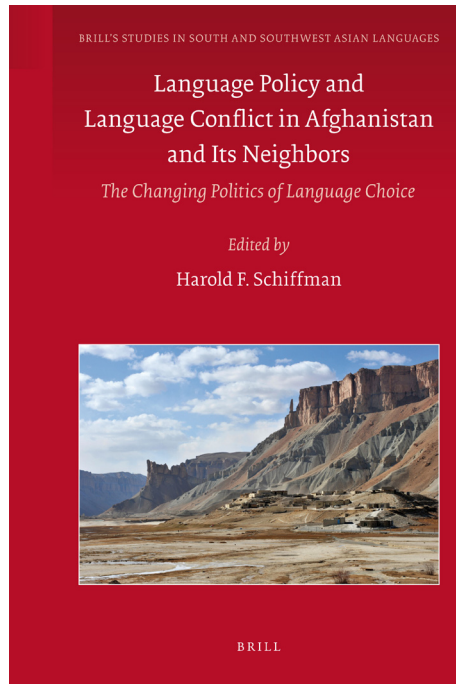


Language Policy and Language Conflict in Afghanistan and Its Neighbors

The Changing Politics of Language Choice

Edited by Harold Schiffman



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Language policy in Central Asia, Afghanistan and the immediately surrounding neighboring countries has a long and varied history. The Iranian revolution of 1978, the collapse of the Soviet Union in 1991, and the ongoing conflict in Afghanistan since 2001 have left the area in a state of flux. This volume gives a better picture about what is official and explicit, what is not official but implicit or general practice, and what the likely future developments might be. It is very clear that multilingualism, whether it involves Persian, Russian or English in addition to other languages, not only has long been a part of the scene, but will probably continue to be so.

The book was co-edited by Brian Spooner, Professor of Anthropology at the University of Pennsylvania.

Readership: people interested in sociolinguistics, language policy, ethno-linguistic conflict, South, Central, and West Asia and those interested in multilingualism and linguistic history in those areas.

Harold F. Schiffman's research interests focus on the linguistics of the Dravidian languages, especially Tamil and, to a lesser extent, Kannada, and on the area of language policy. He has published extensively in these two areas where overlapping interests in sociolinguistics (diglossia, language standardization, multilingualism) intersect with language policy and the politics of language. He is also director of the Consortium for Language Policy and Planning.



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