

## **Abstract**

As a multilingual and multicultural island, Cyprus has been segregated based on religion, identities, communities, and nationalities. In 1974, this segregation became a physical division of the island. After twenty-nine years of division, in 2003 April 23<sup>rd</sup>, the borders or in other words, the check-points were opened, and the two biggest communities of the island; Greek Cypriots and Turkish Cypriots, have been put in contact again. The phenomenon that the both communities were put in contact again also brought the question of language along with. This thesis investigates the evolution of the *language policies and planning* (LPP) in Cyprus. This research has found that since the beginning of the first crossings, English language has been functioning as *Lingua franca*, and being spread across the divide. The research analyzes the evolution of the LPP under three categories; A) Politics and Language Policies and Planning in Cyprus, B) Civil Society and Language Policies and Planning in Cyprus, C) Education and Language Policies and Planning in Cyprus. The results of the research have shown that the both sides (North and South) are willing to achieve a Greek and Turkish bilingual Cyprus, whereas the current situation points out that the lack policies and planning along with cooperation between the two sides results in the spread of English language. Therefore, English language is being the language of reconciliation and peace in Cyprus since 2003.

**Keywords:** Language Policies and Planning, Cyprus, English, bilingualism, conflict and language, Cypriot identities, Cyprus problem, reconciliation.