

**Language Of Education In
South Africa
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THE LANGUAGE DEBATE

- Language of discourse
 - ✓ tool for academia
 - ✓ structure of exclusion
 - ✓ insularity of debate
- Legacy of language diversity
 - ✓ relic of the past
 - ✓ resource of the present
 - ✓ dominance of English
 - ✓ access to language of success

PEOPLE AND LANGUAGES

- Four main groups
 - African indigenes
 - ◊ nine languages
 - ◊ numerically dominant
 - ◊ predominantly rural
 - Indian population
 - ◊ users of English
 - ◊ mainly peri-urban
 - Coloured population
 - ◊ speakers of English/Afrikaans
 - ◊ mainly peri-urban township
 - White population
 - ◊ English and Afrikaners
 - ◊ farm and urban dwellers
 - ◊ economically dominant

- Legacy of white rule
 - ✓ marginalisation of languages
 - ✓ dominance of English
 - ✓ fragmented education system

CURRENT LANGUAGE POLICY

- Constitutional imperative
 - ✓ respect for diversity
 - ✓ designated official languages
 - ✓ respect for all languages
- Language in education
 - ✓ parity of official languages
 - ✓ right of citizen
 - ✓ multi-lingualism

DEBATING ISSUES OF IMPLEMENTATION

- Language liberation vs under-development
- Language preference vs proficiency
- Multi-lingualism vs deficit-ridden schooling
- Issue of blueprint vs implementation

CONCLUSION

- Need for inclusive debate
- Collaborative action research
- Baring the myth under-development
- Rethinking teacher education