

Language Policy in Asia

Asian Politics: Week 12

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Objectives

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1. Understanding what's language policy and its major types

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2. Applying this typology to cross-country **comparisons**

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2. Applying this typology to cross-country **comparisons**
3. Recognizing the **political** influences of language policy

Terminology & Typology

What's Language Policy?

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What's Language Policy?

- Linguistic standardization (*what should governments speak?*)
 - Language education (*what should teachers speak?*)

What's Language Policy?

- Linguistic standardization (*what should governments speak?*)
 - Language education (*what should teachers speak?*)
- Linguistic ecology (*what should be spoken to non-official-language speakers?*)

Typology

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Typology

Dimension I: **Number** of official languages

- Monolingualism vs. Multilingualism

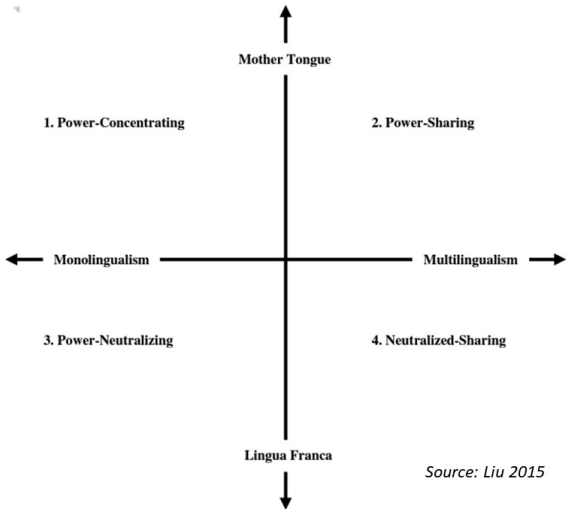
Typology

Dimension I: **Number** of official languages

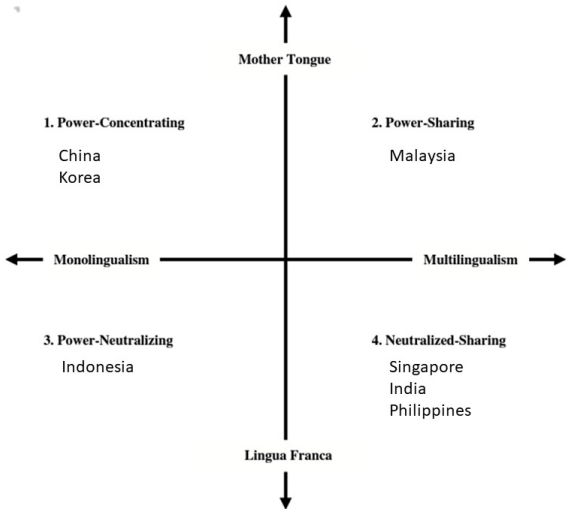
- Monolingualism vs. Multilingualism

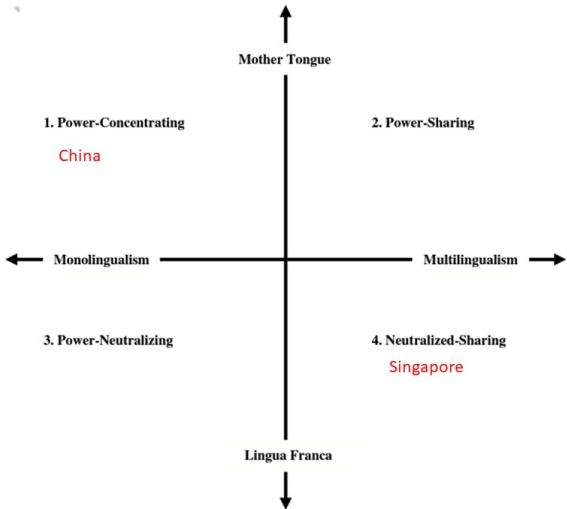
Dimension II: **Nativity** of official languages

- Mother tongue vs. Lingua franca



Source: Liu 2015





Language Policies in Asian Countries

Language Policy of Mainland China



Language Policy of China



- Power-concentrating:
 - **Single** official language: Putonghua

Do You Really Know Putonghua?

Hello = 你 好
Ní hao !

Do You Really Know Putonghua?

Hello = 你 好
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- A "new" language

Do You Really Know Putonghua?

Hello = 你好
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- A "new" language
- A required language

Do You Really Know Putonghua?

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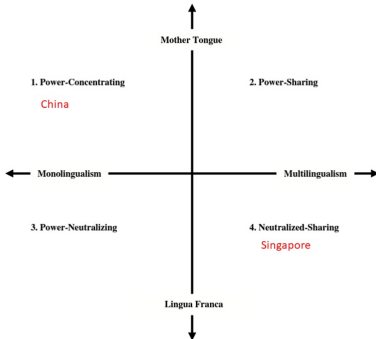
- A "new" language
- A required language
- A common language

Language Policy of China



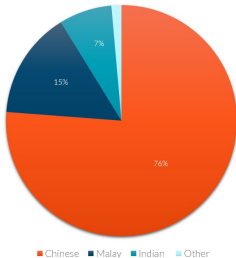
- Power-concentrating:
 - **Single** official language: Putonghua
 - Mother tongue of the **majority** group
 - **Han: 91.51%**;
 - **Zhuang: 1.27%**;
 - **Hui: 0.79% ...**

Language Policy in Singapore

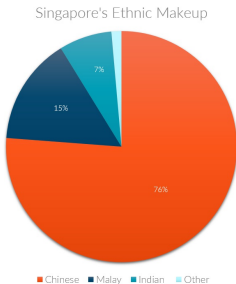


Language Policy in Singapore

Singapore's Ethnic Makeup



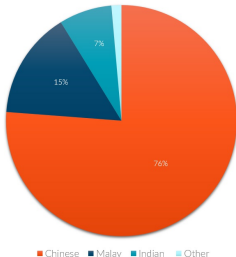
Language Policy in Singapore



- **Neutralized-Sharing:**
 - # of official language?
 - Nativity?

Language Policy in Singapore

Singapore's Ethnic Makeup

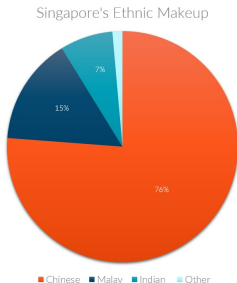


- Neutralized-Sharing:
 - # of official language?



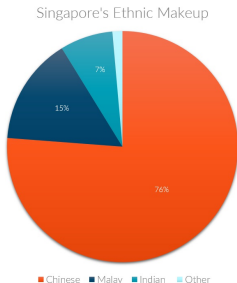
- Nativity?

Language Policy in Singapore



- Neutralized-Sharing:
 - # of official language?
English, Chinese, Malay, and Tamil
 - Nativity?
 - *Lingua franca*

Language Policy in Singapore



- Neutralized-Sharing:
 - # of official language?
English, Chinese, Malay, and Tamil
 - Nativity?
 - *Lingua franca*
 - Bilingual education

Influences of Language Policy

Why Should We Care?

Costs

Communication cost



Costs

Communication cost



Equality cost



Why do they matter for the government?



Why do they matter for the government?

- Tax collection



Why do they matter for the government?

- Tax collection
- Administrative efficiency



Why do they matter for the government?

- Tax collection
- Administrative efficiency
- Governance efficiency



Take-Home Points

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Typology

Two dimensions & four types

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Take-Home Points

Typology

Two dimensions & four types

Asia

- China: power-concentrating
- Singapore: neutralized-sharing

Take-Home Points

Typology

Two dimensions & four types

Asia

- China: power-concentrating
- Singapore: neutralized-sharing

Influence

- Tax
- Administrative efficiency
- Governance efficiency

Any Idea?

Does language policy affect public opinions?

That's it!



