

Language and Minority Rights: Ethnicity, Nationalism and the Politics of Language

Stephen May

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LANGUAGE AND MINORITY RIGHTS

Ethnicity, Nationalism and
the Politics of Language

Second Edition

Stephen May

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Stephen May : Language and Minority Rights: Ethnicity, Nationalism and the Politics of Language before purchasing it in order to gauge whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Language and Minority Rights: Ethnicity, Nationalism and the Politics of Language:

0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Provocative work By Bilingual Biker This book is essential for understanding complexities and challenges of language rights policies. This newer version updates issues and policies.

The second edition addresses new theoretical and empirical developments since its initial publication, including the burgeoning influence of globalization and the relentless rise of English as the current world language. May's broad position, however, remains largely unchanged. He argues that the causes of many of the language-based conflicts in the world today still lie with the nation-state and its preoccupation with establishing a 'common' language and culture via mass education. The solution, he suggests, is to rethink nation-states in more culturally and linguistically plural ways while avoiding, at the same time, essentializing the language-identity link. This edition, like the first, adopts a wide interdisciplinary framework, drawing on sociolinguistics, applied linguistics, sociology, political theory, education and law. It also includes new discussions of cosmopolitanism, globalization, the role of English, and language and mobility, highlighting the ongoing difficulties faced by minority language speakers in the world today.

"This is a very important book and should be required reading for students, scholars, policy makers and others interested in linguistic pluralism." CHOICE
From the Back Cover
General Editor
Christopher N. Candlin, Chair
Professor of Applied Linguistics, Department of English, Centre for English Language Education and Communication Research, City University of Hong Kong, Hong Kong
Language in Social Life is a major series which highlights the importance of language to an understanding of issues of social and professional concern. It will be of practical relevance to all those wanting to understand how the ways we communicate both influence and are influenced by the structures and forces of contemporary social institutions. This is a fine example of a rich, innovative and pluralistic interpretation of minority language rights and needs the world over.... With this book, cultural democracy arguments take a real step ahead. Bravo!
Professor Joshua A. Fishman, Stanford University and Yeshiva University
In this provocative and ground-breaking book, Stephen May argues for a major reappraisal of the long-held constructivist consensus in the sociology of ethnicity and nationalism, and to a lesser extent in the sociology of language, that dismisses language as an important feature of individual and collective identity. Language may well be contingent but it is not unimportant, as made clear by the many historical and contemporary ethnic and ethnonational movements and conflicts that focus on language. May argues that the causes of many of these language-based conflicts lie with the nation-state and its preoccupation with establishing a 'common' language and culture via mass education. Language and Minority Rights draws together debates on language from the sociology of language, ethnicity and nationalism, sociolinguistics, social and political theory, education, history and law, and encompasses a breadth of cross-national contexts and examples. It is essential reading for students, teachers and researchers in the sociology of language, sociolinguistics, ethnicity, nationalism, politics, education and language policy and planning.
Stephen May is a Lecturer in the Sociology Department at the University of Bristol. He is a founding editor of the international journal, Ethnicities and is the author or editor of the following books: Critical Multiculturalism (1999), Indigenous Community-based Education (1999) and Making Multicultural Education Work (1994).
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Stephen May is Professor of Education in the School of Critical Studies in Education, Faculty of Education, University of Auckland, New Zealand