

Linguistic Justice and Applied Linguistics

Linguistic justice is an increasingly important and relevant theme, emerging not only within scientific and academic debate but also in the public sphere. Ongoing transformations across various domains of social life are implementing—often without full awareness—formal and informal language-policy strategies and choices. These embody hegemonic epistemological and cultural visions of certain languages and, consequently, the communities that speak them (Iannàccaro & Dell’Aquila 2016; Matras 2024).

These transformations are evident, for instance, in global discursive dynamics and technological infrastructures, where ethnic, cultural, gender, and class hierarchies are often encoded and automated. The shift from the control of bodies to the control of communicative forms and flows marks a critical frontier: the legitimacy of discourse is no longer mediated only by institutions and human relations, but also by algorithmic filters that shape thought and define standards of intelligibility and scientific acceptability (Couldry & Mejias, 2019). A well-known example is the systematic dominance of English in peer-review processes and international publishing (Santos, 2018; Macedo, 2019).

There has long been concern that the spread of English-Medium Instruction (EMI) in tertiary education—a choice that is by no means neutral—may contribute to a gradual form of linguistic and epistemic colonial expansion, thereby marginalizing other languages and epistemologies (Macedo 2019; Guimarães & Finardi, 2023; França & Finardi, 2025; Sah & Fang, 2025). Even language learning environments reflect hegemonic relations: telecollaboration contexts, although designed to foster intercultural dialogue, tend to reproduce real-world power asymmetries in digital spaces, thereby overshadowing divergent expressive repertoires (Kramersch et al. 2023; Hauck, 2023, 2025; Finardi et al. 2025).

Similarly, artificial intelligence systems and data architectures incorporate and reproduce Western values and perspectives, thereby reducing and at times obscuring local knowledge and non-Anglophone cultures. In response to this, a critical perspective is needed (Mignolo 2018; Kramersch et al., 2023; Raus & Tonti, 2025), one that highlights the nature of such disparities and ensures recognition of marginalized forms of knowledge.

Building on these premises, the conference *Linguistic Justice and Applied Linguistics*, in dialogue with the international debate in Applied Linguistics (cf. Castañeda-Peña et al. 2023; De Fina et al. 2023; the AILA World Congresses: Rio 2017, Kuala Lumpur 2024), seeks to explore the processes required to rethink this complexity.

The objectives are:

- To highlight linguistic perspectives that penalize divergent worldviews.

- To enhance awareness of diversity.
- To promote practices that reduce social, interactional, technological, and epistemic asymmetries.
- To define principles of equity and social responsibility (Avineri & Martinez, 2021).

Drawing on a tradition of studies historically attentive to these dynamics, AItLA 2027 promotes new paradigms while also examining traditional approaches to diversity and to the aspects that—within the relationship between language and society (Van Lier, 2004; Pennycook & Makoni, 2020)—are currently problematic or dysfunctional in human interactions and technology-mediated practices.

Thematic Areas

The Scientific Committee invites proposals addressing theoretical and methodological challenges in the following areas:

1. Language policy and education
 - Linguistic ideologies within institutional policies.
 - The role of English and other colonial languages in science, administration and public services.
 - Linguistic rights and the protection of minority languages, including sign languages, and indigenous languages.
 - The commodification of linguistic skills in the global labor market.
 - Migration, linguistic barriers to socio-economic inclusion and citizenship.
 - Decolonizing curricula and pedagogical materials.
 - Critical pedagogies (e.g., translanguaging, intercomprehension) in multilingual settings.
2. Translation, interpreting, and mediation
 - The implications of English as a "pivot" language versus direct translation.
 - Interpreting in crisis, healthcare, and legal contexts.
 - Power dynamics in language mediation in migratory contexts.
3. Grammatical categories and discourse analysis
 - Critiques of grammatical models based exclusively on written text.
 - Eco-linguistic and ethno-linguistic perspectives on grammar.
 - Critical analysis of media, political, and online discourses.
 - Representations of identity (gender, class, ethnicity) in public discourse.
 - Intercultural pragmatics and power imbalances in professional interaction.
4. Technology and Digital Practices
 - Human-machine interaction and the impact of Large Language Models (LLMs) on diversity.
 - Telecollaboration and Critical Virtual Exchange.

- Artificial Intelligence and education
- Accessibility, the digital divide, and technological barriers to participation.
- Detection metrics and their sensitivity to linguistic diversity.

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