Applying a Language Justice Approach to Participatory & Culturally-Responsive Evaluation

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Most spoken languages in the entire US in 2010

English is spoken by 80.38% of people over 5 years old in the entire US. Languages other than English are spoken by 19.62%. Speakers of languages other than English are divided up as follows.

- Spanish 62.13%
- Chinese 2.96%
- Tagalog 2.70%
- Vietnamese 2.24%
- French 2.24%
- Korean 1.94%
- German 1.94%
- Russian 1.48%
- Arabic 1.33%
- Italian 1.33%
- Portuguese 1.22%
- French Creole 1.17%
- Other 17.32%

Source: American Community Survey, 5 year estimates, Public Use Microdata Sample, 2006-2010. Graph courtesy of MLA Language Map Data Center https://apps.mla.org/map_data
LEPs are predominantly communities of color

LEPs are predominantly foreign born

Language **intersects** with other marginalized identities...
... in ways that compound marginalization.

Muslim student 'kicked off flight for speaking Arabic' sues Southwest Airlines for racial discrimination
American passenger 'singled out, publicly humiliated and interrogated for hours' after saying 'inshallah' to uncle over phone

Why speaking Spanish is becoming dangerous in America
Reports of people being berated or attacked while communicating in the world's second most spoken language are on the rise

Minnesota Woman Is Brutally Attacked At A Restaurant For Speaking Swahili
Asma Jama has sustained severe cuts on her nose, eyebrow and lower lip. The Muslim immigrant is now too traumatized to leave her house alone.

Starbucks Customer Demands Asian Student Stop Speaking Korean
A video shows the woman saying, "... Oriental. I hate it."

Two Students Were Assaulted on a Train for Speaking Mandarin in Possible Hate Crime

Dunkin' employee calls police on student speaking Somali with her family

Border Patrol agent detains US citizens for speaking Spanish
Ideologies, structures and practices which are used to legitimate, effectuate, regulate and reproduce an unequal division of power and resources (both material and immaterial) between groups which are defined on the basis of language.
Title VI of Civil Rights Act - 1964
Lau v. Nichols Supreme Court Decision - 1974
Executive Order 13166 - 2000

- Prohibits discrimination against people based on national origin, including those with LEP, in programs or activities that receive federal money.
- Requires federal agencies to ensure meaningful access to services.
- Compliance vs. equity
The right everyone has to communicate in the language in which one feels most comfortable.

Language justice is rooted in a history of resistance by communities and peoples whose voices and cultures have been suppressed for generations. Language justice is an alternative to that historical pattern of disenfranchisement and oppression. It affirms the fundamental rights of individuals and communities to language, culture, self expression, and equal participation.

Language justice is about *equity*
Principle 1: Language Justice Is Social Justice

Principle 2: Language is a Tool for Transforming Thinking and Empowering Action

Principle 3: Multilingual Spaces are Open to Every Voice. No Language is Dominant.
Why should evaluators care about language justice?
Evaluation & Language Justice

- AEA Statement on Cultural Competence
  - Ethical imperative
  - Validity
  - Development and application of theories
- Culturally Responsive Evaluation
- Indigenous Evaluation & Decolonizing Methodologies
- Equitable Evaluation
¡Sin traducción, no hay revolución!
From theory to practice…

Key Considerations:

• Who isn’t at the table and why?
• Is the lived experience, including language identity, of those most impacted at the center of the work and process?
• How can you de-center English in the work?
• How do you shift power dynamics resulting from language privilege?
Key Practices:

- Set aside enough time and money from the start
- Create relationships with translators & interpreters who are language justice advocates
- Seek support from, and give support to, language justice advocates
- Use participatory methods
Standard, right?
NO!
Create a data gallery walk
Try storytelling
Communicate without using words or signing
Use images, paper cuttings or pipe cleaners
Use clay or other art materials
Small groups with note-taking + shareback
**MUJERES UNIDAS Y ACTIVAS**

**TRABAJO DE SALUD MENTAL BASED EN NUESTRAS EXPERIENCIAS COMO SOBREVIVIENTES**

- MÁS DE 10 AÑOS

**RESULTADOS**

**IMPORTANCIA DE DAR SERVICIOS CULTURALMENTE APROPIADOS**

**ENCUENTRA CON COMPAÑEROS**

**CON VARIEDAD DE PROGRAMAS**

**EN QUÉ LES AYUDÓ LOS SERVICIOS QUE DAMOS?**

**LOGRÓN SUS METAS?**

**CAMINOS Y OBSTÁCULOS NO RECONOCE EL ROL CONFORMACIONAL**

**QUE HACE FALTA? COMO MUY LES AYUDÓ (NO QUIERE MOSTRAR DEBILIDAD)**

**CÍRCULOS DE RELATO**

**GRUPO DE ENFOQUE**

**PETOS EN LOS REFUGIOS IDIOMA DE SERVICIOS MIGRANTES**

**ANÁLISIS**

**PARA SACAR A LA LUZ LO QUE NO SE CUEANTA Y HACE EL CAMBIO**

**ESTUDIO DE INVESTIGACIÓN**

**GRANDES APELLIDOS**

**NO SE RELACIONA LA SALUD MENTAL CON LO EXTERNO -VAVE-**

**HAN EXPERIMENTADO VIOLENCIA**

- INMIGRANTES (531) - MAYORÍA MEXICANOS
- MADRES (0-18 AÑOS) - 325 HÍJOS
- STATUS MIGRANTES MIXTO
- DATOS RECURSOS / MUJERES TRABAJADORAS

**20%**
Your turn!
Our chapter on language justice in the forthcoming special volume of *New Directions for Evaluation, Examining Issues Facing Communities of Color Today: The Role of Evaluation to Incite Change*. Anticipated publication date, *Spring 2020*


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