

## **A National Language Policy for Zimbabwe in the Twenty-first Century: Myth or Reality?**

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### **Abstract**

The thrust of the paper is on the activities that have taken place in Zimbabwe concerning the formulation of a plausible national language policy. The paper looks at how the current Zimbabwe's language situation affects its social, economic, political and educational development. The paper begins by tracing the history of language activities in Zimbabwe from the pre-colonial era and linking such activities with those that are taking place currently and how such activities have had an influence in development. The paper problematizes the idea of language policy and planning activities taking place in Zimbabwe through focusing on the suggestions, declarations, recommendations and acts that have so far been put in place concerning the language issues. The paper concludes by scrutinizing the link between multilingualism, politics of the day and meaningful development.

Index Terms—language policy, language planning, English language, global language, twenty-first century