Timeline of language policy in United States

15th century (1400’s)
- 250 to 1000 Native American Languages Spoken

Permissive Period-
18th century to 19th 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:**