

**ANOTHER BRICK ON THE TOWER OF BABEL: TURKEY'S POSSIBLE  
CHALLENGES AND CONTRIBUTIONS TO THE EU'S LANGUAGE POLICY**

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## **ABSTRACT**

Multilingualism presupposes respect for linguistic diversity in particular and cultural diversity in general. It stands where national identity, education policy, social cohesion, complex communication, good immigration policies and competitiveness intersect. According to Commission's definition, multilingualism should be "understood as the ability of societies, institutions, groups, and individuals to engage, on a regular basis, with more than one language in their day-to-day lives." Within this context, it should encourage language learning, promote linguistic diversity, sustain healthy and competitive economy and facilitate citizens' access to the EU legislation. In doing that multilingualism should govern and manage crucial policy areas such as education, media, research and development, competitiveness and social inclusion.

Even though multilingualism has not discussed as widely as the other topics of multiculturalism, it begs for Turkey's urgent attention. Turkey needs to be acquainted with the ongoing discussions of multilingualism within the EU, to decide on its possible challenges and contributions to the EU language policy and to start substantial coordinated efforts to take part in it. Meanwhile, the EU needs to fulfil its obligations towards the ideal of multilingualism, pursue an inclusive policy and perceive Turkey and its membership bid as integral to the European integration.

This paper aims to raise an awareness of the European multilingualism and to incorporate it into the discussions of multiculturalism. Focus will be laid on the EU language policy, current challenges to multilingualism and the possible role to be played by the Turkish language. Because the EU's official, 'authentic' language policy does not include the regional and minority languages, this research will also be concerned only with the official languages. Multilingualism will be discussed within the framework of translation costs, *lingua franca*, language battles, democratic deficit, personal adoptive language, multilingual workforce, global competition, social cohesion, and immigration.