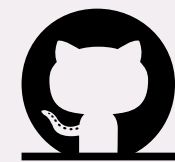# Applied Linguistics

LG 451/456 — Semester 2, 2021 (Jan-May 2022)

CLASS 13: LANGUAGE POLICY AND PLANNING

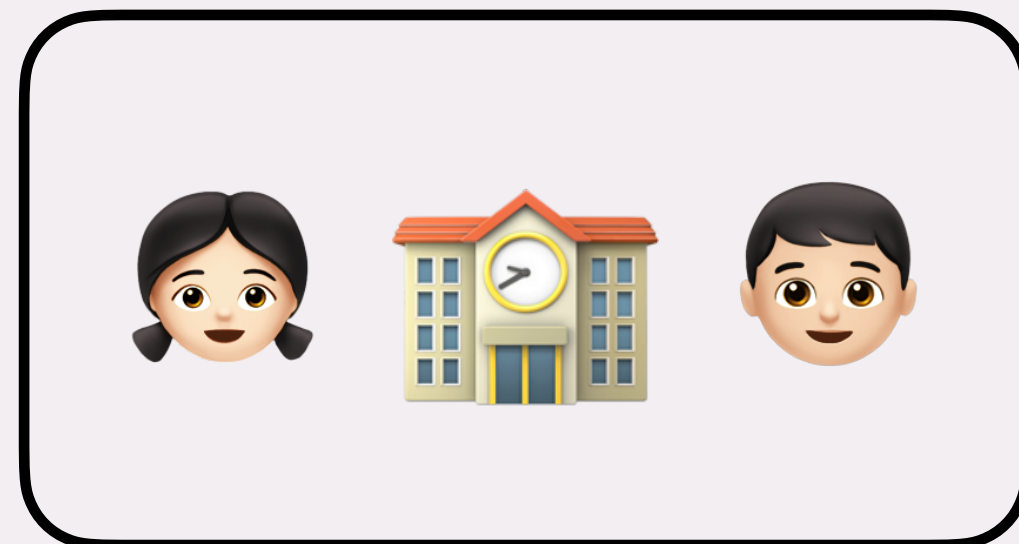Sakol Suethanapornkul

Outline: Week 13

- Language policy and planning

  - Setting the scene:

    - What is language policy and planning?

    - What is being planned?

    - What are the key phases of language planning?

- Reading facilitation

- Looking ahead: Week 15

Language planning & policy

Setting the scene

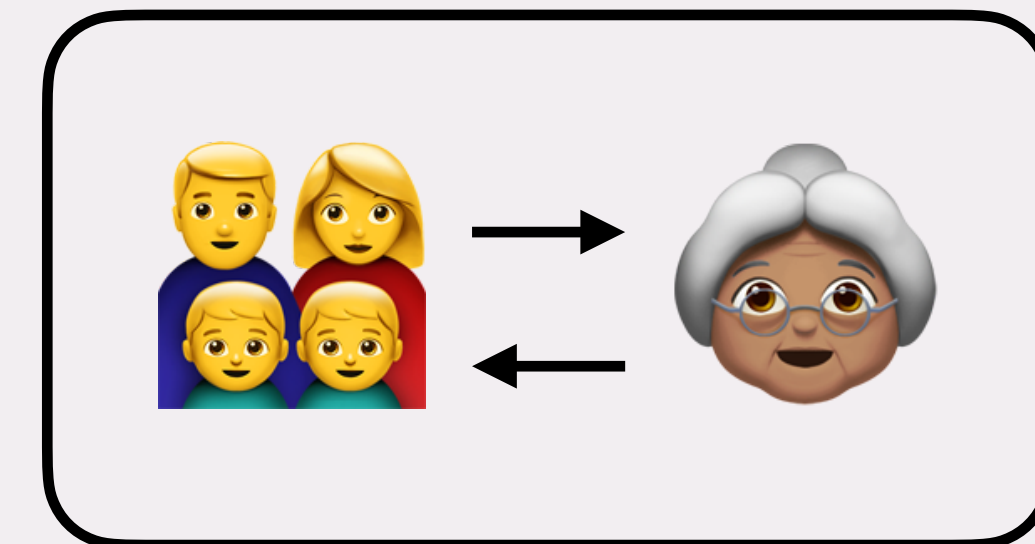Decisions around language policy & planning are made around the world everyday:

- formally by governments (or official bodies)

- Informally by companies, institutions, communities, or families

Should we make language X
a school language?

Should we make everyone
speak Thai during work?

Should we teach our kids language
X so they can speak with grandma?

Setting the scene

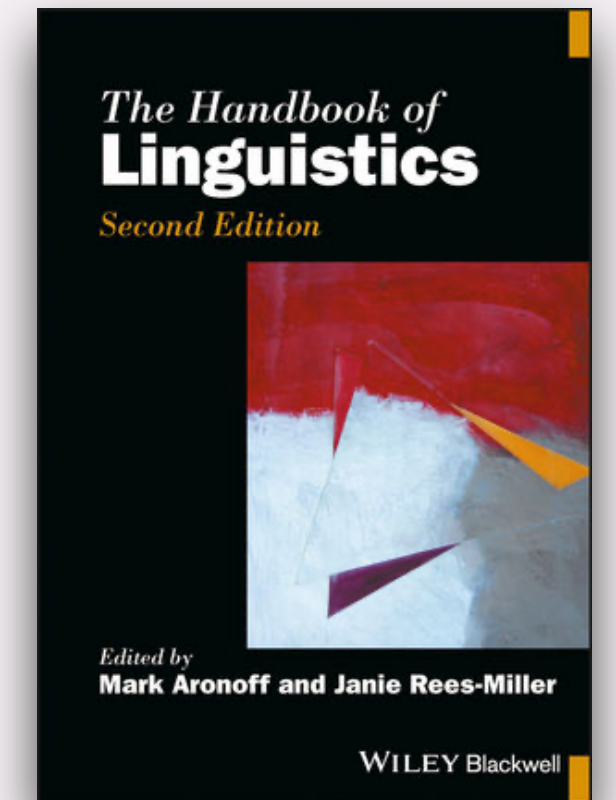Decisions made about language policy and planning:

- influence which language(s) is/are maintained and used

- affect language status (at micro and macro levels)

- determine which language(s) is/are nurtured

Language planning and policy impacts **language vitality** and ultimately the rights of the individual
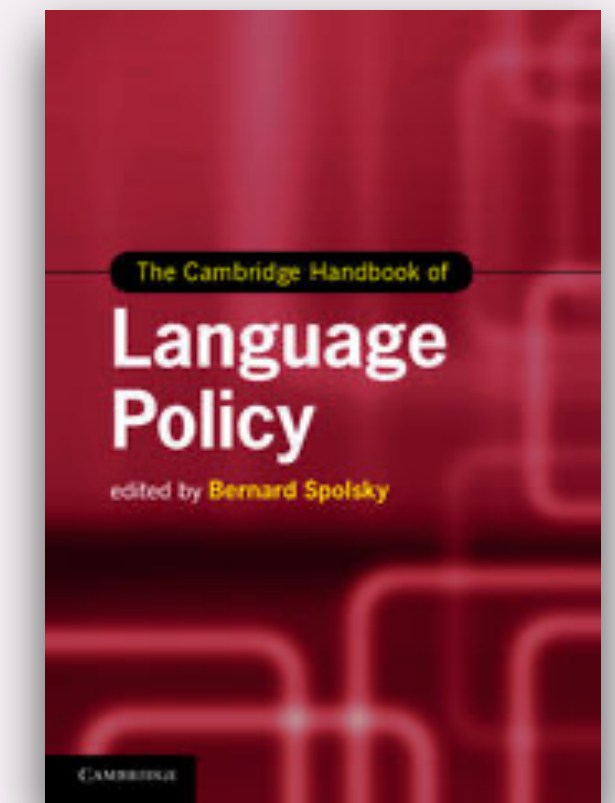
Setting the scene

The field of language planning and policy (LPP) focuses on policies that influence *what* languages are spoken *when*, *how*, and *by whom*, as well as the values and rights associated with those languages (or language varieties)
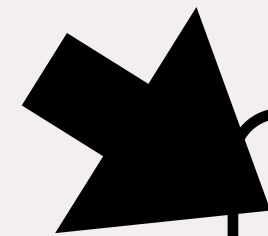
Stemper and King (2017, p. 655)

Language policy is a broader term and and encompasses language planning
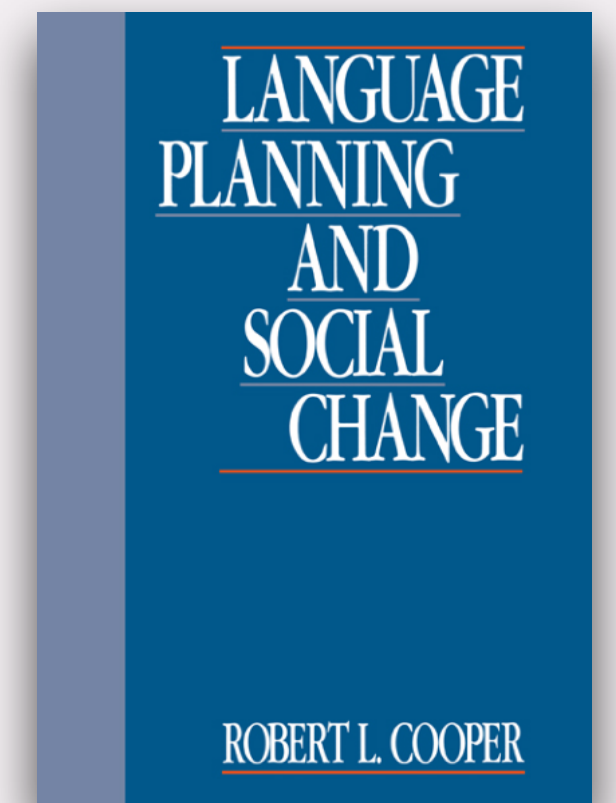
Setting the scene

- Language policy encompasses:

  1. actual language practices of members of speech community

     - What variety do they use for communicative functions?

     - What variants do they use with their interlocutors?

  2. beliefs and ideologies assigned by members of speech community

  3. efforts to modify or influence those within a particular community

     Language planning

Setting the scene

Language planning: deliberate efforts to influence the behavior of others with respect to the acquisition, structure, or functional allocation of their language codes

Cooper (1989, p. 45)

Setting the scene

- Types of language planning:

  - **Corpus planning** → concerning the structure of language

  - **Status planning** → concerning the functions of language

  - **Acquisition planning** → concerning the learning/use of language

Setting the scene

- In the late 1950s, "language planning" took shape
  - Solving language "problems"
    - Language policies of newly independent nations (India and Indonesia)
- By late 1970s, "classic" approach was no longer viable
  - Solutions supported established power structures
    - Language is used to exacerbate social, economic, and political inequality
  - Critical theories within sociolinguistics → language policy

Setting the scene

- The "current" phrase since mid 1980s is more overtly political
  - Linguistic imperialism: English as tool to dominate former colonies
  - Policy is no longer related to nations and states; research focuses on policy in the home, in schools, within the media, in workplaces
  - how LPP are implemented and negotiated by targets

Reading facilitation

Next week…

- **<u>Topic</u>**: Research Method # 3
- **<u>Reading</u>**:
  - Subtirelu (2017)
- **<u>Assignment</u>**:
  - Synopsis # 2 (Subtirelu, 2017)
  - Installment III