A Bibliography of Language Conflict: A Preliminary Version

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What follows is an attempt at a research bibliography of language conflict. The bibliography is a very limited one in several respects. First, it is limited in language to the English literature alone, and no literature in other languages are included. Secondly, it is also confined to those literature published after 1970.

Moreover, it is very difficult both in theory and in practice to define "language conflict" literature. "Language conflict" is provisionally defined here as a conflict between social groups where (some aspects of) a language or languages are at issue or have a symbolic value for the conflicting party or parties. According to this definition, a language conflict involves at least two components, conflicting parties and a language or languages. Though the parties to the conflict are often characterized by such criteria as class, gender, territory or region, in most of the cases (at least as far as the past and present research is concerned) they are ethnic or nationality groups. And most of the ethnic or nationality conflicts involve language in some way or other. The second component, language, presents us with a similarly formidable literature on individual languages and relationships between them. And social or historical description of an individual language or languages usually involves some conflictual aspect or other.

Consequently, we have to cope with two vast groups of literature in order to find relevant one. Since "language conflict" is not yet an established research area, even electronic databases are not of much help for collecting information on research documents on the subject. Thus, the present state of the research on language conflict has made it difficult to compile an exhaustive bibliography.

The bibliography is also available on request from the author in an MS-DOS text file.
The following abbreviations are used.

IJSL = International Journal of the Sociology of Language
JWMD = Journal of Multilingual and Multicultural Development

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