**LANGUAGE POLICY**

**Senegal’s language policy:**

1. **To promote the MAIN NATIONAL LANGUAGES ​​ into the languages ​​of culture**
2. **To maintain FRENCH as an official language and language of international communication. The Constitution of January 7, 2001, Article 1 (par’g 2) officially recognized:**

***The official Language of the Republic of Senegal is French. The national languages ​​are Jola, Malinke, Pulaar, Serer, Soninke, Wolof & other national languages to be codified.* Source:** [**http://www.tlfq.ulaval.ca/axl/afrique/senegal.htm**](http://www.tlfq.ulaval.ca/axl/afrique/senegal.htm)

**SUPPORT FOR FRENCH LANGUAGE p1960**

**“First and foremost to replace French as the official language and language of instruction is neither desirable nor possible. At least if we do not want to be late for appointments of the Year 2000. Indeed, we would need at least two generations to make one of our national languages an effective tool for teaching science and technology. And provided that we would have the financial and human assets, that is to say, scholars and technicians skilled enough. But in the second half of the twentieth century, forty to fifty years of delay, this still may not catch up.” *Leopold Senghor, Senegal’s 1st President***

**AFRICAN LANGUAGES-1**

***What constitutes language policy?* In Senegal, as in many African countries, the official language - French, as it happens - is an *imported language.* The question is whether the national languages spoken by the population have a place in official life or not. Would it or would it not be possible to use national languages in government, at the post office and at the bank today? If so, then a policy decision needs to be made. We would have to restore national languages to their legitimate place in government, in our systems of education, training, and in public life. *Mamadou Ndoye: Senegal Deputy Minister for Basic Education & National Languages,* 1996**

**AFRICAN LANGUAGES-2**

***What is the role of education in promoting national languages?* A language is not merely an instrument of communication. It is also a culture. The history of a group and the etymology of their language are a reflection of the unique history of a group; these elements must be revived to accompany the effort to promote national languages. Our traditional heritage contains a wealth of popular literature - stories, epics, historical chronicles, fables, nursery rhymes, proverbs, songs, poems, liturgical literature, and so on - encompassing art, philosophy, history, and religion, and we may be losing all of that today. *Mamadou Ndoye: Senegal Deputy Minister for Basic Education & National Languages,* 1996**

**AFRICAN LANGUAGES-3**

**In Senegal, six African languages (Mandingo, Diola, Peul/Poular, Serer, Soninke and Wolof) have been declared official, but little effort has been made to use them in education. Various factors inhibit implementation, such as**

* **lack of funding for materials development,**
* **teacher training,**
* **parental anxiety about their children’s acquisition of the dominant language,**
* **along with fear among the elite of losing their status gained through education in the colonial language.**

***SUZANNE ROMAINE: The Impact of Language Policy on Endangered Languages, 2000***

**AFRICAN LANGUAGES-4**

***What is the role of French, Wolof and the other national languages in the media?*  Wolof is certainly the most frequently used language in the media. Many public debates are held in Wolof. This is not surprising since to be heard you must be understood by the majority of the population. At present it’s safe to say that French continues to dominate television. On the other hand, private radio stations - that have only their audience to consider - broadcast at least 70% of their programs in Wolof. *Mamadou Ndoye: Senegal Deputy Minister for Basic Education & National Languages,* 1996**

**6 “National Languages” *(data: 2006/2007).***

* **Wolof – 3.95m**
* **Pulaar – 2.74m**
* **Serer – 1.13m**
* **Mandinka– 669k**
* **Jola – 340k**
* **Soninke – 250k**

**9 other Afr languages:**

* **Mandinkankan- 422k**
* **Pular- 150k**
* **\*Kriulo- 105k**
* **Mandjak– 105k**
* **Saafi-Saafi- 100k**
* **Balanta-Ganja – 83k**
* **Noon – 33k**
* **Mankanya – 29k**
* **Hassaniyya – 7k**
* **and 21 more African Languages**
* **45k *speakers*: each: Jola-Kasa, Ndut**
* ***400--20k speakers*: Badyara, Bandial, Bainouk-Samik, Bainouk-Gunyaamolo,**
* **Bayot, Bedik, Ejamat, Gusilay, Jalunga, Karon, Kerak, Kobiana, Kuwaataay, Laalaa,**
* **Mlomp, N’ko, Oniyan, Palor, Wamey, Xasonga**

**LANGUAGE - SENEGAL**

* + **Globalization**
  + **Interactions between dominant and dominated languages**
  + **Impact on education, literacy, society & government**

**LANGUAGES  
   
Globalization supports FRENCH, the colonial language use, written & oral, in Senegal’s government, education, society and business.  
   
WOLOF is the dominant African language spoken in Senegal.**

**EXTERNAL INFLUENCES   
 -ARAB / ISLAMIC  
 -FRENCH**

**Islam came to Senegal in 10thc. CE  
--expansion of Islam in past 250 years  
--Islam spread the use of Arabic language   
-- 95% of Senegalese are Muslims   
--most are Sunni and belong to 1 of 4 Sufi Muslim brotherhoods   
-- cultural influence of traditional African religions remains important**

**GLOBALIZATION:**

**INTERNATIONAL ECONOMIC INFLUENCES**