

# Towards an emancipatory and inclusive linguistics:

## Linguistica Quo Vadis

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**Abstract:** There is a clamour for equity, diversity and inclusiveness in academia and in particular in knowledge co-creation. Given the historical roots of Linguistics in colonialism, missionization and Westernization (e.g. Leonard 2018), its theories tend not to be based on empirical facts outside Standard Average European (SAE) languages. As such these theories tend to universalize findings from these languages and tend to be inappropriate for accounting for linguistic structures and practices from most of the world's languages. They sometimes make speakers of these languages feel they must leave their identities at the door before entering the Hall of Fame of Linguistic theories, because they cannot recognize their lingua-cultures in the analyses so elegantly presented in frameworks external to their context and their (native) logic. In this chapter I reflect on some of the modalities that can be operationalized to break away from the Western "monoculture of the mind" and of the human to a plurality of knowledge systems ensuring the equitable inclusion and respect of all knowledges in our quest to understand and to theorize about human nature and languages. I argue that there is the need (i) to rethink the foundations of knowledge creation and production; (ii) to deconstruct the practices associated with the "monoculture of the mind" that adopts segregation as opposed to integration. I also reflect positively on the increasing attention being paid to ethics in knowledge production and creation in linguistics, and how the language sciences can contribute by (a) investigating the categorization of knowledge in various cultures; and (b) revisiting some of the critical terms and assumptions used in linguistics, including "linguistics" itself. Finally, I will argue that the plural knowledges generated should not be museumised but should be allowed to move and be infused into the monoculture of science to break its hegemony and create a multicultural of human knowledge systems.

**Keywords:** monoculture of Western science; linguistic theories, plurality of knowledge systems, ethics, senses