

Linguistic Justice for Non-Native Speakers of English

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Linguistic Justice

= concerns the just political treatment of linguistic diversity

= ethics of language policy

No linguistic neutrality possible

3 domains of linguistic justice

- ❧ **interlinguistic justice:** concerns the just political response to the existence of different language communities within the same political unit
- ❧ **intralinguistic justice:** concerns the just political response to the existence of group-based linguistic differences within a language community
- ❧ **global linguistic justice:** concerns the just political response to the emergence of English as a global lingua franca.

linguistic justice

1. Set of interests
 - A) equality of opportunity, democracy, efficiency
 - B) life-world access, dignity

2. Principles for the distribution of these interests:
 - e.g. Linguistic territoriality versus linguistic personality

- 38 % of the adult EU population can communicate in English. French: 12% and German 11%.
- 97.3% of EU schoolchildren are taught English in all years of lower secondary education. French is studied by 33,7% of EU children.

Benefits

Injustices, originating from the fact that English is also an L1:

- **RESOURCES**
- **COMMUNICATION**
- **LIFE-WORLD**
- **DIGNITY:**

Solution: Limit English to cross-lingual communication

But: non-native speakers have no realistic choice but to live part of their lives in it; they have to cope with English.

A pluricentric lingua franca

Today English is already a pluricentric language

We should extend this idea of pluricentricity to its use as a lingua franca

- Non-native L1-based standards (World Englishes)
- Role for language academies: describe also the lingua franca usage of speakers
- Build on existing usage and propose new norms
- Ensure harmonization between the Englishes if needed (in the same spirit as the *Asociación de Academias de la Lengua Española*)

Solution for

- Communicative injustice
- Resource injustice
- **Life-world injustice:** deculturalize and reculturalize English
- **Dignity injustice:** native speakers are no longer embodying perfect English, and others are no longer perpetual learners: non-native ownership

Example: head of the university

- Commonly called *president* in the US
- Commonly called *vice-chancellor* in the UK
- Commonly called *Rector* or *Rektor* in continental Europe

News

Prof Anne De Paepe elected new vice-chancellor Ghent University

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On May 15, the Board of Governors has chosen the new vice-chancellor and deputy vice-chancellor. Prof Anne De Paepe is vice-chancellor, Prof Freddy Mortier is deputy vice-chancellor.

Earlier, the electoral college - these are the 590 members of the faculty councils - chose a male and a female candidate for each of the functions. For both functions, Prof Anne De Paepe and Prof Freddy Mortier were proposed to the Board of Governors, who voted tonight. The mandate of Professor De Paepe and Professor Mortier starts on October 1, 2013 and lasts 4 years.