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Evaluating Language Policy and Planning: An Introduction to the Economic Approach

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Evaluating Language Policy and Planning: An Introduction to the Economic Approach^{*}

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Abstract

This paper focuses on the contributions of economists to the selection, design and evaluation of language policies, particularly since the late 1970's. Therefore, it is not a survey of language economics, nor is it a discussion of the epistemological challenges that arise when applying the tools of mainstream economics to language issues. It shows how to perform status analysis using existing data on earnings, language skills, language of work and language of consumption. We explain how to carry out an evaluation of language policies using existing data. Finally, we provide an example of the use of stylized facts, an approach common in economic theoretical modeling and empirical evaluation.

Keywords: Language economics, language policy and planning, evaluation of language policies.

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