

# DiM PROJECT SHORT TERM JOINT STAFF TRAINING

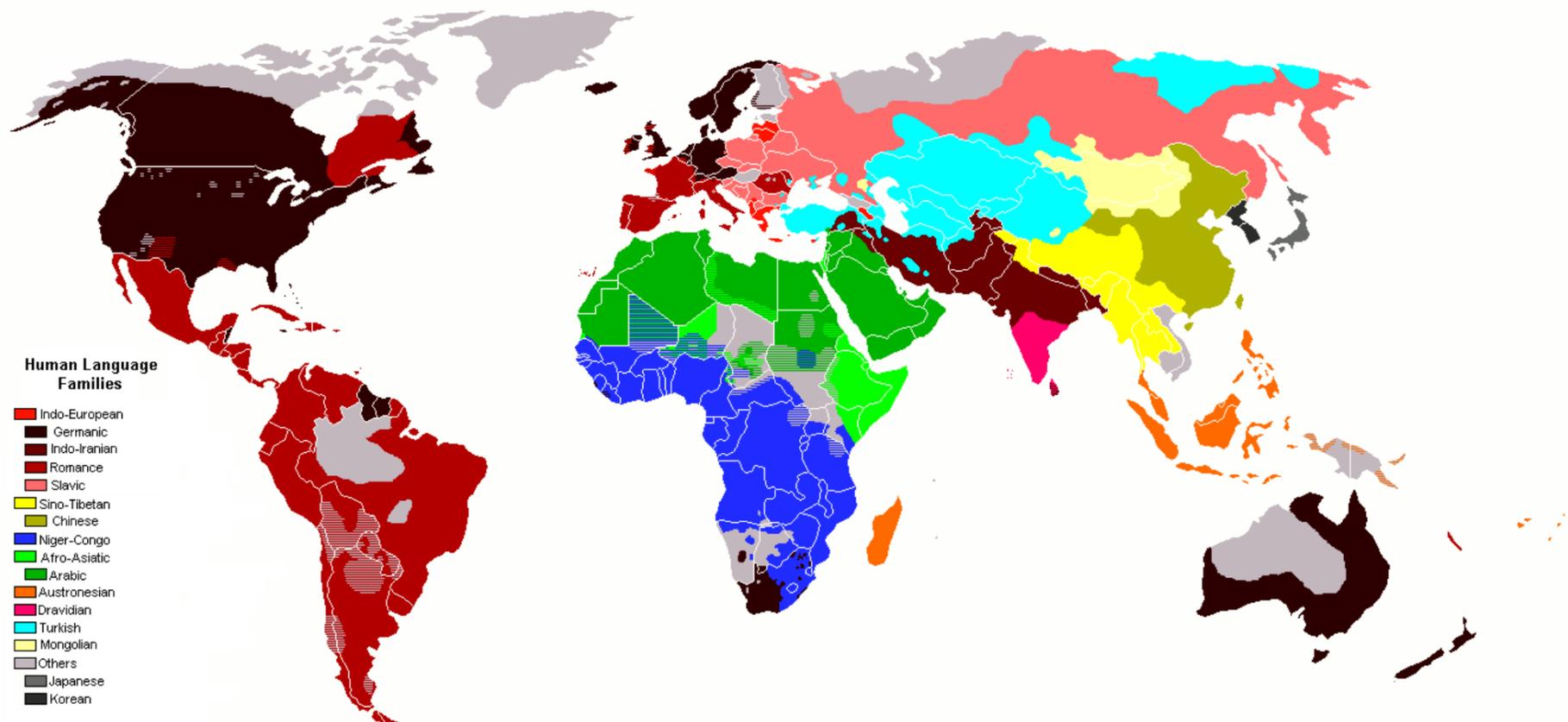
5-7 November 2019 | Malta

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¶ The awareness of language and culture diversity in a multilinguistic and multicultural context

¶ Tools and methodologies in Sociolinguistic Data collection

# OBJECTIVES

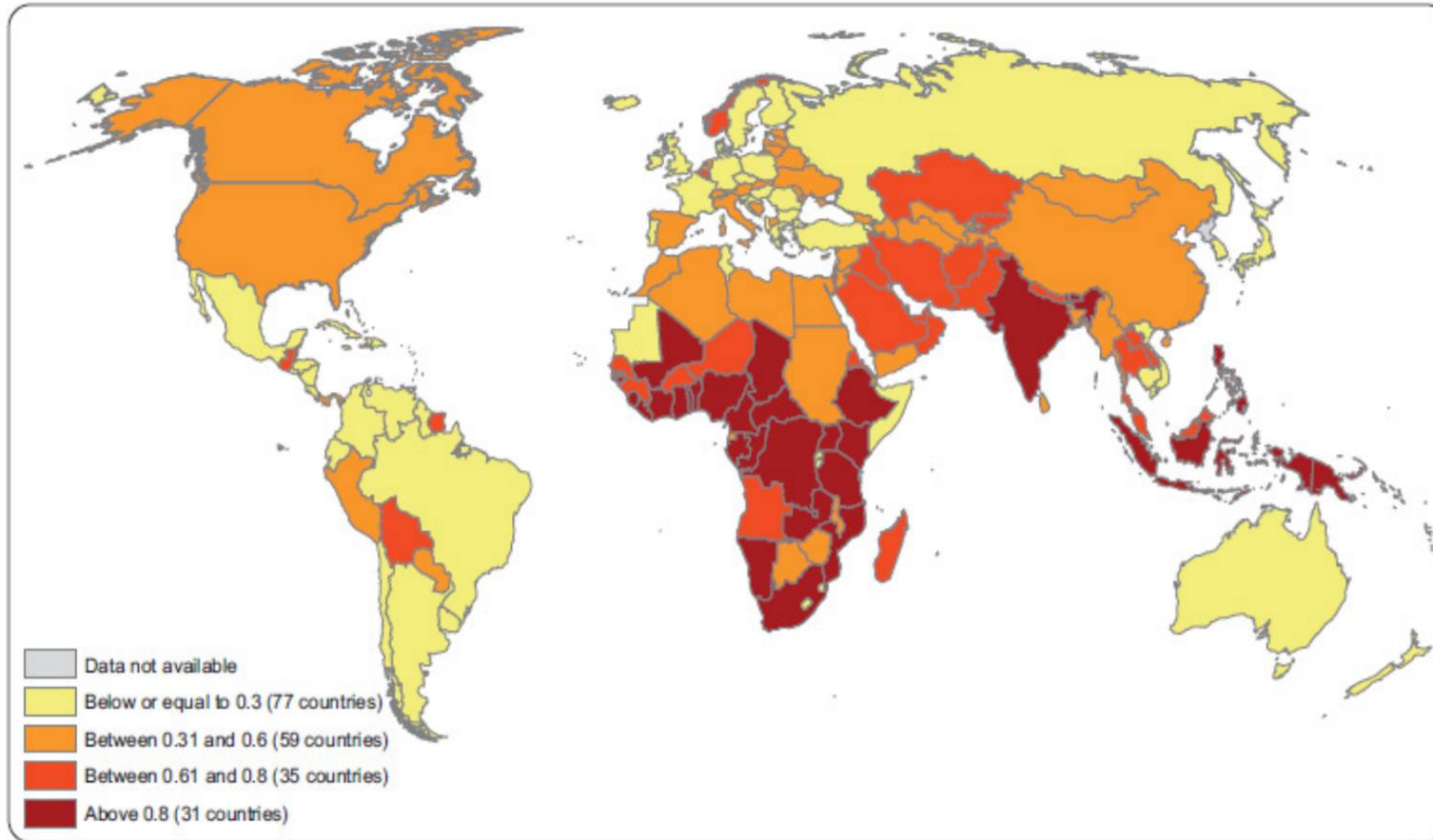


Current distribution of human language families

- ¶ To awaken to the diversity of cultures and languages
- ¶ To provide a better access to language learning
- ¶ To contribute significantly to education in all its dimensions
- ¶ To develop the ability to listen to others

# LINGUISTIC AND CULTURAL DIVERSITY

Map 3.2 Linguistic Diversity Index



Source: UNESCO Institute for Statistics, based on Ethnologue data (SIL International), 2005.

¶ Languages and cultures are in continuous movement due to the combined influence of many factors such as:

**Globalization** applies to the economy, information, exchanges or culture

**Migratory Phenomena** increasing despite the containment policies

**Integration** promoted by European Education policies through schools which are laboratories of coexistence and new citizenship.

# LANGUAGE LEARNING

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- ¶ The presence of immigrant children and adults is not without effect in schools as a place of activity and learning and of language learning in particular
- ¶ This implicates acquiring knowledge about the language and culture of others, and in turn adopting the vantage point of others



# LEARNING TOGETHER

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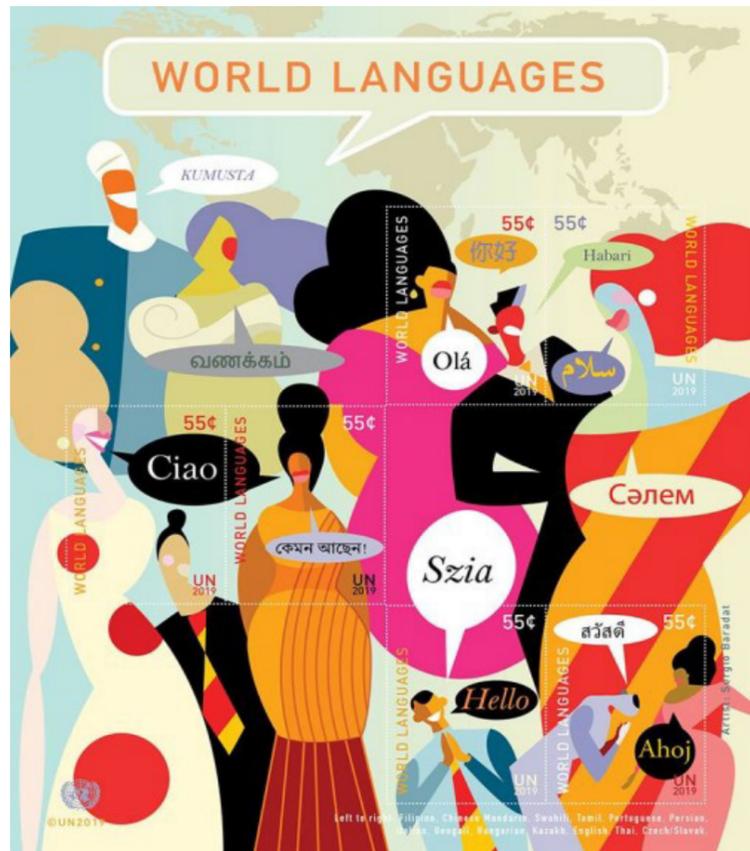
¶ Learning together and from one another represents the educational answer that should be given to the existence of multicultural societies

¶ It means open up to cultures, languages and literatures contributed by immigrants and to other modes of reception and learning of traditional teaching contents

¶ It also means to acquire a different way of thinking

# WORLD LANGUAGES

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- ¶ There are about 6.500 mutually unintelligible languages today in the world, belonging to about 250 language families
- ¶ More attention is given to problems of language diversity and language identification
- ¶ Linguists, anthropologists, NGOs and governments are developing activities involving different linguistic and ethnic communities around the world (the linguistic identity)
- ¶ Educational policy makers are becoming more aware of the implication of language issues in education.

# COUNTRIES WITH MORE THAN 150 LIVING LANGUAGES

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## The world's most multilingual countries

Based on Ethnologue's 2016 rankings (Number of languages spoken as a first language)

1. Papua New Guinea (839)

2. Indonesia (707)

3. Nigeria (526)

4. India (454)

5. United States (422)

6. China (300)

7. Mexico (289)

8. Cameroon (281)

9. Australia (245)

10. Brazil (229)

Source: Ethnologue 2016



# THE ROLE OF LANGUAGE

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¶ Language is usually strongly associated with identity and is therefore seen as a vehicle of symbolic values

¶ Language can become an issue of conflict when disagreements around questions of identity arise (see the **Bengali Language Movement**)

# MOTHER LANGUAGE DAY

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¶ The conflict between Western Pakistan and Eastern Pakistan leads to the separation of the two countries. Eastern Pakistan became independent under the name of Bangladesh.

¶ International Mother Language Day is celebrated on 21 February, that is the anniversary of the day when Bangladeshis fought for recognition for the Bangla language

# LANGUAGES STATUS

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¶ Different languages may have different **status**; special functions may be reserved to certain languages, irrespective of the degree of actual usage by the people

¶ In some societies this can go so far that different institutions are identified with different language uses: in Ethiopia, for instance, the Christian church is identified with the use of Ge'ez for **liturgical and literary purposes**

# LANGUAGE IN MULTILINGUAL SOCIETIES

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¶ In multilingual societies, not all speakers need to be multilingual. Some states can have multilingual policies and recognize several official languages, such as Canada (English and French) where languages are associated with particular regions

# MULTILINGUAL COUNTRIES

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## ¶ Most Multilingual Countries In The World

Russia (24 official languages across all republics)

India (23 official languages)

Zimbabwe (16 official languages)

South Africa (11 official languages)

Serbia (7 official languages)

Switzerland (4 national languages)

The Netherlands (4 official languages)

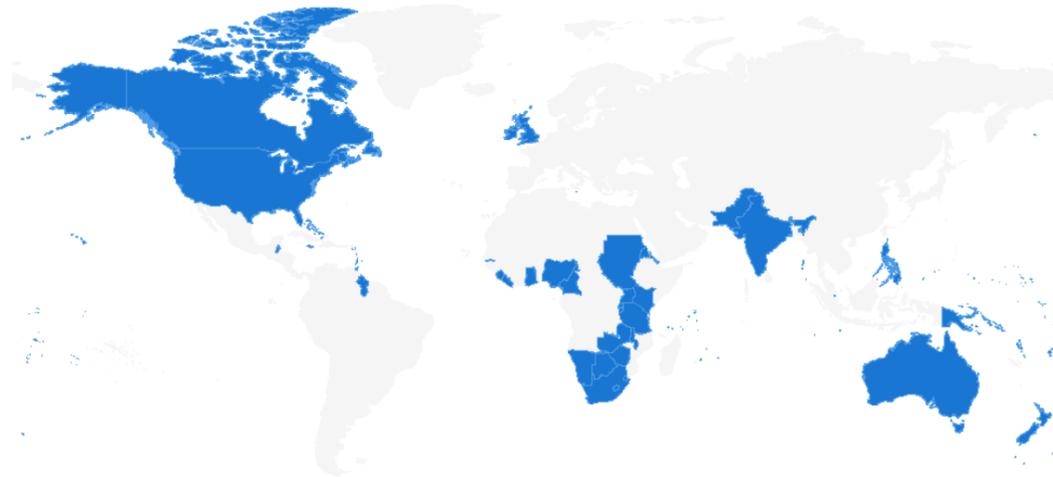
Moldova (4 official languages)

# SOCIOLINGUISTIC GLOSSARY

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## ENGLISH

is an official language in these 61 countries...

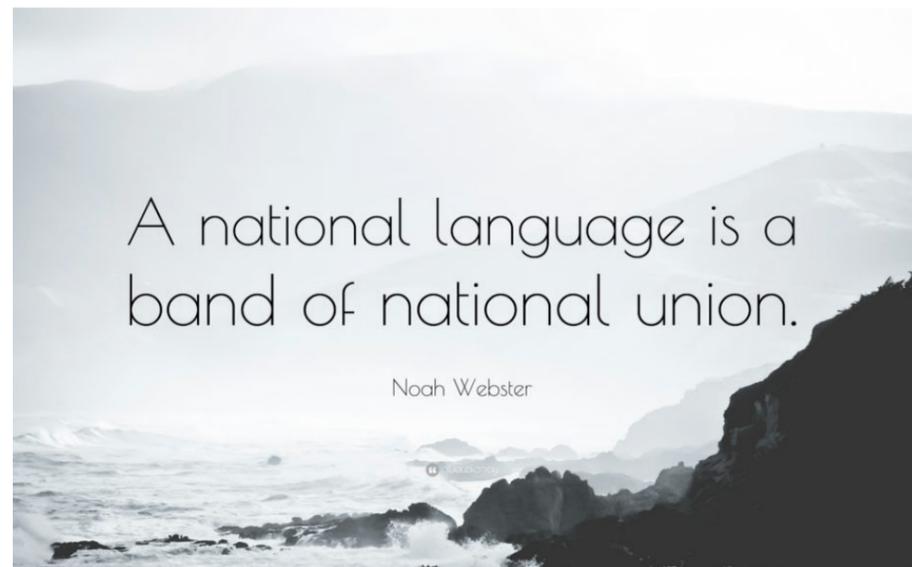


¶ Within linguistic diversity it might be useful to distinguish among:

**Official language:** the language used for nationwide official communication for political, legal, administrative, educational, business, media purposes

# SOCIOLINGUISTIC GLOSSARY

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**National language:** national language and official language are often synonymous but 'national' language carries emotional associations as an indicator of nationality. A national language is a language that is symbolic of that country, usually for historical, cultural, and ethnic reasons

# SOCIOLINGUISTIC GLOSSARY

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**Regional languages:** used in areas broader than their ethnic boundaries but not having a national scope. May serve some of the official functions

# SOCIOLINGUISTIC GLOSSARY

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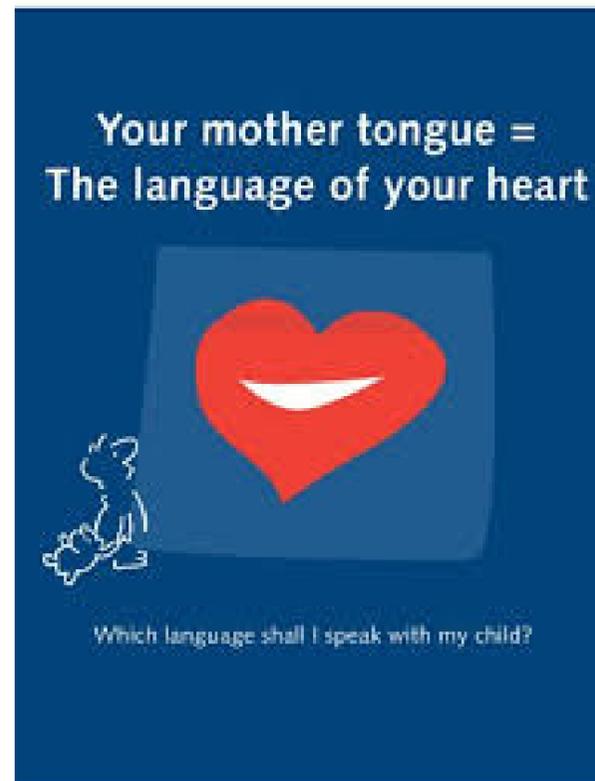
**Vehicular languages or lingua franca:** used for inter-ethnic communication whenever need arises, learned by large parts of populations with different mother tongues as second or third languages



**World language:** languages such as English, French, Portuguese and Arabic used for communication among people of different countries and continents

# SOCIOLINGUISTIC GLOSSARY

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**First language:** also known as mother tongue, vernacular language, local language, ethnic language, tribal language or L1, is the language which has a special status for the child as it is acquired in early childhood.

For bilinguals/multilinguals, the first language may in fact be more than one language if the child is exposed to and uses more than one language to acquire knowledge and experience of the world.

# SOCIOLINGUISTIC GLOSSARY

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**Second language:** a person's second language, or L2, is non-maternal language learned in the country of origin of native speakers

# SOCIOLINGUISTIC GLOSSARY

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**Major or majority language:** the language that's usually spoken by a majority of the population in a country or in a region of a country

In a multilingual society, the majority language is generally considered the **high-status language**. It is also called the **dominant language** or **killer language**, in contrast with minority language

# SOCIOLINGUISTIC GLOSSARY

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**Foreign language:** a non-maternal language learned in their own country, usually at school

**Minor or minority language:** a language spoken by a minority of the population of a territory. Such people are termed linguistic minorities or language minorities

# SOCIOLINGUISTIC GLOSSARY

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**Special purpose language:** usually second or foreign language used for religious and/or educational purposes like, for instance, Ge'ez in the Ethiopian Church, Classical Arabic for Qur'anic education, English and French for western type higher education

# SOCIOLINGUISTIC GLOSSARY

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what are other words for non-standard language?



vernacular, dialect, patois, everyday language, spoken language, colloquial speech



 Thesaurus.plus

**Standard language:** language with a relatively high degree of standardisation and normalisation, while **non-standard language** have little or no standardisation for ex.: Standard English is the English we use in grammar books.

Non-Standard English is what most use and is all about the place we grew up in. It's about cultural identity, history and pride

# SOCIOLINGUISTIC GLOSSARY

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**Pidgin language:** is a grammatically simplified means of communication that develops between two or more groups that do not have a **language** in common: typically, its vocabulary and grammar are limited and often drawn from several **languages**

# SOCIOLINGUISTIC GLOSSARY

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**Creole languages:** It is a stable natural language developed from a mixture of different languages. Unlike a pidgin a creole language is a complete language, used in a community and acquired by children as their native language. Creole languages therefore have a fully developed vocabulary and system of grammar

# LANGUAGE EDUCATION POLICY AND LANGUAGE RIGHTS

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The exercise of democracy and social inclusion depends largely on language education policy: the capacity and opportunity to use one's full linguistic repertoire is crucial to participation in democratic and social processes

The resolution of social conflicts is in part dependent on recognition of language rights

THANKS FOR  
YOUR ATTENTION

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