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Language Policy by David Cassels Johnson. Palgrave Macmillan, New York, 2013

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   Language Policy by David Cassels Johnson is from the *Research and Practice in Applied Linguistics* series published by Palgrave Macmillan. The goal of the series is to clearly present information about the different topics in the greater field of applied linguistics. Johnson is well suited to tackle this particular topic; His decade and a half of publishing on language policy has given him the necessary background to present this information in a manner befitting the series. The book is divided into four sections, the first of which answers the question: "What is language policy?" and addresses the history of the field. Part Two covers different language policy studies that have been conducted, along with the prevalent findings in the field. The third part of the book discusses the different research methods and approaches to language policy, and provides research ideas and model projects for researchers who are interested in pursuing studies in the field. Part Four is a list of resources the reader will find useful for gathering information and becoming educated in the field itself.

   To being explaining language policy, Part One presents the necessary definitions and theories. Specifically, Johnson uses the phrase language policy and planning (subsequently referred to as LPP), which covers both macro or top-down policies, as well as micro or bottom-up policies. He defines the different types of language policies, and clarifies the differences in opinions about what constitutes a language policy. These examples are followed by a historical overview which delves into the beginnings of the field and covers the frameworks surrounding LPP and LPP's relationship to critical theory, and how it can be used to reverse the tide of language shift. This requires placing linguistic imperialism in context, and an understanding of the critical role that LPP plays in education.

   In the second part of the book, Johnson builds upon his previous material, drawing from multiple studies concerned with LPP issues to show different contexts and how various methods were used and applied. Explaining the different theories in each study, he then gives an account of the findings currently accepted in the field. Both short and article-length studies are addressed, including such topics as language revitalization and bilingual education. Important topics such as how to approach reading and comprehending an LPP study that uses multiple methodologies, discourse planning, and the observer's paradox are also explored. Johnson investigates some of the roles that different stakeholders have in language policy, from the local community to governing institutions, both on the macro and micro

scales. The issue of how language policy affects teachers, citizens, students, surrounding communities, and/or educational organizations is examined in depth. The life of a language policy is examined from inception and interpretation to its final realized form. This is directly tied to the importance and influence of a language policy arbiter and the significant power they wield.

The third section of the book about research methods and approaches to LPP is especially helpful to newcomers to the field of language policy. Johnson covers in detail the different steps research in LPP is typically conducted. This nearly step-by-step research guide to the field of LPP contains advice and methods for how LPP interacts with political theory, law, and the media. The role of critical theory in LPP is addressed, as well as the issues and criticisms involved with Critical Discourse Analysis within the context of LPP. An entire chapter in this section is dedicated to ELPEAR (Educational Language Policy Engagement and Action Research) and defining the fundamental aspects of collaboration and ideologies behind it. Further clarification is provided using multiple different ELPEAR studies, involving both politics and media.

The last part of the third section suggests future research directions, including both model projects and methods for developing projects. This chapter can be used as a starting point for researchers to help assist in the construction of a working project, attempting to cover the typical trajectory of an LPP project or research study. Johnson shows the different contexts and disciplines of typical projects, as well as problems and possible solutions, such as how to gain access to the data required. He provides a realistic view of some issues researchers may encounter as well as some general guidelines for data collection interpretation and analysis. Johnson proffers some sample research questions along with illumination on areas in the world receiving little attention from language policy studies.

The overall structure of the book is well executed, staying in line with the series goal of presenting accessible information about language policy to readers. The ideas and topics throughout the book flow smoothly from section to section, with tables, boxes, and images to highlight key information in a condensed, readable format. Quotes, laws, or definitions necessary for understanding the rest of the text, are presented separately in small manageable units of information for easy comprehension. Although the Resources section of the book seems like an afterthought (almost a collection of sources Johnson is aware of but didn't specifically use in this book), it contains helpful starting points for LPP researchers: lists of edited volumes, journals that directly deal with LPP and hyperlinks to real-world language polices and websites. In the few instances where more detail could have been included, the author offers sources directly in the text which readers can use to further educate themselves.

Johnson has contributed an impressively clear overview of the field that all researchers or newcomers should have on their shelves. The text also clearly identifies issues in the field of LPP while providing frameworks to pursue research. He presents differing viewpoints in a fair fashion, which allows readers to draw their own conclusions. The cost of the book is minimal compared to the value of the

content that Johnson has provided. He has taken his years of expertise in LPP and condensed the resulting information into a book that covers the relevant details of the field, yet yields to sources that more fully explain certain concepts when necessary. Although the book does not appear to be designed as a textbook, it could easily be adapted with additional readings and materials to take on this additional role at minimal costs to both students and instructors. This compact, affordable book provides a current overview of the field without focusing only on a specific subset of applications, thereby replacing dated material and offering fresh views on the ever-growing field of LPP.

BIOGRAPHICAL SKETCH

Scott Keohookalani Wilson graduated from University of California, Los Angeles with Departmental Honors in Applied Linguistics and a minor in Language Teaching. His interests lie in Language Policy, Education, and Second Language Acquisition.