Does Europe need one language?

Ilinca Apolzan

Does Europe need one language?

An analysis of the challenging linguistic diversity in the European Union

Scholarly Research Paper

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GRIN Verlag Gmbh Nov 2009, 2009. Taschenbuch. Book Condition: Neu. 200x149x7 mm. Neuware - Scholarly Research Paper from the year 2008 in the subject Politics - International Politics - Topic: European Union, printed single-sided, grade: 2,3, Fontys University of Applied Sciences Venlo, course: European Studies, language: English, abstract: Today the European Union (EU) is home to 497 million people from diverse ethnic, cultural and linguistic backgrounds. The Union is the only organization that unifies so many different countries, more precisely 23 official languages and 27 European nations (Zimmer 2007, p. 20). Driven by the common idea of creating a democratic community and a globally competitive market, the EU strongly corroborates equality of every nation s culture, values and languages. Nevertheless the EU is currently struggling with the discrepancy between cultural and linguistic diversity and the equal integration of every member state. Additionally, the emerging English, as the international lingua franca, seems to put a strain on the peaceful cooperation of all 23 official languages. In view of this unfortunate development the question aroused if Europe needs one common language. The first two segments of chapter 2 are to give an overview of the linguistic situation and the official language arrangements of the EU. The following segment describes the contentious situation of the EU, caused by superior number of languages, high costs and the actual inequality of some official languages. In the first subsection of chapter 3 several reason for adopting only one official language are determined. Thereupon the languages Latin, Esperanto and English are analyzed to examine if one of them is able to function as the European lingua franca. In the last part of chapter 3 a short conclusion on monolingualism is drawn and the effects on the functioning of the EU explained. Based on the previous formulated conclusion,...

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