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Linguistic imperialism: African perspectives

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Abstract

Ninety per cent of the population in Africa today speak only African languages. (Ng̃g̃ wa Thiong'o 1992: 27)

Seventy per cent of South Africa's population understand Zulu. (Neville

Alexander in Bhanot 1994)

There's no such thing as Nigerian English. (Achebe 1992: 73)

This is a response to a recent article in *ELT Journal* on aspects of African language policy (Bisong 1995). Among the points taken up are: research evidence from African scholars; multilingualism and monolingualism; proposed changes in language policy from the Organization for African Unity and in current initiatives in South Africa; the language that literature is written in; bilingual education; and whose interests ELT is serving.

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