

## Timeline of language policy in United States

### 15<sup>th</sup> century (1400's)

- 250 to 1000 Native American Languages Spoken

### Permissive Period-

#### 18<sup>th</sup> century to 19<sup>th</sup> century (1700s to 1880s)

- Missionaries attempted to promote English among some eastern Indian nations, 1775 Continental Congress put aside funds for Indian education with **intent of conquest**.
  - English-only practices **imposed** on enslaved Africans, compulsory English illiteracy and ignorance statues **imposed** on enslaved people of southern colonies.
  - Language difference **permitted** within different European groups migrating to US territory.
  - English became dominant language among European immigrant languages
- **1789-1880-**
    - USA wanted more land which resulted in **conquering and annexing** of language minority people.
    - Compulsory **illiteracy laws** for African Americans **persisted** in southern states until end of Civil War in 1865.
    - English education remained a tactic for economic **destabilization** and pacification of Native Americans where they were in contact with Whites
    - Cherokee ran their own schools and achieved impressive levels of **native language literacy and biliteracy**.

### Restrictive Period-

#### 1880s to 1960s .

- Indian language policy as part of a **cultural genocide**. Whites tried to "civilize the Indian" by killing off their culture and **assimilating** them into Colonial culture.  
English-Only assimilationist policies emerge
- Period of "**coercive** Assimilation" meant to **deculturate** and **pacify** Native Americans. English-Only system of boarding schools created by The Bureau of Indian Affairs where Native children were forced to speak English and punished for using native languages
- Native children were stolen from families and forced into boarding schools.

- Between 1880 through the 1930s US added Hawaii, The Philippines and Puerto Rico to empire placing **primacy** on English and attempted to restrict language especially in Puerto Rico.

### **The Opportunistic Period (1960s-1990s)**

- 1964 Civil Rights Act, Bilingual Education Act,
- Lau Vs. Nichols (abolished complete English Immersion method also known as sink or swim)
- Casteneda Vs. Pickard

### **The Dismissive period (1980s to present)**

- English only mandates “as instruments of the politics of resentment toward massive immigration from developing countries in the 1980s and 1990s especially from Asia and Latin America.

### **Resources:**

1. Wiley, Terrance G., and Hale De Korne. "Historical Orientations to Language Policy in the United States." *LPREN Brief*. Center for Applied Linguistics, Mar. 2014. Web. 24 July 2015. <<http://www.cal.org/lpren>>.