Language Justice in Education
Course Syllabus

Course Description

In this course, learners will explore the concept of linguicism (language biases) and learn how this largely invisible form of discrimination emerges in our societies and classrooms, with a particular focus on English as the current lingua franca. Under the proliferation of dominant languages and monolingual ideologies, thousands of languages and cultures around the world continue to disappear, resulting in a global loss of wisdom and modalities of thinking and being. This language streamlining also has consequential impacts on human beings' connections to the natural world, including fellow animals, and humans' willingness to engage in acts of protection and advocacy. A resurgence of government-issued language censorship has also disseminated across the globe, intersecting with human rights violations and raising questions about the future of language. This course will guide learners through understanding linguicism in their lives, provide reflection spaces for considering and unlearning linguicism, and offer instruction on how to make the shift towards a more exciting, liberated approach to global language use.

This course enhances classroom teaching effectiveness and supports improved student outcomes by introducing new knowledge in linguicism, language justice, and multilingual pedagogies.

Course Objectives
At the end of this course you should be able to:

1. Explain how languages function as cognitive, cultural, political, and ecological systems; and evaluate the significance of linguistic human rights for educational equity and social justice.
2. Analyze how linguicism operates across educational, social, and institutional contexts; and evaluate its intersections with other forms of systemic oppression.
3. Analyze the historical, political, and ideological processes that sustain dominant languages; and evaluate how linguistic imperialism and language ideologies shape access, inclusion, and equity in education and society.
4. Explain how linguicism affects students' identities, learning, and well-being in educational contexts; and apply linguistically-just pedagogical strategies to create more equitable classrooms.
5. Apply multilingual and translanguaging pedagogies to support language justice in classrooms, and evaluate how these approaches challenge dominant language ideologies and promote equitable, inclusive learning environments.
6. Synthesize knowledge from linguistics and environmental justice to develop classroom practices that position linguistic diversity as central to planetary justice and environmental education.

7. Evaluate how language suppression violates human rights and contributes to cultural loss, and integrate language revitalization movements into pedagogy to advocate for policies and practices that promote linguistic diversity and community empowerment.
8. Integrate knowledge of language justice to propose policies, pedagogical practices, and technological approaches that advance equity and linguistic diversity in educational systems.

Modules
- Module 1: Understanding Languages, Quiz 1
- Module 2: Understanding Linguicism & Recognizing Language Bias, Quiz 2
- Module 3: Language Ideologies: How Dominant Languages Maintain Linguicism, Quiz 3
- Module 4: Linguicism in the Classroom: Recognizing and Responding to Language Bias in Education, Quiz 4
- Module 5: Multilingualism, Translanguaging, and Inclusive Pedagogies, Quiz 5
- Module 6: Linguicism, Environmental Justice, and Cross-Species Communication, Quiz 6
- Module 7: Language Censorship and Language Revitalization, Quiz 7
- Module 8: Future Directions for Language Justice in Education, Quiz 8

Grading
Each quiz must be passed at an 80% or higher (three attempts allowed).

Format
This is a self-paced, asynchronous (no required live meetings) course. Throughout the PD course, you will find it helpful to take notes along the way to assist with the quizzes. Within each module, you will find reflection assessments that are not graded but will help in your journey through the course. There is an interactive forum in the course to help you connect with peers and instructors, share ideas, and collaborate on best practices throughout your learning journey.