

Fighting Words

Language Policy and Ethnic Relations in Asia

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This book analyses the impact of different kinds of language policies on ethnic relations in fifteen multiethnic countries in Asia and the Pacific. The book has four main parts. The first three parts contain case studies organized along regional lines, examining South Asia, Southeast Asia, and East Asia in turn. Most of these case studies focus on developments that have taken place since 1900 or, as appropriate, since the attainment of political independence. The fourth part of the book draws on these case studies to consider government policies on language issues from broad comparative perspective and to develop some analytical generalizations, policy lessons, and policy recommendations. The countries covered in the book are: India, Pakistan, Bangladesh, Sri Lanka, Burma, Thailand, Vietnam, Malaysia and Singapore, Indonesia, Papua New Guinea, the Philippines, China and Taiwan.