

## **"From Language Rights to Language Survival: A Human Rights Typology of Language Acquisition Planning"**

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This paper expands Freeland & Patrick's (2004) distinction between "language rights" and "language survival", and develops a six-point typology of language acquisition planning based around Sen's "capabilities" approach to human rights (e.g. 2004). The typology begins with efforts to raise proficiency in majority/national languages among linguistic minorities, focussed on increasing their capabilities but ultimately indifferent toward minority languages themselves. A range of cases is then considered, from language maintenance among bilingual populations through to revival of long dead languages, where languages are given progressively greater priority, and claims about human rights and capabilities become steadily less tenable. The purposes are firstly to add theoretical structure to an existing debate highlighted by Freeland & Patrick's distinction; and secondly to foreground the difference between protecting existing speakers of a language, and attracting new ones – a contrast often overlooked. Analysis reflects on the varying descriptive and normative orientations of these different language planning efforts.

### References

Freeland, J. & D. Patrick (2004). 'Language rights and language survival: Sociolinguistic and sociocultural perspectives'. In J. Freeland & D. Patrick (eds.), *Language Rights and Language Survival: Sociolinguistic and Sociocultural Perspectives*, Manchester: St. Jerome (pp.1-33).

Sen, A. (2004). *Rationality and Freedom*. Cambridge, MA: Harvard University Press.