

## THE THEORETICAL FRAMEWORK OF THE FIELDS OF LANGUAGE PLANNING AND LANGUAGE POLICY: A READING IN PRINCIPLES AND OBJECTIVES

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### Abstract:

This study addresses the dialectical relationship between language planning and language policy as fundamental mechanisms for preserving linguistic identity. It aims to analyze the principles, objectives, and procedural stages of each, focusing on the case of the Arabic language and its challenges in the context of globalization and foreign linguistic dominance. The study adopts the descriptive-analytical approach in examining the theoretical framework of the concepts of language planning and language policy. The results clarify that language policy represents the legislative and guidance framework, while language planning embodies practical executive mechanisms. The study concludes with the necessity of adopting integrated language policies and strategic language planning to enhance the status of Arabic, while achieving a balance between authenticity and openness to other languages, emphasizing the pivotal role of academic and media institutions in implementing these policies.

**Keywords:** Language Planning, Language Policy, Linguistic Identity, Arabic Language

### Introduction:

Language is considered a fundamental pillar in the building of the cultural and civilizational identity of nations, and it is not only a tool of communication, but rather it represents a storehouse of knowledge, heritage, and values. And in the light of contemporary challenges such as

globalization and the linguistic domination of some foreign languages, it became necessary to adopt effective linguistic policies and planning in order to preserve the Arabic language and to raise it up. Language planning is known as an organized process that aims to manage, organize, and develop languages through setting strategies that contribute to strengthening its position in various fields, such as education, media, economy, and administration.

As for the language policy, it is the orientations and legislations adopted by countries to ensure the spread of their official languages and to promote their use. And for Arabic, the application of these concepts is considered a necessary necessity to preserve its presence in a world characterized by strong linguistic competition.

Language planning and language policy are looked at as two fields that arise from social linguistics, and they are from the linguistic issues that aim to solve the problems of linguistic communication on the national level, through taking all the clear and scientific linguistic plans and policies.

And perhaps the increasing interest in this field among researchers has led to the proposal of a foundational topic that shows the most important principles and objectives related to language planning and language policy, in order to set objective and cognitive boundaries that would raise the Arabic language to cognitive maturity in all fields. And this is the main focus of the study in this research paper, through which we will answer the following elements:

- Defining the concepts and terms (language planning and language policy).
- Language planning and language policy, what relationship?
- The principles of both language planning and language policy.
- The set objectives of each one.
- The different procedural stages of each.

So, through this study, the light will be shed on the basic concepts of linguistic planning and policy, and the theoretical frameworks upon which they are based, and also the possible practical mechanisms to ensure a brighter future for the Arabic language in the modern era.

## **Firstly: The Definition of Concepts and Terms: Language Planning and Language Policy**

### **1. Language Planning:**

Language planning is defined as “the organized efforts that are done by governments or institutions or communities to influence the status of languages or their use or their structure or their function in order to achieve political, social, economic, or cultural goals.” (Al-Fartousi, 2005, p. 45) Language planning includes several kinds, and the most important among them are:

- **a. Status Planning:** It is related to determining the position of a certain language in the society or in the state, like making a language an official or a national one.
- **b. Corpus Planning:** It includes the development of vocabulary, grammar, and also the alphabet of a certain language to make sure of its continuity and its adaptation with the new things.
- **c. Acquisition Planning:** It focuses on the policies of spreading and teaching the language, whether as a first language or a second or a foreign one. (Cooper, 2012, p. 78)

## 2. Language Policy:

Language policy refers to “a group of laws, decisions, and practices that are adopted by governments or official institutions to organize the use of languages inside the society.” (Spolsky, 2004, p. 21) It is different from language planning in that it is concerned with the legal and administrative framework that defines the role of the different languages in the state. Language policy appears in many domains, such as:

- **Linguistic Legislations:** like the laws that make it obligatory to use a certain language in education or in government institutions.
- **Linguistic Pluralism:** the policies that recognize more than one official or national language inside the state.
- **Language Teaching Policies:** which define the languages that are put in the study curricula and in the educational levels. (Shafiq, 2017, p. 112)

## Secondly: Language Planning and Language Policy — What Relationship Exists?

The relationship between language planning and language policy is a *complementary* one, as each depends on the other in achieving linguistic goals within society. Language policy determines the general framework for the use of languages, while language planning works to *practically implement* these policies through the formulation of specific strategies and programs. (Al-Fartousi, 2005, p. 50)

### 1. Language Policy as a General Framework for Language Planning:

Language policy is a set of laws and principles that define the status of different languages within a society, such as determining the official language or the languages permitted in education and administration. (Cooper, 2012, p. 95)

Language planning, on the other hand, is the mechanism that operates to *execute* these policies through the development of curricula, the preparation of linguistic dictionaries, and the design of programs for language dissemination. (Spolsky, 2004, p. 35)

For instance, if the government enacts a law that makes the national language mandatory in education, language planning will intervene to ensure the preparation of curricula, the training of teachers, and the development of textbooks in that language.

## **2. Language Planning as a Tool for Implementing Language Policy:**

Language policy is considered the *general blueprint*, while language planning represents the *executive steps* that make this policy applicable. (Shafiq, 2017, p. 120) Without language planning, language policy remains mere theories with no real impact on society. If a state adopts a linguistic policy that supports multilingualism, language planning will formulate strategies for teaching more than one language, training teachers, and providing the necessary educational resources.

## **3. The Mutual Influence Between Them:**

Language policy and language planning influence one another, as the success or failure of language planning may lead to modifications in language policy. For example, if studies demonstrate that a particular language policy is ineffective, it may be revised based on the outcomes of language planning. (Al-Massadi, 2019, p. 88)

This means that if a state decides to impose a certain language as the official one but faces difficulties in implementation due to the diversity of local languages, it may be compelled to reconsider its policy and include more than one official language. Hence, we conclude that language policy defines the *legal and directive framework*, while language planning provides the *executive means* to realize that framework. Moreover, language planning is used to apply language policy on the ground through practical procedures. Thus, there exists a mutual influence: the success or failure of language planning may lead to adjustments in language policy, and vice versa. While language planning concerns itself with the practical steps and measures aimed at developing languages or changing their statuses, language policy pertains to the general framework and the laws that regulate language use within society and the state.

### **Thirdly: principles of both language planning and language policy:**

#### **1.Language planning:**

language planning depends on a group of principles that guide its processes and guarantee achieving its goals effectively. And these principles include the social, and political, and economic, and educational aspects, to guarantee the success of language policies in the society . (Cooper, 2012, p. 45)

– **Principle of social function for language:** language planning is considered a tool to guarantee the language meets needs of the society, like its use in education, and administration, and economy, and media .(Spolsky, 2004, p. 67) Therefore must language planning take in consideration the different roles which perform them the language in daily life, as in the multilingual countries are determined specific functions for each language like using official language for administration and local language for social communication.

– **Principle of balance between languages:**Must language planning take into account achieving balance between the languages existing in the society, especially in countries that contain multiple languages, requires that putting policies that preserve the linguistic diversity with guaranteeing not marginalizing any language , (Shafiq, 2017, p. 98) meaning supporting local languages alongside the official language through programs of education the bilingual.

– **Principle of development and sustainability linguistic:**Must language planning seek to develop the language and enhance its sustainability through updating vocabulary, and simplifying grammar, and adapting the language with the developments scientific and technological ,(Al-Fartousi, 2005, p. 112) meaning establishing language academies that work on Arabizing the terms scientific and technical modern to guarantee keeping pace the language with the developments.

– **Principle of acceptance social and compatibility:**Cannot be imposed language planning without acceptance the society for it, therefore must be built the language policies on basis of compatibility between the different groups inside the society to guarantee their success ,(Al-Massadi, 2019, p. 75) example that in some countries is involved the local communities in making decisions linguistic to guarantee their endorsement for the policies new.

– **Principle of feasibility economic:**Is linked language planning with economy, where must the language policies take into consideration the cost economic for applying them, like costs of education, and training, and translation (Grosjean, 2010, p. 56), for example choice language of instruction based on extent availability materials educational and teachers competent to reduce the costs and guarantee quality education.

– **Principle of gradualism in implementation:**Cannot be applied language policies new in way sudden, but must be the language planning gradual to guarantee the success of transition from situation linguistic to another (Courbe, 2003, p. 130), as in some countries is introduced language new in education on stages, starting from stages primary up to education high.We conclude that these principles help in guiding process of language planning to guarantee the success of language policies and achieving the balance between needs of the society linguistic and developments global..

## 2. Principles of language policy:

Language policy depends on a group of principles that aim to organize the use of languages in the society, and guarantee the balance between the national identity, and the linguistic plurality, and the cultural development. And these principles differ according to the difference of political and social and economic contexts of the countries . (Spolsky, 2004, p. 21)

- **Principle of national identity:**Is considered the preservation of the national identity from the most important principles that guide the language policy, where is chosen a language or a group of languages that reflect the culture of the society and its history (Al-Massadi, 2019, p. 45), in many countries, is adopted one language as an official language to unify the national identity, like the Arabic language in most of the Arab countries.

- **Principle of linguistic plurality:**Seeks the language policy in the multilingual countries to achieve a balance between the different languages and guarantee the recognition of them .(Cooper, 2012, p. 78) For example we find Switzerland and Canada adopt language policies that recognize more than one official language to guarantee the rights of speakers with different languages.

- **Principle of linguistic equality:**Emphasizes this principle on the necessity of avoiding linguistic discrimination, and guaranteeing the equal opportunities for the different linguistic groups in fields like education and administration and work ,(Shafiq, 2017, p. 112) for example some national constitutions include laws that prohibit discrimination on the basis of language, like the constitution of South Africa which recognizes eleven official languages.

- **Principle of linguistic development:**Aims this principle to modernize the language and enhance its ability to absorb the scientific and technological developments, through adopting policies that support the research and development in the field of language (Al-Fartousi, 2005, p. 90), for example we find the language academies in the Arab countries that work on Arabizing the modern terms to maintain the keeping pace of the language with the developments.

- **Principle of language planning gradual:**Requires the language policy the prior planning and the gradualism in its implementation, so that the societies adapt with the linguistic changes without the occurrence of disturbances (Grosjean, 2010, p. 66) ,when Malaysia decided to enhance the use of the Malaysian language in education, it applied this policy in a gradual manner over years to guarantee its success.

- **Principle of openness and global communication:**Aims this principle to achieve a balance between enhancing the national language and the openness to foreign languages to guarantee the interaction with the world (Courbe, 2003, p. 140), for example the United Arab Emirates countries adopt the Arabic language as an official language, but they support the teaching of foreign languages like English to guarantee the integration in the global

economy. And accordingly we conclude that these principles play a role critical in guiding the language policies of the countries, where they contribute to achieving the balance between the national identity, and the linguistic plurality, and the modernization, and the openness to the world.

#### **Fourthly: The planned goals for both language planning and language policy:**

Reflect both the language policy and the language planning specific goals that seek to achieve them in the societies, for the purpose of controlling the use of languages and developing them according to the needs of the individuals and the state.

##### **1. The planned goals for language policy:**

Is concerned the language policy with putting the rules and the legislations that organize the situation of the languages inside the society, and are represented its main goals in the following : (Spolsky, 2004, p. 78)

- **Determining the status of the official language:** Aims the language policy to determine the language or the official languages of the state, whether it was one language or several languages ,(Al-Massadi, 2019, p. 40) as in the Algerian constitution was codified the Arabic language as an official language, then was added the Amazigh language later as another official language.

- **Preserving the cultural and national identity:** Seeks the language policy to protect the national language from the marginalization, and enhance it as a symbol of the national identity and the belonging ,(Grosjean, 2010, p. 61) example of that issuing laws in France that protect the French language from the excessive influence of foreign languages.

- **Organizing the linguistic plurality:** Works the language policy in the multilingual countries to achieve a balance between the different languages and guarantee the rights of the speakers with them ,(Shafiq, 2017, p. 100) best example Switzerland, are considered the languages German, French, Italian, and Romansh official languages to guarantee the equality between the speakers of them.

- **Supporting the economic and social development:** Plays the language policy a role in supporting the development through enhancing the languages that contribute to improving the education and the economy and the openness to the world ,(Courbe, 2003, p. 120) in India for example is supported the English language alongside the local languages to guarantee the international communication and enhance the economy.

- **Enhancing the national sovereignty:** Seek the countries through their language policy to reduce the dependence on foreign languages, and enhance the use of the local languages in the official sectors ,(Krauss, 2015, p. 45) in Morocco for example was



enhanced the status of the Arabic language and the Amazigh language in education and administration instead of the French language.

## 2.The planned goals for language planning:

Is considered the language planning the executive side of the language policy, and focuses on achieving practical goals through developing the languages and enhancing their use in various fields ,(Al-Fartousi, 2005, p. 95) among them:

- **Developing the language and modernizing it:** Aims the language planning to modernize the language through simplifying the grammar, and introducing new terms, and Arabizing the sciences and technology ,(Mainard, 2012, p. 110)like establishing Arabic language academies for Arabizing the scientific and technical terms.

- **Generalizing the use of the language in education:** Aims the language planning to make a specific language a language for teaching, either completely or alongside other languages ,(Abu Laban, 2018, p. 88) for example in Malaysia was adopted the Malaysian language as a main language in education instead of English.

- **Supporting the local languages and protecting them from extinction:** Is concerned the language planning with protecting the languages threatened with extinction, and supporting their spread through documentation and education (Sabine, 2017, p. 98), example of that South Africa, were launched programs to support local languages like Zulu and Sotho.

- **Achieving effective communication between groups of the society:** Helps the language planning to unify the means of communication inside the society, whether through one language or through supporting the linguistic plurality ,(Fernandez, 2016, p. 75) for example in Rwanda, was transitioned from French to English in education and administration to enhance communication with the world.

- **Linking the language with the economic and technological development:** Aims the language planning to link the language with the economic and technological development, through enhancing the languages that facilitate innovation and international trade ,(Hudson, 2014, p. 82) we find in China is promoted teaching the English language alongside Chinese to enhance the international trade relations.

- **Enhancing the openness to foreign languages:** Is used the language planning to guarantee the balance between preserving the national language and the openness to foreign languages for the cultural and educational development (Fishman, 2007, p. 115), in the Emirates for example is enhanced the Arabic language as an official language, with encouraging the teaching of foreign languages like English and French.



And accordingly the language policy aims to put a legal and regulatory framework for the use of languages in the society, while concerns the language planning with implementing these policies practically, and integrate the goals in each of them to achieve a balance between enhancing the national identity, and supporting the linguistic plurality and the openness to the world, as the success of language planning depends on the clarity of the goals that are determined by the language policy, and the opposite is correct.

### **Fifthly: The procedural stages for both language planning and language policy:**

Require both the language policy and language planning a set of procedural stages to guarantee their implementation effectively. While determines the language policy the general framework for the use of languages, works the language planning on implementing this policy through practical procedures . (Cooper, 2012, p. 65)

#### **1.The procedural stages for language policy:**

Passes the language policy through several stages to guarantee its setting and adoption and application in the society : (Spolsky, 2004, p. 90)

- **Stage of determining the linguistic goals:**Is done in this stage determining the general goals for the language policy, such as enhancing a specific official language, or supporting the linguistic plurality, or developing a language . (Al-Massadi, 2019, p. 55)
- **Stage of legislation and legal recognition:**Are issued the laws and the legislations that determine the status of the different languages, like the laws of official languages or the laws that organize the use of languages in education and media . (Grosjean, 2010, p. 73)
- **Stage of implementation and application:**Start the governmental and educational and media institutions in implementing the adopted language policies, such as including a specific language in the study curricula or imposing its use in the official administrations . (Shafiq, 2017, p. 120)
- **Stage of evaluation and modification:**Is evaluated the success of the language policy through studies and researches that measure the extent of achieving the goals, then are modified it if necessary . (Courbe, 2003, p. 150)

#### **2.The procedural stages for language planning:**

Aims the language planning to implement the language policy through practical stages that guarantee achieving the specified goals . (Al-Fartousi, 2005, p. 102)

– **Stage of collecting data and analyzing the linguistic situation:** In this stage, is collected the information about the reality of using languages in the society, including the number of speakers, and the fields in which are used each language, and the existing linguistic problems .(Krauss, 2015, p. 45)

– **Stage of setting plans and strategies:** Are designed clear plans to achieve the linguistic goals, such as developing the study curricula, and preparing dictionaries, and training teachers . (Abu Laban, 2018, p. 88)

– **Stage of application and implementation:** Are implemented the linguistic plans via practical procedures like printing the school books, and launching awareness campaigns, and establishing institutions to support the language . (Mainard, 2012, p. 110)

– **Stage of follow-up and evaluation:** Is evaluated the extent of success of the language planning, and measured the impact of the followed policies, then are made adjustments to guarantee the continuous improvement . (Sabine, 2017, p. 98)

The language policy determines the general goals and laws, while the language planning focuses on how to implement this policy practically.

- Passes each of them through integrated stages that include the determination, and the implementation, and the evaluation to guarantee achieving the linguistic goals successfully.
- Depends the success of language planning on the extent of accuracy of the language policy, as the failure of planning may lead to modifying the policy later.

## Conclusion:

Is considered the language planning and the language policy two essential elements in advancing the Arabic language and enhancing its status in various fields of life. For in light of the challenges that face the Arabic, like the dominance of foreign languages in the scientific and economic fields, and the emergence of colloquial dialects and their impact on the classical language, becomes the language planning a strategic necessity to guarantee the presence of Arabic in the global scene with the preservation of its authenticity.

The success of the efforts made in advancing the Arabic depends on adopting effective language policies that are based on clear frameworks, like the planning for status through enhancing its use in education and administration and media, and the planning for structure through developing its dictionaries and terms to keep pace with the era, and the planning for its acquisition through modernizing its teaching curricula with modern methods that depend on digital technologies and interactive education.

And in this context, play the academic and cultural institutions a pivotal role in activating the language policies that guarantee the spread of Arabic and enhancing the scientific research with it, while can the media and governmental policies contribute to creating a linguistic environment supportive for it, through adopting it in the official documents, and technology, and the digital content industry.

The future of the Arabic language is contingent upon a strong societal and political will that invests in its enormous potentials, with enhancing it with modern curricula and integrated language policies. And while face the other languages the same challenges, then the countries successful in language planning are those that were able to achieve the balance between preserving their linguistic identity and engaging in the modern era. Therefore, the responsibility is shared between the institutions and the individuals to guarantee that remains Arabic a language of science and creativity and global communication in the future, and thus becomes the language planning and the language policy the cornerstone in a renaissance project that contributes to restoring consideration for Arabic, and makes it capable of absorbing the developments of the era with the preservation of its civilizational identity.

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