



# New Approaches to the Study of Negotiation of Identities in Multilingual Contexts

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# *Negotiation* Contexts

- Multilingual settings, language choice, attitudes are inseparable from political contexts, relations of power, language ideologies, and views of own and others' identities.
- Negotiation is an outcome of inequality where a society has options of languages and language ideologies.

# Language Rights Concerns

- In some settings, languages function as identity markers, in others as a form of symbolic capital, as a means of social control, and in others, these multiple roles may be interconnected.
- The use of language as a means of social control of minority or immigrant populations are becoming a major concern.

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- Concerns also about the growing dominance of English as a supranational language, about nationalistic movements that suppress bilingualism and linguistic diversity, and about ways that language and literacy are used to marginalize and disempower minority groups.
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# Issues of Identity and Ethnolinguistic Vitality

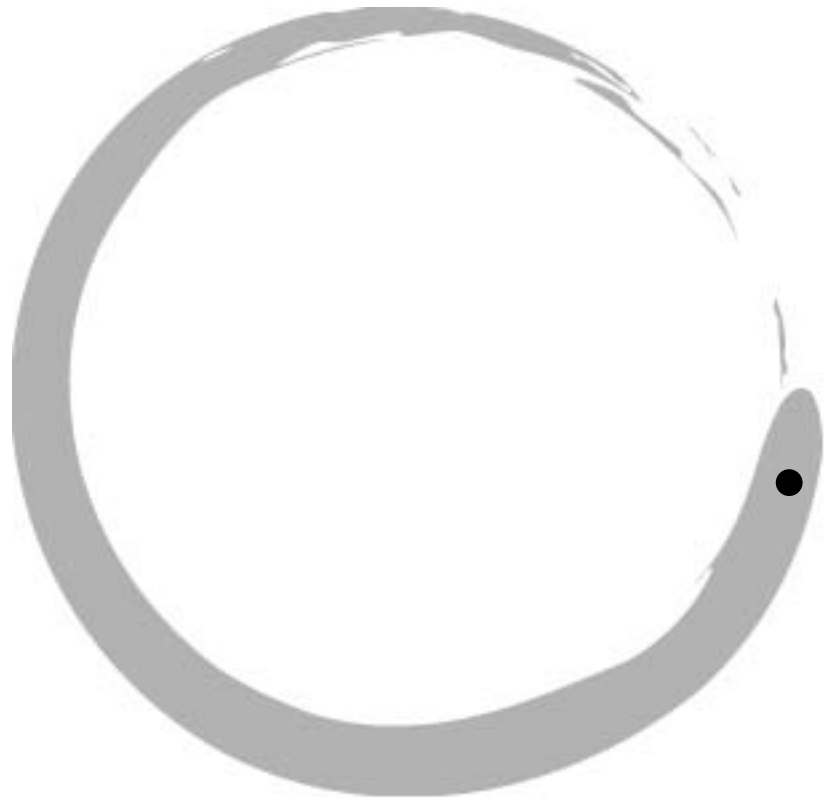
- Identities in postmodern societies where languages may be markers of identity and sites of resistance, empowerment, solidarity, and discrimination.
- Sociopsychological approaches:  
ethnolinguistic vitality theory - two contrasting views; for and against multiple ethnolinguistic identities.
- English as the lingua franca - maintaining identities in control.

# Interactional Sociolinguistics

- Negotiation of identities in code-switching and language choice.
- Social identities fluid and constructed in linguistic and social interactions.
- Language choice may be made to encode e.g., social distance, or deference, solidarity

# Multiple Identities and Hybridity

- Identities are best understood when approached in their entirety rather than through a single aspect or subject position.
- Identities are constructed at the interstices of multiple axes: age, class, ethnicity, gender, etc., and each aspect of identity redefines and modifies all others.
- Hybridity as the third space enables the emergence of new and alternative identity options.



• The End

