Violent Conflict, Nation-Building, and Language Policy: A Comparative Study of India and Indonesia

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Research Puzzle:

- Postcolonial states have a wide array of official language policies, with varying approaches to former colonial languages

Research Question:

- What determines whether or not a postcolonial state adopts a former colonial language as an official language?

  - *Why did India adopt English as an official language, while Indonesia rejected Dutch?*

Approaches to postcolonial language policy

Causal condition

Outcome

Nation-Building

- Institutional Approach

- Economic Approach

- Socio-economic Approach

→

Official language policy

Approaches to postcolonial language policy

Antecedent condition
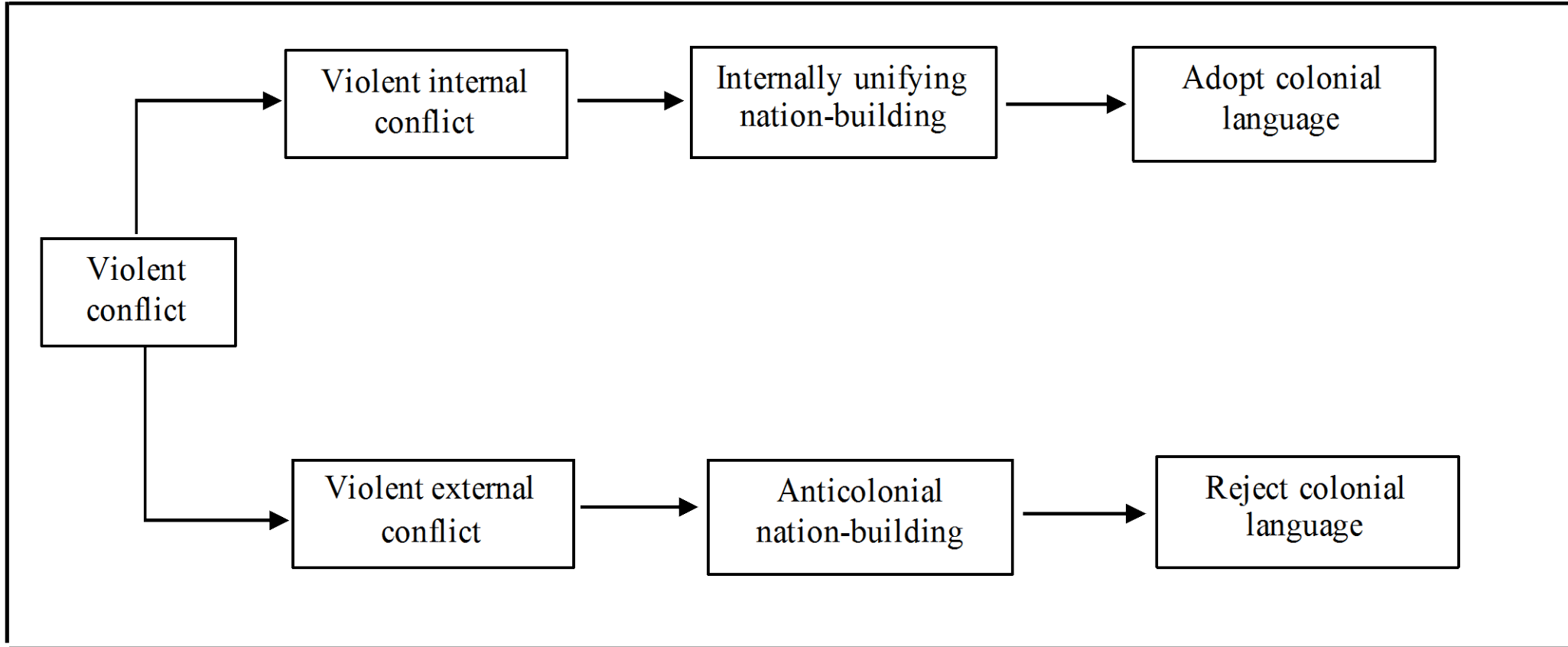
Causal condition

Outcome

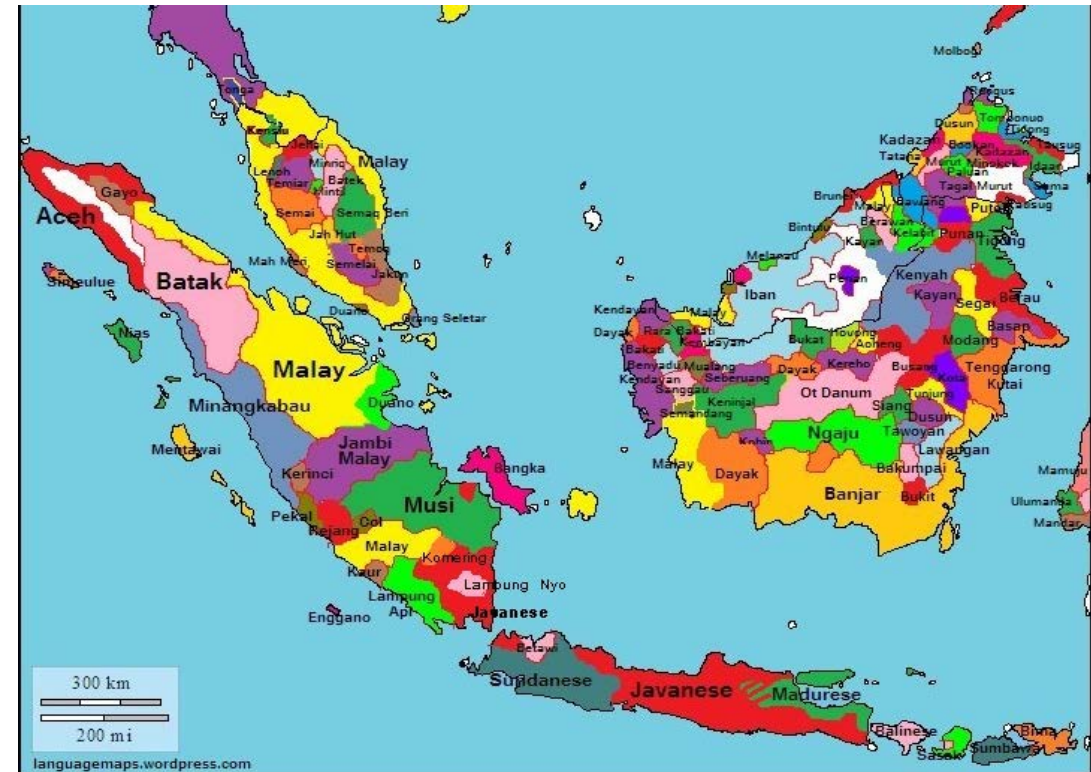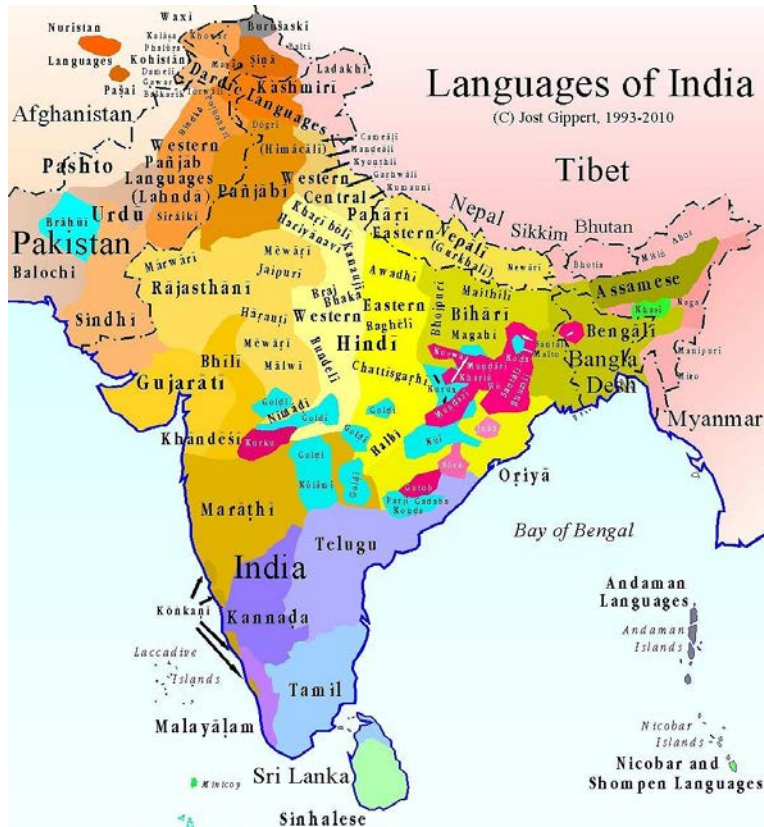Historical context → Nation-Building → Official language policy

Argument

Research Design

Comparative, qualitative analysis: historical approach

Findings

Partition → English adopted

Indonesian Revolution → Dutch rejected

Implications

Theory:

- Postcolonialism as an ideological lens for language policy

- Macro-sociopolitical factors enrich ideological analyses

Policy:

- Official language policy can be reevaluated

- Economic and political implications of language policy