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| Monoglossic ideology includes the idea that standard languages such as German, Kiswahili and Greek exist as separate systems of vocabulary, grammar, pronunciation and writing. |
| This ideology emerged alongside the formation of European nation states and was exported worldwide through European colonisation. |
| In fact, socio-linguists suggest that standard languages don’t empirically exist, outside of grammar and vocabulary books. |
| Standardised language is a key human technology, used for sharing ideas across space and time, and the basis of academic disciplines and communities. |
| At the same time, critical theorists note how the official allocation of standard languages to high status social contexts e.g., education and government, empowers (and disempowers) people depending on their main languages. |

**Reflection and discussion tasks**

1. List the main points in this paragraph. Use note form or a diagram to show the connections between ideas.
2. Which ideas here are already familiar?
3. Which ideas are new to you?
4. To what extent do you agree or disagree with the arguments presented here? Why?
5. What further questions do you have? Make a note of these.