

**Language Planning in Senegal:  
A Study Based on the Position of 'Wolof' as a National Language**

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Language planning refers to deliberate and systematic attempts taken to solve the language problems of the speech community. Government authority gives a prior contribution when planning a language through legislation, court decisions, executive action or other means to determine the use of language in public contexts. Senegal is a multi-ethnic country where there are around twenty communities speaking twenty five languages and gives a prior contribution from the Senegal government to a better language planning. In Senegal, 'Wolof' is the main national language used by Senegalese and plays a major role in the language planning. However, still, it could not have reach to the state of official language. This paper examines the language planning in Senegal while mainly focusing to the national language problem of 'Wolof'. The language planning in Senegal is that, French is the official language. The language of 'formal' schooling, the media, commerce and the government, although only 10% of the Senegalese population speaks French, and it is spoken primarily in the larger cities (e.g. Dakar). One of the most striking problem in Senegal is that it does not have a proper national language policy, have 28 different languages co-exist, 6 of which are named as national languages spoken by 86% of the citizen. When considering current language situation in Senegal, the attitudes of the Senegalese people towards the Wolof language, the Wolof culture and the duality between the Wolof language and the other local languages is high. Therefore attention towards the local languages (mainly Wolof) can be seen everywhere in the country. Data for this research are collected by using Google website articles and written books. What learned from the study is that, with a great sociolinguistics and demographic domination there is a huge attention towards Wolof language as a national language.

**Key words:** duality, language planning, multilingual, official languages, national languages

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