

Categories of Differentiation – A New Theoretical Paradigm for Language Policy Research

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In this paper, I will discuss the possibility of employing a new theoretical approach in language policy research, namely Categories of Differentiation (COD). This theoretical approach emerged from the comparative research conducted in my doctoral thesis, which investigated the language policies of the EU and India, and two case studies each from the EU (Luxembourg, Wales) and India (Manipur and Tamil Nadu). COD refer to the sets of binaries that shape the policymaking in a given state and are treated as essentialist by different stakeholders even if they are not essentialist in nature. Examples of COD include the autochthonous/allochthonous divide (UK), EU/Non-EU divide, Aryan/Dravidian Divide (Tamil Nadu) and National/official divide (Luxembourg). The key aim of the paper is to examine the extent to which COD can serve as a suitable model for comparative policy research, and the limitations of this framework.

Literature:

Sharma, Abhimanyu. 2019. *Language Policies in the European Union and India: A Comparative Study*. Doctoral Dissertation. University of Cambridge.