

The impact of language politics and policies on translation, interpretation, and cross-linguistic practices

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OUTLINE:

- 1.Rephrasing the question for ethnographic enquiries of multilingual practice
- 2.The field, resources and agents: the European Parliament
- 3.Trans-linguistic resources, LFE, the agency of language professionals
- 4.Research concepts for an ethnographic analysis towards responding the question

The impact of language politics and policies on translation, interpretation, and cross-linguistic practices

approached through ethnographic analyses on:

How language politics and policies are taking shape in (translation, interpretation, and) cross-linguistic practices?

- Directions of current change in language politics and policies: Increasing support for and power of populist political forces in the extreme right advocating a nationalist agenda. On a regional/continental/global level: a “Nationalist International”
- An inherent tension between the discursive node of the conventional language ideology underpinning the high modern nation state, and late modern discursive performances promoting this ideological construct on a global arena. Monolingualism reconfigured/reinvented for increasingly multilingual societies and increasingly cross-national and global discursive engagements.
- Ethnographic participant observation of *language policy performances* (both in the dramaturgical and ontological sense).

The field, agents, linguistic resources & semiotic repertoires

- 720 MEPs from 27 MSs with 24 official languages, 270+1500 interpreters
- *Elite multilingualism*, symbolic parity, LFE
- Widespread languaging: Overlapping repertoires and resources within and across language boundaries regimented through interpreting
- Semiotic performances of multilingualism
- Interpreters as gate-keepers of the monolingual habitus

Ethnographic analyses of the *total linguistic fact* within semiotic performances observed on the EP floor

- Agha's (2005) concepts of Voice and enregisterment, through
- Tactics of intersubjectivity (Bucholtz & Hall, 2010) in engagements towards
- Indexical presuppositions and entailments from/to the partition of social space (Silverstein, 2003)
- E.g the "UKIP Voice" emerging in the 2010-ies, or the recently unfolding "AfD Voice" within the ESN Group performed in varieties of German and LFE.
- A research agenda to address the question posed above, and critically reflect on the "ethnolinguistic assumption" (Blommaert, Seppänen & Spotti, 2013) in the observed multilingual practice.

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