Language policy is an undeniable foundation of language learning, by giving it its characteristic shape and direction (Stern, 1993). The consensus being that policies in language permeate language teaching, as well as the research developed on language education since the three are closely intertwined. Language education has, in fact, social and political purposes which are not only embodied in learning aims and practices, but also in research goals and its practices.

In the light of these assumptions, this study focuses on the relationship between research on language education and language education policy in Portugal, and how they shape each other. Specifically, it aims at discussing the following questions: How and at what level has language education policy influenced research on language education in Portugal? Which trends of language education policy emerge from the Portuguese scientific production on language education?

In order to answer these questions, a corpus-based analysis, using an instrument of systematic categorization and a relational database, was conducted. The categories of analysis chosen were: the themes, theoretical framework, outcomes and pedagogical implications.

The selected corpus of literature represents the research developed on language education in Portugal, over ten years (1996-2006). It is set within a major meta-analytic
research project, aimed at characterising the state of the art of language education in Portugal, by tracing its scientific production, main characteristics and underlying epistemological assumptions in that time span.

Given the provided framework, it is our goal to unveil the interplay of language education policy and language education research (in Portugal), as well as to raise awareness about the underlying political assumptions of language education research, since research on this disciplinary field provides lenses through which one can avail the impact of language education policies in specific research settings.

**Keywords:** language education policy, research on language education, meta-analysis

**References:**


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