public in France; call center agents in India trained to Americanize their accents while speaking with customers; the Algerian Jewish philosopher reflecting on his relation to the French language; African intellectuals debating the pros and cons of using English for purposes of creative writing; the translator acting by turns as a traitor and as a mourner in the course of cross-cultural exchange; Cantonese-speaking writers of Chinese contemplating the politics of food consumption; radio drama workers straddling the forms of traditional storytelling and mediated sound broadcast. In these riveting scenes of speaking and writing imbricated with race, pigmentation, and class demarcations, Chow suggests, postcolonial languaging becomes,

de facto, an order of biopolitics. The native speaker, the fulcrum figure often accorded a transcendent status, is realigned here as the repository of illusory linguistic origins and unities. By inserting British and post-British Hong Kong (the city where she grew up) into the languaging controversies that tend to be pursued in Francophone (and occasionally Anglophone) deliberations, and by sketching the fraught situations faced by those coping with the specifics of using Chinese while negotiating with English, Chow not only redefines the geopolitical boundaries of postcolonial inquiry but also demonstrates how such inquiry must articulate historical experience to the habits, practices, affects, and imaginaries based in sounds and scripts.

State-Building and Multilingual Education in Africa Cambridge University Press

Essay from the year 2011 in the subject English Language and Literature Studies - Linguistics, grade: Distinction, University of Newcastle upon Tyne (EDUCATION COMMUNICATIONS AND LANGUAGE SCIENCES), course: Sociolinguistics, language: English, abstract: The massive increase of English speakers around the world who speak it at all different levels of proficiency, for any variety of purposes and with (other) non-native speakers has sparked some concerns and controversies. Some are concerned that its wide spread and the emergence and institutionalisation of new 'Englishes' will lead to a language fragmentation that could ultimately result in mutual unintelligibility. The question of who holds authority over English today is causing heated discussions. Teaching practices for English as a foreign language are yet another contentious subject. For the most part, English teaching is still oriented towards British or North American varieties, and a learner's proficiency is measured in relation to those norms. Some, however, demand that English teaching practices take into account that usage situations and requirements for English have changed, and that teachers prepare students for international communication rather than communication with Americans or British. The issue with perhaps the greatest political significance is that of linguistic imperialism. As English, particularly the 'prestige varieties' British and American, are being taught to more and more people across the world, some have voiced their concern that this "compromises the cultural integrity of the non-native speaker". There is a fear that English might suppress or even replace local languages and be used as a tool to spread Anglo-American cultural hegemony. This essay gives first a rough overview over who speaks English in the world today. It then briefly discusses some of the attempts by scholars to categorise this immense number of different people, focusing particularly on Kachru's model of the spread of English. It addresses some of the factors that lead to the emergence of new varieties of English, describing Nigerian English and China English in more detail by way of an example. Linguistic imperialism is discussed subsequently as one particularly controversial issue relating to the rise of English to one of the world's most predominant languages.

**Linguistic Imperialism** Columbia University Press

This text traces the history of English language spread from the 18th to the beginning of the 21st century, combining that with a study of its language change. It links linguistic and sociolinguistic variables that have conditioned the evolution and change of English, putting forward a new framework of language spread and change.

Not Like a Native Speaker Harper Collins

Creolization and pidginization are conceptualized and investigated as specific social processes in the course of which new common languages, socio-cultural practices and identifications are developed in contexts of postcolonial diversity

shaped by distinct social, historical and local conditions.

**Innovations and Challenges in Applied Linguistics from the Global South** Cambridge University Press

"Africa in Translation is a thoughtful contribution to the literature on colonialism and culture in Germany and will find readers in the fields of German history and German studies as well as appealing to audiences in the large and interdisciplinary fields of colonialism and postcolonialism." ---Jennifer Jenkins, University of Toronto  
The study of African languages in Germany, or Afrikanistik, originated among Protestant missionaries in the early nineteenth century and was incorporated into German universities after Germany entered the "Scramble for Africa" and became a colonial power in the 1880s. Despite its long history, few know about the German literature on African languages or the prominence of Germans in the discipline of African philology. In *Africa in Translation: A History of Colonial Linguistics in Germany and Beyond, 1814--1945*, Sara Pugach works to fill this gap, arguing that Afrikanistik was essential to the construction of

racialist knowledge in Germany. While in other countries biological explanations of African difference were central to African studies, the German approach was essentially linguistic, linking language to culture and national identity. Pugach traces this linguistic focus back to the missionaries' belief that conversion could not occur unless the "Word" was allowed to touch a person's heart in his or her native language, as well as to the connection between German missionaries living in Africa and armchair linguists in places like Berlin and Hamburg. Over the years, this resulted in Afrikanistik scholars using language and culture rather than biology to categorize African ethnic and racial groups. *Africa in Translation* follows the history of Afrikanistik from its roots in the missionaries' practical linguistic concerns to its development as an academic subject in both Germany and South Africa throughout the nineteenth and twentieth centuries. Sara Pugach is Assistant Professor of History at California State University, Los Angeles. Jacket image: Perthes, Justus. *Mittel und Süd-Afrika*. Map. Courtesy of the University of Michigan's Stephen S. Clark Library map collection.

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