

## **LANGUAGE CHALLENGES IN GLOBAL AND REGIONAL INTEGRATION**

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Is the expansion of English adding to our linguistic repertoires, or is there a process of linguistic capital dispossession of national languages? What role do discourses of 'global English' and of English as a 'lingua franca' play? Can investment in the linguistic capital of several languages be made productive when in much of Europe there is a marked downgrading of the learning of foreign languages other than English, along with the continued neglect of many minority languages? Language pedagogy and language policy need to be situated within wider political, social and economic contexts. EU schemes for research collaboration and student mobility are of limited help in maintaining linguistic diversity. The Bologna process intensifies the hegemony of English. Nordic universities are moving into bilingual education, combining English with a national language. The 2006 Declaration on a Nordic Language Policy aims at ensuring that Nordic languages and English develop in parallel, that all residents can maintain their languages, and that there is proper understanding of language policy issues. If neoliberalism and linguistic neoimperialism are determining factors, what are the challenges for maintaining the vitality of languages, and organizing school and university education so as to educate critical multilingual citizens?