



THE UNIVERSITY OF  
MELBOURNE


*Global English ~ Language Planning  
Dilemmas of Identity, Efficiency,  
Worldmindedness*

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# Anthony Giddens

Globalisation, Localisation and Regionalisation  
occur simultaneously and co-produce each  
other

A faint, semi-transparent image of two hands shaking is visible in the background, positioned behind the text. The hands are rendered in a light teal color, matching the overall theme of the slide. The handshake is centered horizontally and spans across the middle of the slide.

# Things that never go away

4 institutions that, despite the best efforts of radical revolutionaries for over a century, never seem to go away:

State, Nation, Language, Religion

(Joseph Alpher, *Nationalism & Modernity*, 1986).

*A Common Writing: Whereby Two,  
Although Not Understanding One the  
Others Language, Yet by the Helpe  
thereof, May Communicate Their  
Minds One to Another, 1647*

<i>Treated</i>	{	General	}	Exanguinous	}	Spiritual	}	1						
		Rel. mixed							}	Fish	}	Corporal	}	2
		Rel. of Action												
	Discourse	}	Beast	}	Operation	}	4							
	God							}	Peculiar	}	Occon.	}	5	
	World	}	General	}	Possel.	}	6							
	Element							}	Magnitude	}	Provil.	}	7	
	Stone	}	Space	}	Civil	}	8							
	Metal							}	Measure	}	Judicial	}	9	
	<i>Not treated accord- ing to</i>	{	Leaf	}	Power Nat.	}	Military							}
Flower			}					Habit	}	Naval	}	11		
Seed-vessel													}	
Shrub			}					Quality sensible	}	13	}	14		
Tree	}	Disease		}	15	}	16							

The Differences are to be affixed unto that end which is on the left side of the Character, according to this order;



The Species should be affixed at the other end of the Character according to the like order.



# American or English?

- (i) 1776, Noah Webster: Declaration of Linguistic Independence
- (ii) 1820, American Academy of Language and Belle Lettres
- (iii) 1923, McCormick Congress Proposal > American as Official Language & Senator Frank Ryan, Illinois > 1969 becomes "English"

# Sources of LP pressures ~ Britain

## SUPRA-NATIONAL

European policies on official EU languages

+

Europe wide conventions on regional & minority languages

## SUB-NATIONAL

Devolution to Regions

Scotland, Wales & NI, Isle of Man, Govt of SW (Cornwall)

## EXTRA-NATIONAL

Globalisation: English + Standard literacy + trade/security FLs + immigration

# A new-old nation and its new-old identity language

"Gaelic is a precious jewel in the heart and soul of Scotland..... a foundation-stone in the building of the new Scotland, Gaelic .. will be an integral and dynamic component of a self-assured community with economic and social stability and pride in its linguistic and cultural identity.'

A. Morrison, MSP, Minister for Gaelic Scottish Parliament,  
2001



# Arjun Appadurai

"...for polities of smaller scale, there is always a fear of cultural absorption by polities of larger scale....One man's imagined community...is another man's political prison"

Appadurai 1990/1999: p. 295.

# The Efficiency Dream

Language planning as a rational & technical process informed by actuarial data & by ongoing feedback is still a dream, but it is by no means so farfetched a dream as it seemed to be merely a decade ago.

J. A. Fishman 1971:111

# IDENTITY SCRIPTS

Panjabi in Gurmukhi script ~ Sikhs

ਨਸਲੀ ਭੇਦਭਾਵ ਦੇ ਵਿਰੁੱਧ ਸਾਲ  
ਦੀ ਪਾਲਿਸੀ ਦਾ ਵਿਸਥਾਰ

Hindi in Devanagari script ~ Hindus

ਨਸਲੀ ਭੇਦਭਾਵ ਦੇ ਵਿਰੁੱਧ ਵਰ੍ਹੇ  
ਦੀ ਨੀਤੀ ਦੇ ਬਾਰੇ ਮੈਂ ਬਿਆਨ

Urdu in Perso-Arabic ~ Muslims

ਨਸਲੀ ਮਨਾਫ਼ਤ ਦੇ ਖ਼ਲਾਫ਼ ਸਾਲ - ਪਾਲਿਸੀ ਦਾ ਬਿਆਨ

# Worldmindedness

1. Rejects the foreign-cultural approach which aims to teach uncritical admiration of foreign cultures;
2. Critiques limits of inter-cultural approach which contrasts target and learner cultures looking for similarities and dissimilarities;
3. Identifies limits with multicultural approach which aims for the maintenance of differences.

# Worldmindedness

Proposes instead a trans-cultural approach ~  
recognising that  
cultures penetrate each other, are not discrete and in  
bounded nation states.

Worldmindedness seeks to impart critical  
generalisations beyond the two cultures of learner  
and target societies and reflects influences of  
migration, tourism, globalisation, digital identities.



Beijing 2008



Citius ~ Altius ~ Fortius



# Globalisation

'the widening, deepening and speeding up  
of world wide interconnectedness'

(Held, McGrew, Goldblatt and Perraton, Global Transformations:  
Politics, Economics and Culture. Stanford University Press, 1999)