

Reconsidering Brazil's Language Policy through Spolsky's Sociolinguistic Framework: Tensions between National Unity and Linguistic Diversity

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ABSTRACT : *Brazil is a country characterized by multicultural and multilingual backgrounds. The formulation and implementation of its language policy play a crucial role in safeguarding national unity, promoting social integration, and preserving linguistic diversity. Drawing upon Spolsky's sociolinguistic theoretical framework, this paper systematically examines the coexistence patterns and conflict mechanisms among Portuguese, indigenous languages, and immigrant languages within Brazil's linguistic ecology from three dimensions, language practices, language ideologies, and language management. It reveals how Brazil's language policy maintains the dominant position of Portuguese while addressing the marginalization of indigenous and immigrant languages.*

KEYWORDS - *Brazil; Language Policy; Sociolinguistics*

I. INTRODUCTION

In recent years, with the growing geopolitical significance of Latin America, deepening systematic research on the cultures and languages of the region has become a broad academic consensus. Brazil is the largest country in South America, with a population of approximately 211 million, ranking seventh in the world. As an emerging interdisciplinary field, language policy research transcends the ontological limitations of traditional linguistics by constructing an analytical framework that explores the interaction between language and political, economic, social, and cultural factors. Consequently, it has become an important lens through which national characteristics, social evolution, and state strategies can be understood. Research on Brazil's national language policy is significant not only for interpreting the country's historical and cultural development but also for advancing regional studies of Latin America.

As the world's largest Portuguese-speaking country, Brazil is home to more than one hundred indigenous languages (Siqueira, 2018), making it a typical ethnolinguistically homogeneous nation. Despite preserving a rich heritage of minority languages, Brazil, influenced by the institutional legacy of colonial rule, faced difficulties in establishing a widely recognized national cultural tradition after independence. As a result, it adopted the language of its former colonial ruler as its official language. This decision contributed to the geographical and functional marginalization of minority languages, particularly indigenous languages (Spolsky, 2011: 67–69).

Brazil's language policy carries the dual mission of maintaining national identity and social cohesion while ensuring the preservation of cultural diversity. Under the impact of globalization, the country's language

policy faces both new challenges and opportunities. Existing studies have mainly focused on foreign language education policies, including curriculum design and teacher training in primary, secondary, and higher education (Jiang & Liang, 2007; Zhang, 2021; Zou, 2015). However, these studies are often descriptive and lack theoretical depth. A limited number of studies have explored Brazil's language policy in a broader context. For instance, Gu (2014) analyzed the interaction between language policy and national development from a globalization perspective, while Ren (2019) examined Brazil's language policy comparatively and discussed its implications for China by systematically evaluating policies concerning official languages, minority languages, and immigrant languages. Chen (2023) conducted a comprehensive review of the historical evolution of Brazil's language policy, tracing its development from the colonial era to contemporary Brazil and identifying the driving forces behind policy changes.

Building upon these studies, this paper adopts Spolsky's sociolinguistic theory as its analytical framework. Through the dimensions of linguistic practice, language ideology, and language management, it systematically investigates the coexistence patterns and conflict mechanisms among Portuguese, indigenous languages, and immigrant languages in Brazil's linguistic ecology. The study aims to reveal how Brazil's language policy addresses the marginalization of indigenous and immigrant languages while preserving the dominant status of Portuguese, thereby providing a comparative framework and localized insights for China's language policy development.

II. THEORETICAL FRAMEWORK

Bernard Spolsky (2004), from a sociolinguistic perspective, systematically reconstructed the scope and connotations of language policy. Integrating the theoretical approaches of scholars such as Haugen, Tollefson, and Hymes, he proposed that language policy consists of three core dimensions: language practices, language ideologies, and language management.

According to Spolsky (2011: 7), language practices refer to the habitual patterns of language choice among the various linguistic varieties available within a linguistic repertoire. Language ideologies refer to beliefs about language and language use. Language management, also known as language planning, refers to deliberate interventions, policies, or management measures designed to alter or influence language practices.

These three dimensions interact dynamically. Language practices can be regarded as the concrete manifestation of language ideologies and language management. Language ideologies provide the foundation for both language practices and language management, while language management seeks to maintain or modify language practices and language ideologies (Zhang, 2021). Among the three dimensions, language management occupies a central position because it can operate both explicitly and implicitly. It not only shapes and reinforces language ideologies but also identifies and guides language practices (Spolsky, 2016; Zhang, 2022).

This study employs Spolsky's sociolinguistic theory as its analytical framework and conducts a progressive analysis through the dimensions of language practices, language ideologies, and language management. This approach not only presents the historical trajectory of Brazil's language policy development but also reveals the practical challenges within its contemporary linguistic ecology. By examining the actual use of languages, societal attitudes toward languages, and governmental language management measures, this framework enables a comprehensive understanding of Brazil's language policy. Accordingly, the following sections systematically investigate the coexistence patterns and conflict mechanisms among Portuguese, indigenous languages, and immigrant languages within Brazil's linguistic ecology, and explain how Brazil's language policy seeks to address the marginalization of indigenous and immigrant languages while maintaining the dominant position of Portuguese.

III. LANGUAGE CHOICES IN BRAZIL'S LINGUISTIC PRACTICES

3.1 The Colonial Period (Early Sixteenth Century – 1822)

European missionaries arrived in Brazil alongside Portuguese navigators in the early sixteenth century. To facilitate their missionary work, these missionaries learned indigenous languages. Over time, a creole language combining Portuguese and local languages emerged and became a lingua franca (Língua Geral) along Brazil's southeastern coast.

In 1532, Portugal established effective colonial rule in Brazil and began enforcing the use of Portuguese in key domains such as administration and religious activities. For example, all official documents, legal texts, and government orders were issued in Portuguese. Meanwhile, indigenous peoples and their languages suffered severe setbacks. Due to colonial violence, diseases, and warfare, many indigenous tribes were exterminated or displaced, resulting in a dramatic decline in the number of speakers of indigenous languages. The reduction of language communities weakened intergenerational transmission and accelerated language decline.

As colonial rule intensified, Portuguese expanded its sphere of influence beyond government and religion into education and commerce. Schools established by colonial authorities used Portuguese as the language of instruction, cultivating Portuguese proficiency among Brazilians and strengthening colonial control over society. At the same time, the flourishing transatlantic slave trade contributed to the widespread use of the lingua franca. However, like indigenous languages, it remained undervalued and was often stigmatized.

By the eighteenth century, Portuguese had become the principal language of Brazilian society. Colonial authorities further consolidated its status through legal measures. In 1758, the Directory of the Indians officially designated Portuguese as the colony's official language for the first time and explicitly prohibited the use of the lingua franca. Discriminatory policies were also imposed on indigenous peoples and enslaved individuals who did not speak Portuguese. As a result, many indigenous communities were forced to abandon their native languages and adopt Portuguese. In 1808, the relocation of the Portuguese royal court to Brazil further strengthened the dominance of Portuguese, establishing it as the common language across all sectors of society. Meanwhile, many indigenous languages became endangered and survived only in remote regions or within isolated indigenous communities.

Overall, during more than three centuries of colonial rule, the use of Portuguese in administration, religion, education, and commerce evolved into an explicit language policy, reflecting broad societal recognition of Portuguese. In contrast, colonial authorities adopted suppressive policies toward indigenous languages and assimilationist policies toward immigrant languages. These languages remained largely unrecognized, frequently marginalized, and gradually excluded from mainstream society.

3.2 The Independence Period (1822 – Late Nineteenth Century)

On September 7, 1822, Brazil declared independence from Portugal and established the Empire of Brazil. Despite achieving political independence, the status of Portuguese as the official language remained unchanged. The imperial government explicitly defined Brazil as a monolingual state and continued to promote Portuguese as the national language in administration, education, law, and culture in order to preserve national unity.

The consolidation of the state and economic development further expanded the use of Portuguese, while the living space of indigenous languages continued to shrink. During this period, virtually no measures were taken to protect indigenous languages or cultures. Most indigenous peoples were compelled to assimilate into mainstream society, and their languages were gradually replaced by Portuguese. Only a small number of indigenous groups living deep within the Amazon rainforest, where contact with the outside world remained limited, were able to preserve their languages and cultural traditions.

Following the establishment of the First Brazilian Republic in 1889, Brazil experienced continuous waves of immigration from Europe—particularly from Italy, Germany, and Spain—as well as from East Asia. These immigrants brought their own languages and cultures, leading to the formation of numerous ethnic

communities. For example, Italian-speaking communities emerged in São Paulo and Rio Grande do Sul, while German-speaking communities developed in Rio Grande do Sul and Santa Catarina. Through contact with Portuguese, these immigrant languages contributed to the formation of distinctive regional dialects, although their use remained largely confined to specific localities.

The government maintained and strengthened its monolingual policy framework by promoting the linguistic assimilation of immigrant communities through educational regulations, immigration settlement policies, and citizenship certification systems. Consequently, immigrant groups were encouraged, and often pressured, to adopt Portuguese as their primary language.

During this period, despite the end of colonial rule, the influence of colonial legacies and concerns regarding national governance and social stability led the imperial and republican governments to continue vigorously promoting Portuguese. This further consolidated its official status across all sectors of society. The marginalization of indigenous languages remained unchanged, while processes of modernization further reduced the social and cultural space available to indigenous communities and their languages. Newly arrived immigrant languages were likewise constrained by conservative assimilationist policies.

3.3 The Modern Period (Twentieth Century to the Present)

During the first half of the twentieth century, Brazil's monolingual policy was further strengthened under the Vargas regime. The government strictly prohibited the use of foreign languages, banned the teaching of immigrant languages in schools, and forbade the publication of books and periodicals in immigrant languages.

These policies became even more stringent during the Second World War. The government directly took control of schools operated by German and Italian immigrant communities, converting them into state-managed public schools. Portuguese was imposed as the sole language of instruction, and the use of immigrant languages was completely prohibited.

After the Second World War, driven by both the restructuring of the global geopolitical order and Brazil's economic expansion, the country's language governance system underwent a significant transformation. The focus of language policy gradually shifted from the standardization of a single language — Portuguese — to a more inclusive approach to multilingualism.

This transition was reflected in continued efforts to standardize Portuguese while simultaneously promoting the protection of indigenous languages and encouraging greater tolerance of immigrant languages. Such changes represented both a localized response to global discourses on cultural diversity and an adjustment to the complex realities of Brazil's linguistic ecology.

The 1988 Constitution marked a turning point by formally recognizing indigenous and immigrant languages as important components of Brazilian culture deserving legal protection. It also explicitly acknowledged indigenous peoples' linguistic rights, including the right to use their native languages and receive education in those languages during basic schooling.

From the late twentieth century into the early twenty-first century, Brazil implemented bilingual education programs in both indigenous and immigrant communities. However, due to shortages of qualified teachers and other practical limitations, the effectiveness of these programs—particularly in indigenous communities—remained limited. Many indigenous languages continue to face the threat of extinction. According to UNESCO, dozens of indigenous languages in Brazil are currently classified as critically endangered.

In summary, Portuguese continues to maintain its firm position as Brazil's sole official language. While indigenous and immigrant languages have received a certain degree of legal protection and institutional support, the long-term effectiveness of these measures remains uncertain and requires further observation.

IV. LANGUAGE IDEOLOGIES IN BRAZIL

4.1 National Recognition of Portuguese

Although Brazil is currently the largest Portuguese-speaking country in the world, Portuguese itself originated in Europe. It evolved from Latin through contact with other languages on the Iberian Peninsula. During the Age of Exploration, Portuguese spread to Brazil and other parts of the world, leading many Brazilians to associate it with colonization and foreign domination.

Following Brazil's independence in 1822, a debate emerged over the naming and status of the national language. Some advocated retaining the designation "Portuguese," while others proposed adopting a new name to reflect Brazil's newly acquired sovereignty. At its core, this debate reflected a broader ideological choice concerning the role of Portuguese in the construction of Brazilian national identity.

Ultimately, the Brazilian government chose to maintain a monolingual language policy and preserve Portuguese as the national language. This decision can be attributed primarily to two factors.

First, Brazil's ethnic and linguistic diversity made it difficult for any indigenous language to serve as a national lingua franca. Indigenous languages were numerous, characterized by relatively small speaker populations, and often exhibited substantial differences from one another, resulting in limited intergroup communication (Ren, 2019). During the colonial period, the spread of Portuguese contributed significantly to social integration and the formation of a shared national consciousness. Even Ticuna, one of the largest indigenous languages in Brazil, had fewer than twenty thousand speakers. Consequently, no indigenous language possessed the demographic or communicative capacity to function as a nationwide language. Adopting Portuguese therefore appeared to be the most practical means of maintaining social harmony and political stability in the newly established empire.

Second, the political and economic context of the period also influenced this decision. Beginning in the sixteenth century, Portugal emerged as a major maritime power through overseas expansion and colonial conquest, extending the influence of its language and culture. After more than three centuries of colonial rule and linguistic assimilation, Portuguese underwent a transformation in Brazil from a foreign administrative tool into a marker of identity and social status. It became a form of symbolic capital associated with authority, prestige, and social stratification. The relocation of the Portuguese royal court to Brazil in the early nineteenth century further reinforced the prestige and legitimacy of Portuguese.

These factors demonstrate the complex attitudes Brazilians held toward Portuguese. While colonial domination was deeply resented, it also contributed to the integration of Brazil's diverse ethnic groups. Following independence, the government adopted a favorable attitude toward Portuguese, and its privileged status was subsequently reinforced through laws and regulations. With the establishment of the republic and the continued expansion of Portuguese throughout the country, governmental recognition and acceptance of Portuguese became increasingly pronounced.

4.2 The Dual Nature of Indigenous Languages

Rodrigues (1993) estimated that around 1580, approximately 1,175 indigenous languages were spoken in Brazil. Today, however, only about 200 languages remain, including both indigenous and immigrant languages. This dramatic decline in linguistic diversity can largely be attributed to two factors. The first is the violent conquest carried out by European colonizers, which led to the disappearance of numerous indigenous communities and their languages. The second is the long-term neglect of indigenous languages by successive Brazilian governments, which allowed dominant languages, particularly Portuguese, to replace indigenous languages over time.

This history illustrates the persistent marginalization of indigenous languages throughout much of Brazil's past.

Colonial authorities generally regarded their own language and culture as superior to those of indigenous peoples. Indigenous languages were often characterized as "backward," while Portuguese was associated with "civilization." Such assumptions contributed to the devaluation of indigenous languages and justified their exclusion from schools and official institutions. The designation of Portuguese as the official language further marginalized indigenous languages and reinforced stereotypes portraying indigenous peoples as "primitive" or "uncivilized" (Guimarães, 2005).

At the same time, the disadvantaged social and economic status of indigenous communities contributed to perceptions of their languages as inferior. Indigenous languages became associated with poverty, underdevelopment, and social exclusion, whereas Portuguese came to symbolize social mobility and economic opportunity. According to Fargetti and Maciel de Carvalho (2023), these prejudices stem largely from ignorance regarding indigenous languages and cultures. Such attitudes not only hinder genuine understanding of indigenous traditions but also intensify discrimination against indigenous peoples and their languages (Almeida, 2018).

International organizations have increasingly emphasized the importance of linguistic diversity. Through documents such as the Universal Declaration on Cultural Diversity and the Convention on the Protection and Promotion of the Diversity of Cultural Expressions, UNESCO has highlighted language as a fundamental component of cultural diversity and stressed the necessity of preserving diverse cultural expressions.

Indigenous languages embody extensive historical knowledge, cultural traditions, and intellectual systems. They represent a vital dimension of Brazil's cultural diversity and preserve valuable knowledge accumulated over centuries, including expertise in flora and fauna, hunting and fishing techniques, environmental management, and cosmological traditions. The unique knowledge systems embedded within indigenous languages possess immeasurable cultural value.

However, it was not until the 1980s that a broader movement for cultural diversity emerged in Brazil, leading to substantive changes in indigenous language policy. This shift was motivated both by international calls for cultural diversity and by domestic efforts to strengthen national cohesion and enhance indigenous peoples' identification with the Brazilian state.

In recent years, Brazil has adopted additional measures to recognize indigenous languages. One notable example occurred in 2023, when the Brazilian Constitution was translated into Nheengatu for the first time, symbolizing official respect for indigenous languages and cultures (Curtonews, 2024). Despite such developments, many indigenous languages remain endangered.

Overall, indigenous languages have historically been marginalized and discriminated against within Brazilian society. Although they have received greater attention in recent decades, the level of recognition and support remains insufficient. For example, biases against indigenous languages continue to appear in educational materials. Fargetti and Miranda (2016) found that only a small number of textbooks mention Brazil's linguistic diversity, and many of those that do contain inaccuracies and prejudicial representations.

4.3 Inclusiveness Toward Immigrant Languages

During the colonial period, immigrant languages in Brazil primarily included African languages introduced through the transatlantic slave trade, as well as European languages such as French, Spanish, Italian, and English. African languages were often discriminated against and suppressed by colonial authorities. European immigrants, by contrast, were able to establish "immigrant schools" that helped preserve their native languages and cultural traditions.

Because the number of speakers of these languages remained relatively limited, they posed little threat to the official status of Portuguese. As a result, colonial authorities neither explicitly prohibited nor officially recognized them. Instead, they adopted an assimilationist approach. During the early years of independence, immigrant languages continued to be regarded primarily as tools of private communication, and their use in public domains was generally discouraged.

During the Second World War, the Brazilian government intensified assimilation efforts by compelling German- and Italian-speaking communities to adopt Portuguese. These measures reflected the continuation of colonial-era assimilationist policies and demonstrated the government's limited concern for the preservation of immigrant languages.

Compared with indigenous languages, however, immigrant languages generally enjoyed a more favorable relationship with Portuguese. Guimarães (2005) argues that this difference cannot be explained solely by historical timing. Rather, it resulted from distinct sociocultural perceptions. Indigenous and African languages were often viewed through the lens of colonial ideology as languages requiring "civilization," whereas European immigrant languages benefited from admiration for European culture and were therefore regarded as compatible with national development.

It was not until the promulgation of the 1988 Constitution that immigrant languages received formal legal recognition. Thereafter, the Brazilian government began supporting bilingual education programs in certain immigrant communities, allowing immigrant languages to be taught as second languages. Cultural activities and language courses were also organized to promote immigrant languages and showcase their cultural significance.

These developments indicate that, since the late twentieth century, Brazilian society has become increasingly open and tolerant toward immigrant languages. Overall, official policies have demonstrated a growing willingness to recognize and accommodate linguistic diversity within immigrant communities.

V. DISCUSSION

5.1 Symbolic Multilingualism and Practical Monolingualism

The analysis of Brazil's language practices, language ideologies, and language management reveals a persistent tension between symbolic multilingualism and practical monolingualism (Castro, et al., 2017). Since the promulgation of the 1988 Constitution, Brazil has increasingly recognized indigenous and immigrant languages as important components of national cultural heritage (Guilherme & Hüttner, 2015). Constitutional guarantees, bilingual education programs, and language revitalization initiatives all reflect a growing commitment to linguistic diversity.

However, the practical linguistic order of Brazilian society remains overwhelmingly centered on Portuguese (Castro, et al., 2017). Portuguese continues to be the sole official language and dominates the major domains of administration, education, law, and public communication. Although indigenous and immigrant languages have obtained a degree of legal recognition, their use remains largely confined to local communities and specific cultural contexts. Many indigenous languages continue to face language shift and endangerment despite the existence of protective policies.

Viewed through Spolsky's framework, this contradiction demonstrates that changes in language ideology and language management do not automatically transform language practices. While official discourse increasingly promotes multilingualism, institutional resources and communicative power remain concentrated in Portuguese. Consequently, Brazil presents a case of symbolic multilingualism in which linguistic diversity is formally acknowledged, yet practical language use continues to follow a predominantly monolingual pattern. This finding suggests that legal recognition alone is insufficient to alter deeply entrenched linguistic hierarchies.

5.2 From Assimilation to Accommodation

The historical trajectory of Brazil's language policy demonstrates a gradual transition from linguistic assimilation to linguistic accommodation (Chen, 2023). During both the colonial period and the decades following independence, language policy primarily aimed to strengthen national integration through the expansion of Portuguese. Indigenous languages were marginalized, while immigrant languages were generally tolerated only insofar as they did not challenge the dominance of Portuguese. Language diversity was therefore treated as an obstacle to nation-building rather than as a social resource.

Beginning in the late twentieth century, however, Brazil's approach to linguistic diversity underwent a significant transformation. Influenced by democratization, indigenous rights movements, and international discourses on cultural diversity, policymakers increasingly recognized the importance of protecting minority languages. The 1988 Constitution and subsequent educational reforms marked a departure from earlier assimilationist policies by granting greater linguistic rights to indigenous and immigrant communities.

Nevertheless, Brazil has not moved toward full linguistic equality. Portuguese continues to occupy a privileged position within the national linguistic hierarchy, while minority languages remain dependent on limited institutional support. The evolution of Brazil's language policy therefore reflects a shift from assimilation toward accommodation rather than a transition toward complete multilingual equality (Ren, 2019). This pattern illustrates how states may become more inclusive toward linguistic diversity while simultaneously preserving the dominant status of the majority language.

5.3 The Policy–Practice Gap

A further finding emerging from this study is the existence of a substantial gap between policy commitments and practical implementation. Over the past several decades, the Brazilian government has introduced a series of measures intended to protect indigenous and immigrant languages, including bilingual education programs, constitutional safeguards, language documentation projects, and cultural preservation initiatives. These policies demonstrate a clear governmental intention to support linguistic diversity.

In practice, however, the effectiveness of many initiatives has been constrained by structural and institutional limitations. Bilingual education programs frequently suffer from shortages of qualified teachers, insufficient teaching materials, and inadequate infrastructure. Some language preservation projects have experienced interruptions due to funding shortages, while many indigenous communities remain geographically isolated and difficult to serve through existing policy mechanisms. As a result, the actual impact of language protection policies often falls short of their stated objectives.

This policy–practice gap highlights an important challenge in language management. According to Spolsky's framework, language management can influence language practices only when policies are supported by sufficient resources and effective implementation mechanisms. The Brazilian case demonstrates that the success of language policy depends not only on legal recognition and ideological support but also on long-term institutional capacity and sustained governmental investment. Without these conditions, language protection measures may remain largely symbolic and produce limited changes in linguistic practices.

VI. CONCLUSION

This study has examined the historical evolution and contemporary characteristics of Brazil's language policy through the analytical framework of Spolsky's sociolinguistic theory. By analyzing the interactions among language practices, language ideologies, and language management, the study has explored the coexistence patterns and power relations among Portuguese, indigenous languages, and immigrant languages within Brazil's linguistic ecology. The findings suggest that Brazil has transformed from an assimilationist state into an

accommodationist state, yet linguistic power remains highly centralized in Portuguese, producing a form of symbolic multilingualism sustained by a persistent policy–practice gap.

Three major findings emerge from the analysis. First, Brazil demonstrates a pattern of symbolic multilingualism and practical monolingualism. While indigenous and immigrant languages have increasingly received constitutional recognition and policy support since the late twentieth century, Portuguese continues to dominate the principal domains of administration, education, law, and public communication. As a result, the legal recognition of linguistic diversity has not fundamentally altered the hierarchical position of Portuguese within Brazilian society.

Second, Brazil's language policy has undergone a significant transformation from linguistic assimilation toward linguistic accommodation. During the colonial period and much of the post-independence era, language policy primarily functioned as an instrument of nation-building through the expansion of Portuguese. Since the democratic reforms of the late twentieth century, however, greater attention has been paid to linguistic rights, cultural diversity, and minority-language protection. Nevertheless, this transformation has not resulted in substantive linguistic equality, as minority languages continue to occupy relatively marginal positions within the national linguistic order.

Third, a substantial gap remains between language policy objectives and policy implementation. Although the Brazilian government has established legal frameworks, bilingual education programs, and language preservation initiatives, the effectiveness of these measures has often been constrained by insufficient funding, shortages of qualified teachers, limited educational resources, and broader structural inequalities. Consequently, the protection of minority languages frequently remains more visible at the policy level than in everyday linguistic practice.

From a theoretical perspective, the Brazilian case demonstrates that language policy cannot be understood solely through official legislation or policy declarations. The interaction among language practices, language ideologies, and language management reveals that legal recognition does not necessarily translate into linguistic equality. Even under conditions of increasing multiculturalism and policy accommodation, historically established linguistic hierarchies may continue to shape language use and access to institutional resources. This finding supports Spolsky's argument that language policy is ultimately embedded within broader social, political, and economic structures.

Several limitations should also be acknowledged. This study primarily relies on historical documents, policy texts, and secondary literature and therefore does not directly examine language practices within specific indigenous or immigrant communities. Future research may benefit from ethnographic investigations, interview-based studies, and community-level analyses that explore how language policies are experienced and negotiated in everyday contexts. Comparative studies involving other multilingual societies may also contribute to a deeper understanding of the relationship between language policy, linguistic diversity, and social inclusion.

Overall, Brazil's experience illustrates both the possibilities and limitations of multilingual governance. While the country has made important progress in recognizing and protecting linguistic diversity, the persistence of Portuguese dominance and implementation challenges suggests that achieving meaningful linguistic inclusion requires not only legal recognition but also sustained institutional support, resource allocation, and long-term policy commitment.

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