

Assignment #1: Language Policy Analysis and Report
(20 points | Due by Week 3)

Assignment Overview

Language policy—whether official or de facto—influences “the structure, function, use, or acquisition of language” (Johnson, 2013, p. 9)¹. Though the Macau government, for example, only lists Chinese and Portuguese as official languages, English is widely used as a de facto medium of instruction in universities. The natural result is that university admissions often require applicants to demonstrate their English proficiency, and English is part of the pre-university curriculum.

Likewise, in this assignment, you will choose and analyze a language policy. The policy could be current or historical, impacting society now, or in the past. The policy can be from the United States, or somewhere else in the world. You will describe the policy, analyze how it works in practice, reflect on its impacts on different groups of people, and critique it.

The goal of this assignment is to help you understand how power (language policy in this case) interacts and influences language.

Final Product

For content, your report should include:

- **Description:** Describe what your selected language policy is, who the policy-maker is, why it was created, and what its goals are.
- **Analysis:** Analyze how this policy is used in practice. For example, how does this policy influence education, workplace, or government practices? How are other languages affected by it? What possible beliefs about language are reflected? Who benefits from it? Who might face challenges? You should include specific examples to illustrate your findings.
- **Evaluation:** How do you evaluate this policy based on your personal research and experiences? What are possible ways, if applicable, to improve or revise it?

For formatting, your typed report should:

- be around 3 pages, or 750–1000 words;
- be formatted in Times New Roman, 12-point font, double-spaced, and with 1-inch margins;
- use the following header:
Student Name
Assignment Name

¹ Johnson, D. C. (2013). *Language policy*. Palgrave Macmillan London.
<https://doi.org/10.1057/9781137316202>

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Date

- and follow APA Style (7th edition) for citations, though this assignment may not require any in-text citations or a reference list.

Suggested Steps to Complete the Assignment

1. **Understand Language Policy:** Review class materials to understand what language policy is and *isn't*. In particular, please reference Chapter 1 selected from Johnson (2013), available on ICON under the Week 1 module, to gain insight into different types of language policy.
2. **Choose a Language Policy:** Search online to locate a language policy that interests you. In this process, you may consider using search strings—"AND", "OR", or "NOT"—to retrieve the most relevant research results.
3. **Explore:** Search for relevant information related to your selected language policy to learn more about it. You might focus on the following areas: background, people's reactions and attitudes, and impacts on language use and education (e.g., opportunities and challenges).
4. **Plan:** Organize the information you find online into notes or graphic organizers, then plan what you will include in your report. You may need to refine or expand your search as necessary to find enough relevant information for your report.
5. **Compose:** Present your analysis in a report that includes description, analysis, and evaluation (see details in the Final Product section).
6. **Revise and Edit:** Read your report multiple times to revise, edit, and make necessary changes before uploading it to ICON. If necessary, you can visit the Writing Center for assistance.
7. **Submit:** Upload the assignment as a Microsoft Word file to ICON **by the time class starts on the due date**. Points will be deducted if assignments are late. Your assignment file should be named "Student Last Name_Assignment Name_Year."
8. **Share:** Share your analysis results with classmates in class.

Assessment Criteria

Your report will be graded according to the following criteria, which describe a submission that "Meets Expectations." A grading rubric will also be shared on ICON.

- **Purpose** (2 points): The report has a clear focus and identifies an appropriate language policy for analysis.
- **Description** (4 points): The report presents a clear overview of the selected language policy and provides sufficient background information to help unfamiliar readers understand it.

- **Analysis** (6 points): The report analyzes the selected language policy's influences from at least 2 perspectives. Analysis is well developed and includes specific examples to illustrate findings.
- **Evaluation** (4 points): The report appropriately evaluates the selected language policy and makes reasonable claims that are supported by explanations and examples.
- **Clarity** (2 points): Information in the report is presented through clear and accessible language. The report appropriately uses or follows common organizational features to create a clear and meaningful structure for readers.
- **Assignment Guidelines** (2 points): The submission meets the assignment guidelines in terms of word length and required formatting considerations.