

*Enacting a Multilingual Policy for Economic Growth: Exploiting the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor Project to Create Linguistic Harmony in Pakistan*

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**Summary**

Following the economic approach to language policy enactment, this session discusses a proposal for forming a multilingual economic policy to create a balance between the use of English, Mandarin and Pakistan's local languages in the operationalization of the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor project, which is currently English and Mandarin dominated.

**Abstract**

A multilingual workforce, as research on language and economy manifests, is comparatively advantageous for economic growth. However, there is a scarcity of economic models that are built for or by a multilingual human resource. One continued obstruction in the creation of economies that benefit (from) a linguistically diverse community is the dominance of a single language or a *lingua franca* such as English. It is not easy to create a balance between a dominating language and minor or local languages. Pakistan, a linguistically diverse country, faces an identical situation where English, spoken by only 8%, and now Mandarin, are heavily used at the expense of its vernaculars in the operationalization of the China Pakistan Economic Corridor project (CPEC-P). This chapter proposed manipulating a multimillion-dollar economic project, the CPEC-P, as a platform to elevate the status of Pakistan's national and local languages against English and Mandarin through a multilingual economic policy enactment. The session will start by introducing the issue of linguistic imbalance in Pakistan followed by an overview of the CPEC-P and its contribution in the development of English and Mandarin. Then a discussion on the challenges and issues caused by the development of selective languages and their role in the decline of linguistic diversity will be provided. The session will conclude with an overview of the proposal for the creation of language harmony in Pakistan through the utilization of the CPEC-P as an economic platform. Audience participation will be welcomed towards the end of the session.

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