

Ricento, T. & Hornberger, N. (1996). *Unpeeling the Onion: Language Planning and Policy and the ELT Professional*

Objectives

1. To describe frameworks and approaches from the LPP literature.
2. To mention various **components** in which policy decisions and practices are realized, including mainly language planning **agents, levels, and processes**— all are layers that together compose the LPP whole (the “onion”) and that permeate and interact with each other in a variety of ways and to varying degrees.
3. To highlight the role of **English language teaching (ELT) professionals** in shaping language policy, whether consciously or unwittingly.

Frameworks

1. Hornberger’s (1994) framework has two language planning approaches

Policy planning (on form): The policy-planning approach attends to matters of society and nation at the **macroscopic level and** is mainly concerned with standard language.

Cultivation planning (on function): The cultivation-planning approach deals with matters relating to language/literacy at the microscopic level and is mainly concerned with literacy language.

It has three approaches/types

- i. Status planning: Uses of language
- ii. Acquisition Planning: Users of language
- iii. Corpus planning: Deals with language itself

Note: This framework is neutral with regard to political direction; rather, it is the language planning goals assigned to LPP activities that determine the direction of change envisioned.

Strength: detailed framework, integrating multiple aspects of LPP

Weakness: difficult to apply because of multiple dimensions

FIGURE 1
Language Planning Gods An Integrative Framework

Approaches	Policy planning (on form)	Cultivation planning (on function)
Types	Goals	Goals
Status planning (about uses of language)	Standardization status Officialization Nationalization Proscription	Revival Maintenance Interlingual communication International Intranational Spread
Acquisition planning (about users of language)	Group Education/school Literature Religion Mass media Work	Reacquisition Maintenance Foreign language/second language Shift
Corpus planning (about language)	Standardization Corpus Auxiliary code Graphization	Modernization Lexical Stylistic Renovation Purification Reform Stylistic simplification Terminology unification

2. Ruiz's Orientations Model

This framework accounts for the role played by attitudes (often unconscious) “toward language and its role, and toward languages and their role in society”

These orientations as follows:

1. a language as **problem orientation** which would tend to see local languages as problems standing in the way of the incorporation of cultural and linguistic minority groups in society, and to link language issues with the social problems characteristic of such groups—poverty, handicap, low educational achievement, and little or no social mobility;
2. a language as **right orientation** which would tend to see local languages as a basic human and civil right for their speakers, and to seek the affirmation of those rights, often leading to confrontation, since a claim to something is also a claim against something else;
3. a language as **resource orientation** which would tend to see local languages as resources not only for their speakers, but for society as a whole, and to seek their cultivation and

development as resources, in recognition of the fact that they are exhaustible not by use, but by lack of use.

Strength: Easy to apply

Weakness: Too simple to cover complexities of language situations

3. Rational model

In this framework, multilingualism is often seen as a problem that states have to solve. According to this framework, language planning refers to the pursuit of “solutions to language problems through decisions about alternative goals, means, and outcomes to solve these problems.

The rational model assumes that the nation or government is the sole agent making choices and that it chooses from available alternatives ranked according to their value or usefulness in achieving specified objectives. The agent commonly evaluates competing language plans within the framework of cost/ benefit analysis; maximizing national economic growth while maintaining political stability and control is usually the goal.

Strength: clear approach, solution-oriented

Weakness: too simple solutions for a complex problem

4. Historical-structural approach

The major goal of policy research is to examine the historical basis of policies and to make explicit the mechanisms by which policy decisions serve or undermine particular political and economic interests”

The historical-structural approach assumes

- i. that all language plans and policies represent and reflect the sociopolitical and economic interests of majoritarian or dominant interests;
- ii. that these interests are often implicit and are enmeshed in hegemonic ideologies that serve to maintain the socioeconomic interests of ruling elites;
- iii. that such ideologies are reflected at all levels of society and in all institutions, whether government agencies, planning bodies, legislative or judicial bodies, school boards, or other entities;
- iv. that individuals are not free to choose the language(s) that they will be educated in or be able to use in specified domains, as all choices are constrained by systems that reinforce and reproduce the existing social order, which of course favor particular languages in particular contexts for particular sociopolitical ends favored by interested parties, usually dominant elites (or counter elites).

Strength: Offers deeper understanding of LPP dynamics

Weakness: little room for individual creativity in LPP