

Decolonising language education policy: Beyond the imagination of Francophone identities

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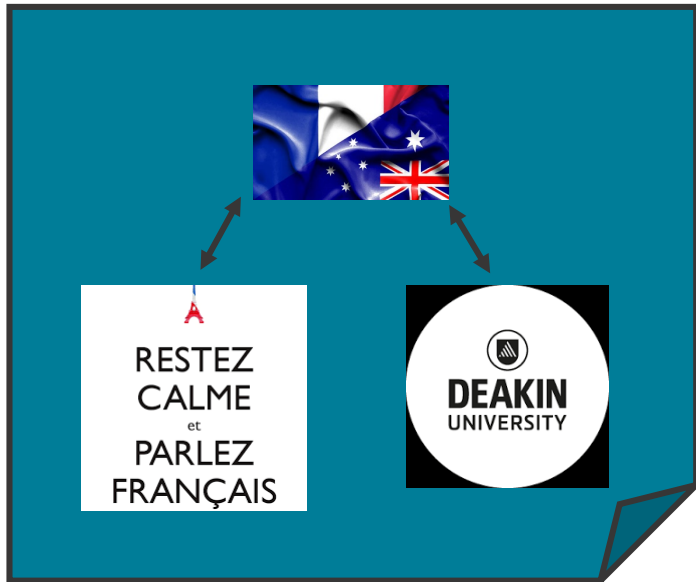




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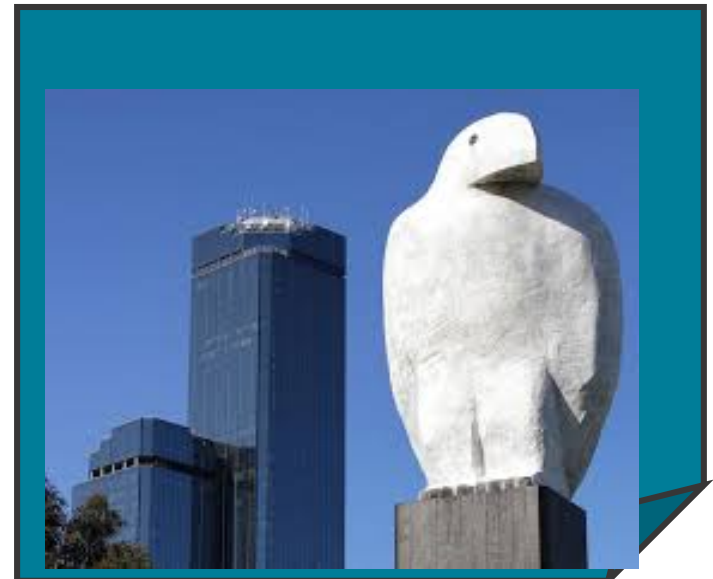
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What about Africa?



Some events, people made me change the directions of my research!




**UNE AMBITION
POUR LA LANGUE FRANÇAISE
ET LE PLURILINGUISME**



Ouagadougou
speech
Nov. 2017



Alain
Mabanckou
open letter
Jan. 2018



Mon idée
pour le
français
Jan. 2018



Académie
française
March 2018



Une ambition
pour la langue
française et le
plurilinguisme
March 2018

Ouagadougou
speech
Nov. 2017

Ouagadougou speech: 28/11/17



The place:

- a recent democratic transition
- University in the capital of Burkina Faso

*'I am of a generation
that doesn't tell
Africans what to do'*

Historical and political context:

- an ambiguous relationship between France and its former colonies
- French intervention (Burkinabè street revolution in 2013)

Context:

- French president Emmanuel Macron's first speech on his Africa tour
- climate of tensions
- Stones were thrown at the French delegation before his speech



Ouagadougou speech 28/11/18

Bilan mitigé du séjour de Macron au Burkina



Macron Humiliates Burkina Faso President: 'He Left to Repair the AC!'

What's wrong with a joke? Macron defends air-conditioning gag in Africa

Should Africans care for Emmanuel Macron's Africa speech in Ouagadougou?

'Down With Imperialism': Macron Given Not-So-Warm Welcome in Burkina Faso

Afrique : pourquoi le discours de Macron à Ouagadougou est "fondateur" ?

Discours de Ouaga : les leçons du professeur Macron

Macron publicly 'humiliates' Burkina Faso president as French leader's Africa trip goes wrong

Macron a-t-il causé «un incident diplomatique» lors de sa visite à Ouagadougou ?



Macron à Ouagadougou : un président "spontané et courageux, mais peut-être condescendant et un peu familier"

MACRON AU BURKINA FASO



Alain
Mabanckou
open letter
Jan. 2018

Two weeks after Ouagadougou speech...



Mabanckou's response:

- Francophonie operates as a form of colonial control.
- The real issue isn't the future of the French language, but France's (non) position on the democracy in Africa. African youth live with no hope for their future.
- The threat to the French language is France itself, because it has no clear policy on the matter.
- The French language is varied, plural, diverse, and we don't need France's permission to create with it.



Source: <https://qz.com/africa/1184735/frances-macron-turned-down-by-congo-writer-alain-mabanckou-for-francophone-project/>

"You can't talk about the French-speaking world if you don't ask the question of democracy in Africa,"

"Unfortunately, la Francophonie is still seen as a continuation of France's foreign policy in its former colonies. Rethinking Francophonie is not just 'protecting' the French language."

Mon idée
pour le
français
Jan. 2018

Citizen consultation

Mon idée pour le français c'est de faire aimer la matière aux apprenants, de tolérer les fautes et d'accepter le **plurilinguisme**.
Souhaila, 29 ans, Maroc

Accept multilingualism

broaden the diversity

Mon idée pour le français c'est de créer une foundation **pour soutenir la publication de jeunes auteurs francophones**.

Jean-Mathieu, 46 ans,
Japon

support the publication of young francophone authors.

Value the status of French-language teachers in France and overseas.

Mon idée
pour le français

Faites entendre votre voix en faveur
du français et du plurilinguisme dans le monde

Mon idée pour le français c'est de **promouvoir la langue française** en même temps que **la culture francophone**. L'une ne va pas sans l'autre. La **culture et l'histoire** de nos pays doivent être promues en même temps que la langue ce qui élargira la **diversité**.

Martine, 55 ans, Autriche

promoting the French language at the same time as francophone culture.

Mon idée pour le français est de **valoriser et réglementer le statut des professeurs de français langue étrangère** en France et à l'étranger.
Anne-Sophie, 39 ans, Italie

Dismantling the 'phantom' of the f/Francophonie



- The word francophonie was used for the first time by Onésime Reclus
- **francophonie** refers to a space where people speak French since colonisation
- **Francophonie**: an organisation created during decolonisation whose aim is to promote the French language and a certain culture.
- 'great ambiguity' (Léger, 1987) of francophonie

How does f/Francophonie go beyond colonialism?

« La francophonie ne doit plus être une langue des complexes, les complexes de ceux qui ont colonisé ou de ceux qui ont décolonisé ».

The francophonie must no longer be a language of complexes, the complexes of those who have colonised or those who have decolonised
Emmanuel Macron

"If he [Macron] really wanted to get away from the colonial past, he would have consulted more, listened more and engaged in more dialogue" Abdourahman Waberi

Speech at l' Académie française



Fatou Diome

Mahi Binebine

Gaston Miron

Le français s'est émancipé de la France, il est devenu cette langue monde.

French has been emancipated from France, it's become a language world

Dany Laferrière

Aimé Césaire

Alexandre Dumas

Maupassant

Nimrod

Jacques Attali

François Cheng

Giono

Ali Zamir

Nathacha Appanah

Maryse Condé

Milan Kundera

Leonardo Sciacia

Driss Chraïbi

Hampâté Bâ

Salah Stetie

Colette

Flaubert

Hampâte Bâ

Jean Rouaud

Abdou Diouf

Boutros Boutros-Ghali

Leïla Slimani

Ahmadou Kourouma

Victor Hugo

Turgenev

Assia Djebar

Alain Mabanckou

Nabil Ayouch

Mohamed Mbougar Sarr

Paul Celan

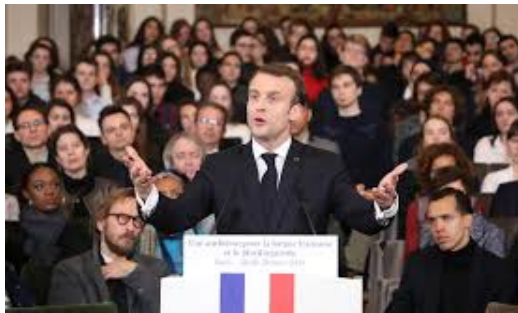
Erik Orsenna

Heinrich Heine

On a torturé en français, on a fait des choses merveilleuses en français

we've tortured in French, we've done marvellous things in French

Stendhal



Pierre Michon

Noël Corbin

Gabriel Faye

Castoriadi

Isaac Babel

Edouard Glissant

Thioub

- The main challenge of the policy is to make French language one of the world's major languages
- 33 directives, 3 categories: "APPRENDRE" (Learn), "COMMUNIQUER" (Communicate) and "CREER" (Create).



Make French a global lingua franca

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Theoretical lens

Post-colonialism, decolonization, anti-colonialism

'Colonisation of the mind': **Ngũgĩ wa Thiong'o** - continued use of colonial languages in Africa shows that the dominance of imperialist nations is still present.

Franz Fanon 1952 - 'Black Skin, White Masks': the subjected black person has lost their culture and has no other choice but to identify with the dominant culture around them..

Spivak - the Eurocentric and Western domination and subjugation of former colonial lense - "the incapacity of westerners to listen or hear the other, beyond enforcing and projecting their own Eurocentric sensibilities upon them – rendering the subaltern unseen and unheard" (Darder, 2018).

Edward Said - 'Orientalism' : European imagination of Asia, North Africa and the Middle East is shaped by a process of 'othering'.

The main aim of the anti-colonial discourse is **to question and challenge the existing relation of power, dominance and privilege in social relationships.**



Darder (2018) “Decolonizing interpretive research: subaltern sensibilities and the politics of voice”

Decolonizing interpretive research is uncompromisingly committed to creating counterhegemonic intellectual spaces in which new readings of the world can unfold, in ways that lead us toward possibilities of social and material change.
(p. 94)

Decolonizing:

- Ethical stance
- Methodologies
- Inquiry as a humanizing praxis

References

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Léger, JM. (1987) *L . La Francophonie: grand Dessein, grande Ambiguïté*. Paris: Nathan

Said, E. W. (1978). *Orientalism*. New York: Pantheon Books

Spivak, G.C. (1988), "Can the subaltern speak?", in Nelson, C. and Grossberg, L. (Eds), *Marxism and the Interpretation of Culture*, University of Illinois Press, Urbana, IL, pp. 271-316.

Emmanuel Macron's speeches

Ouagadougou speech on 28 November 2017

<https://www.elysee.fr/emmanuel-macron/2017/11/28/discours-demmanuel-macron-a-luniversite-de-ouagadougou>

Academie Française speech on 20 March 2018

<https://www.elysee.fr/emmanuel-macron/2018/03/20/discours-demmanuel-macron-a-linstitut-de-france-sur-lambition-pour-la-langue-francaise-et-le-plurilinguisme>

MERCI THANK YOU!

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