

## Workshop: Comparison of Multilingual Nations: India, Canada, & U.S.

1. What is the nation's official language policy, and how does this converge or diverge from the language policies of individual states or provinces in this country?

Hindi - official status → backlash from Eng. colonialism  
each state can reserve regional lang.  
can choose official lang. for edu. + gov. affairs  
discrepancy between colloquial + written Hindi  
(+ other lang.)  
\* very regional

11 scripts  
15 major lang.

2. What is actual language practice like "on the ground"? In other words, how well does the reality of language use match with national laws, and what are citizens' attitudes towards language use?

written vs. vernacular  
- many can't understand written forms of lang.  
or there is no written form  
upper classes use Eng. to their advantage  
lawyers, courts, elite (lang. blackout)  
minority lang. groups oppose use of Hindi →  
cultural imperialism

3. What are the major problems with this nation's language policy?

1961 3 lang. formula - fluency + literacy in 3 lang.  
Eng., Hindi, + regional lang.

rejected by many states

modernization

divides people

men vs. younger gen.

educated vs. uneducated

mass media spreads

Hindi  
popularity

territory disputes

"style strata" - borrowing words, etc.  
unequal degree of familiarity

4. List some key points of similarity and difference between your case of

India and the previous case of U.S.

more lang. monitoring in U.S.

U.S. gov. decides to use Eng. in edu., not individual  
States

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Nation - Official Language Act 1969

- French and English are both official languages of Canada
- Government Documents printed in both French & English
- Services must be provided in both French & English so residents can choose
- both languages enjoy equality status w/ equal rights + privileges

Quebec

- Bill 101 made French the official language of Quebec (only official language)
- Education is in French
- All job speakers must speak French

2. What is actual language practice like "on the ground"? In other words, how well does the reality of language use match with national laws, and what are citizens' attitudes towards language use?

- Animosity between Anglophones + Francophones
- In Canada as a whole, the percentages of francophone bilinguals significantly outnumber anglophone bilinguals
- Example - beginning of chapter conc. btw. man + receptionist - receptionist pretends not to know English & force man to speak French
- Speakers assert their identity through their language choice & show their sensitivity to the linguistic rights of others
- in studies where French + English speakers heard the opposite languages in different dialects, both francophones + anglophones held strong negative stereotypes of French Canadians

PREFERRED ENG. SPEAKERS

- Speech accommodation theory -

when speakers have positive attitudes towards interlocutors, they accommodate or converge to the latter's speech styles

3. What are the major problems with this nation's language policy?

- Nation is unable to unify French and English speakers

- Policy is fine - some people unwilling to unite

- Ex: voting patterns indicate divide between the languages

- 1995 - Quebec held vote to separate from Canada  
outvoted 50.5% to 49.5%

4. List some key points of similarity and difference between your case of

Canada and the previous case of India

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- it is believed that English is the official language, but it is not
- in many states, English is the official language
- Supreme Court (1923) ruled non-English speakers constitutionally could speak their own languages in private, but not in public

2. What is actual language practice like "on the ground"? In other words, how well does the reality of language use match with national laws, and what are citizens' attitudes towards language use?

- Congress passed the Bilingual Education Act of 1968, but many states are banning this and forcing English
- English is considered good language
- the reality is that English is dominant because of official documents, laws, court, etc.
- bilingual education is transitional = assimilation of foreign-speaking communities,
- 90% of Americans are monolingual speakers of English

3. What are the major problems with this nation's language policy?

- it is not standardized
- the policy of not having an "official" language is not enforced because English is used so much
- schools are trying to end bilingual programs
- policy contradicts itself

4. List some key points of similarity and difference between your case of

U.S. and the previous case of Canada