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The concept of "linguistic identity" as a reinforcement of nationalism and countermeasures

Abstract

"Linguistic identity" is a concept frequently referred to in the field of "language and migration", for example in the context of German as a second language. Especially when it comes to the languages of children and young people that are considered "first languages", it is claimed that these languages must be valued and taught because they supposedly constitute the "identity" or "linguistic identity" of those concerned. The lecture puts this claim up for discussion as modernist, firstly with regard to the assertion of the importance of "first language" for identity as an empirical fact and secondly as a didactic concept. The question is raised to what extent it makes (still) sense to contribute to ethnic demarcations as well as nationalism in the globalised migration society by asserting the importance of "first language" as central to "identity". This position is justified with reference to the notion of "multiple belonging" (Mecheril 2020, 16) according to Paul Mecheril as well as his notion of the right to distance oneself from one's origin. A didactic guiding idea of selfreflection of scientists and teachers is proposed as an alternative to the attribution of "linguistic identity".

References:

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