

ABSTRACT

Language Rights

NAGY, Noémi: Language, Power, Legislation: Approaches to the Regulation of Linguistic Diversity

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Linguistic diversity is a dynamic concept evolving in space and time. Based on legal status, language community, the carrier of language and the areas of language use, it may include various languages and language versions: official languages, state languages, minority languages, immigrant languages, sign languages, languages having no written standard, languages existing only in writing, languages of education etc.

Contrary to common misconceptions, *bi- or multilingualism*, rather than *monolingualism*, constitutes the *normal linguistic configuration* of a country. Organized around the notions of *power / interests, rights and values*, there are three basic forms of attitudes a state can have to linguistic diversity. Based on the notion of power, legislation is made from the viewpoint of the state; the approach based on minority rights / human rights leads to legislation with respect to the users of language; legislation based on values is in terms of the language itself. The paper discusses the three types of approach to linguistic diversity.

OROSZ, Örs: New Trends in the Enforcement of Language Rights

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Recent years have seen new trends concerning the use of Hungarian in Slovakia such as the formation of the Round Table of Hungarians in Slovakia, which is providing consistent professional representation for NGOs, and the emergence of a committed new generation. This shift is vital for the survival of minorities, since the restriction of the free use of language they experience significantly undermines their national identity and gives way to assimilation. To improve the situation, citizens and the public should be continuously informed, new methodologies and practices should be developed in the training of public functionaries, the business sector should be made bilingual, and an adequate level of native language education should be provided.

MARÁCZ, László: Regulatory Environment, Language Inequalities and New Opportunities for the Enforcement of Minority Interests in Romania

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Romania's accession to the EU opened new perspectives for the public usage of Hungarian in Transylvania, in terms of the enforcement of ethnic Hungarians' minority and language rights. On the one hand, with reference to international law and the involvement of international fora, more effective enforcement of transnational agreements ratified by Romania has become possible. On the other hand, market deregulation deriving from EU membership has created new opportunities for a spontaneous, bottom up expansion of multilingualism in the economy. The paper surveys traditional and new initiatives which contribute, whether intentionally or as a positive side effect, to the reduction of asymmetry in language use and of the hegemony of the majority language in public life.

FERENC, Viktória: Administration in Hungarian or Ukrainian? Correlations of Legal Knowledge, Legal Consciousness and Language Selection Among Hungarians in Transcarpathia

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Minority and language policies of individual states are always determined by objectives concerning their largest minority groups. The position of Ukraine and, within it, that of the Hungarians in Transcarpathia is very specific: as more than 30% of the country's population is Russian-speaking and the dominance of the Russian language remains strong in several spheres of language use (media, economy), the main issue of language policy consists in how to settle the status of the Russian language which, in turn, heavily influences the enforcement of the linguistic rights of smaller minorities.

The paper uses the example of Transcarpathian Hungarians to show, in the wider context of Ukrainian language policies, fraught with ideological tensions, the extent to which the favourable regulations governing minority language use, guaranteed by the new Ukrainian language law of 2012, have become normal routine in the field of official administration. Rather than on the central, legislative level, the research focuses on the local context, attempting to capture the role in the justice process of local law enforcement agencies and also that of Transcarpathian Hungarian language users in terms of legal knowledge and legal consciousness.

SZERBHORVÁTH, György: Minority Language Rights in Vojvodina: Legislation and Reality

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In this paper, the author outlines the way ethnic / minority rights changed in the Vojvodina Autonomous Region of the Republic of Serbia, with regard to minority language rights in particular. He summarizes the report of the Serbian government to the Council of Europe, as well as the response of the latter.

Then, based on field work conducted in the North Backa, interviews with local politicians, school principals etc, and material for the media, he examines the extent to which these rights can be enforced in reality: in socio-political and economic life, public administration, state organs, and schools. In the case of public signs, he also attempts to plot the linguistic landscape.

A Century and a Half of Transylvania

GIDÓ, Csaba: The Construction of the Main Line Network in Transylvania 95

In the wake of a lengthy process of planning and debate, the Transylvanian main line network was constructed between 1868-1873. With a total length of tracks over 600 kms, the main line network determines the structure of the railway network in Transylvania to this day. Following the construction of the main line, the Brasov-Predeal-Sinaia line was completed in 1879; as a result, Transylvania became a part of international rail traffic. Later on, two more rail connections (one at the Gyimes Pass, the other at the Turnu Roşu Pass) were established between the Hungarian and Romanian lines in Transylvanian territory. The paper traces the most important moments of the construction of the Transylvanian main lines and the completion of the Hungarian-Romanian railway connections.

On the Look-out

LAJTAI L., László: Trends and Theories of Nation and Nationalism Research: An Outline of the Research Timeline 115

The author offers a brief overview of the history, from the beginning to the present day, and of the main trends of nationalism theories, which have been enjoying a worldwide renaissance in recent decades. He starts out by pointing out the phenomena of conceptual aporias and dichotomies that accompany the research timeline, discussing the diversity of research fields lumped under the heading nationalism and the problem of terminological ambiguities. Next, following the most important historiographical summaries, he discusses the major stages of research history and their typical thematic and methodological differences. Then he puts into a historiographical context the problem of conceptual dichotomy which dominates the theoretical discourse on nation and ideology; at the same time, he refers to endeavours seeking to surpass methodological / conceptual binarism. Finally, he takes stock of the partly paradigmatic debates on the origin of nation and nationalism, whose participants are usually distinguished in the literature with reference to the labels *perennialism*, *primordialism*, *modernism* and *ethnosymbolism*.

On the Research Trail

“The Hungarian minority was more of a tool for Hungarian foreign policy, just as it was for the Yugoslav foreign policy” -

FILEP, Tamás Gusztáv talks with HORNYÁK, Árpád

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Review

VESZTRÓCZY, Zsolt: Panslavs in the Mansion

Demmel József: Pánszlávok a kastélyban. Justh József és a szlovák nyelvű magyar nemesség elfeledett története, Kalligram Kiadó, Pozsony, 2014

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