

Language Teaching and Language Policy: Challenges facing Portugal in the 21st Century

Harold F. Schiffman

Resumo

The goal of this paper will be to discuss the challenges of teaching languages, especially Portuguese, in the twenty-first century, with all the technological advantages such as the internet and high-speed communication, but to view these factors within other constraints, such as historical and sociolinguistic factors. The dominance and globalization of English is one factor that seems inescapable at this time, though other voices are calling for more variety and diversity. We also need to look at policy-making about language teaching in terms of both overt and covert factors, those I refer to as the linguistic cultural factors. I will rely for my examples on language situations I know from first-hand experience, both in Europe and in Asia. In particular, the Soviet language policy model, the model developed in France before the French Revolution (but which became institutionalized after the French Revolution), the model developed in India after Independence, and the bilingual model developed for Singapore will inform my discussions.