

Language policy and practices in the Global North and South: Challenges, opportunities and future directions

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Time: 13:00 – 14:30 CET

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Language planning in Europe in a historical perspective

Abstract: Language planning in Europe has a long tradition that got reignited from the late Middle Ages onwards in the context of vernacularization processes. Poets, schoolteachers, printers and ministers produced schoolbooks, dictionaries, orthographies and grammars, in which more often than not the categories of Latin and Greek grammar were applied to the vernacular. This extensive metalinguistic production is often interpreted as the stage of selection and codification in a long-lasting process of standardization in the sense of Haugen (1966). With the rise of historical sociolinguistics, significant changes and additions have been proposed to the original Haugen model (Joseph 1987; Deumert & Vandenbussche 2003; Rutten & Vosters 2020). Focusing on Dutch, I will argue for a fine-grained analysis of historical language planning activities that takes into account the diversity of goals, target audiences, target genres and underlying language ideologies found in the original sources. As a consequence, standardization emerges as a distinctly modern phenomenon, closely tied to the rise of cultural nationalism and the standard language ideology in the second half of the eighteenth century. I will then show how, in the Dutch case, this new ideology got politicized, and was implemented in educational and language policies within a few decades, with long-lasting effects on language use, language users and language policy.

References

- Deumert, A. & W. Vandenbussche (2003). *Germanic Standardizations. Past to present*. Amsterdam & Philadelphia: Benjamins.
- Haugen, E. 1966. Dialect, language, nation. *American Anthropologist* 68: 922-935.
- Joseph, J. 1987. *Eloquence and Power. The rise of language standards and standard languages*. London: Frances Pinter.
- Rutten, G. & R. Vosters (eds.). 2020. *Revisiting Haugen: Historical-Sociolinguistic Perspectives on Standardization*. Thematic issue of *Language Policy*.



Gijsbert Rutten is Professor of Historical Sociolinguistics of Dutch at the Leiden University Centre for Linguistics. He is interested in variation and change in the history of Dutch, focusing on topics such as writing traditions, norm development, metalanguage, language contact and multilingualism. He currently leads the research project 'Pardon my French? Dutch-French language contact in the Netherlands, 1500-1900', funded by the NWO. Recent publications include *Language Planning as Nation Building. Ideology, policy and implementation in the Netherlands, 1750-1850* (Amsterdam & Philadelphia 2019: Benjamins) and a special issue of *Language Policy* entitled *Revisiting Haugen: Historical-Sociolinguistic Perspectives on Standardization*, co-edited with Rik Vosters.

Registration link: <https://universiteitleiden.zoom.us/meeting/register/u5Atf-CrrDipHtTalMQ7CV6Kbm9DRFJtOmPh>
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