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

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Globalisation, Localisation and Regionalisation occur simultaneously and co-produce each other.
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
Chap. I. Concerning a Real Character.

General
Rel. mixed
Rel. of Action
Discourse
God
World
Element
Stone
Metal
Leaf

Exanguious
Bird
Beast
Peculiar
General
Magnitude
Space
Measure
Power Nat.
Habit
Manners
Quality sensible
Disease

Spiritual
Corporal
Motion
Operation

Occur.
Postal
Provis.
Civil
Judicial
Military
Naval
Ecclesi.

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

1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9

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

1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9
American or English?

(i) 1776, Noah Webster: Declaration of Linguistic Independence

(ii) 1820, American Academy of Language and Belle Lettres

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
"...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”

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

Hindi in Devanagari script ~ Hindus

Urdu in Perso-Arabic ~ Muslims
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.
Citius ~ Altius ~ Fortius
Globalisation

‘the widening, deepening and speeding up of world wide interconnectedness’