Language Planning

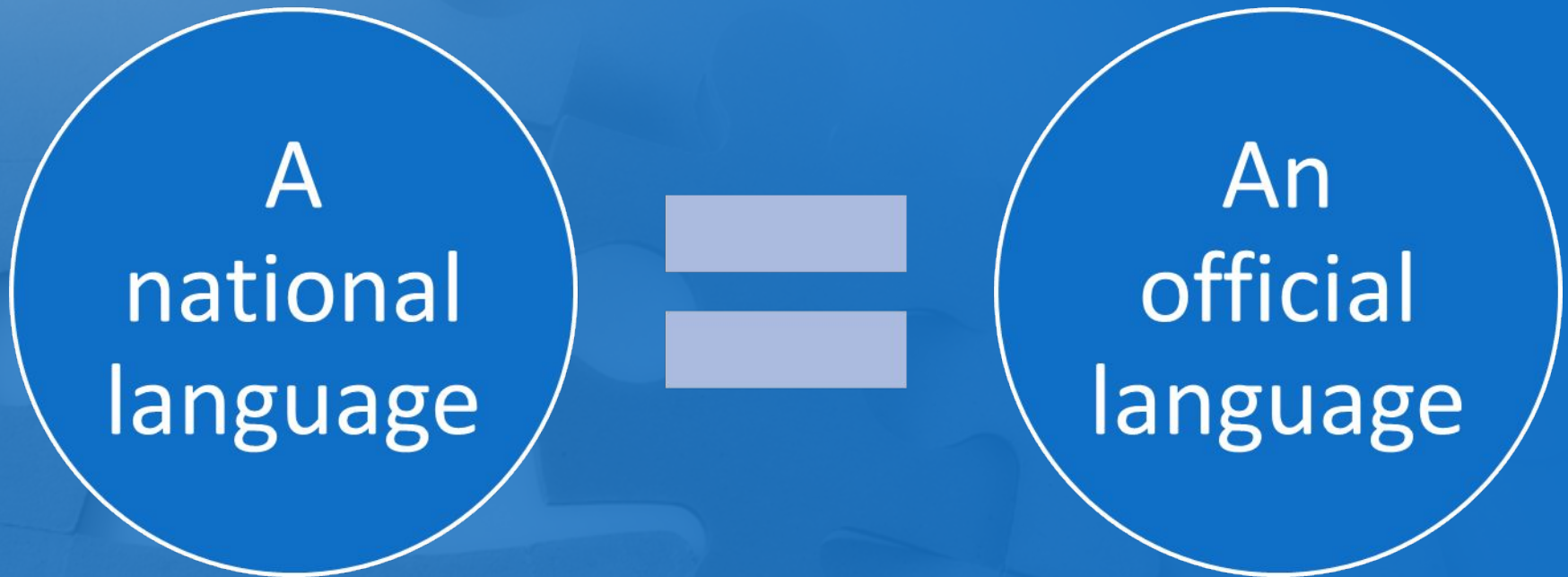## Language and Society

The sociolinguistic distinction

National languages
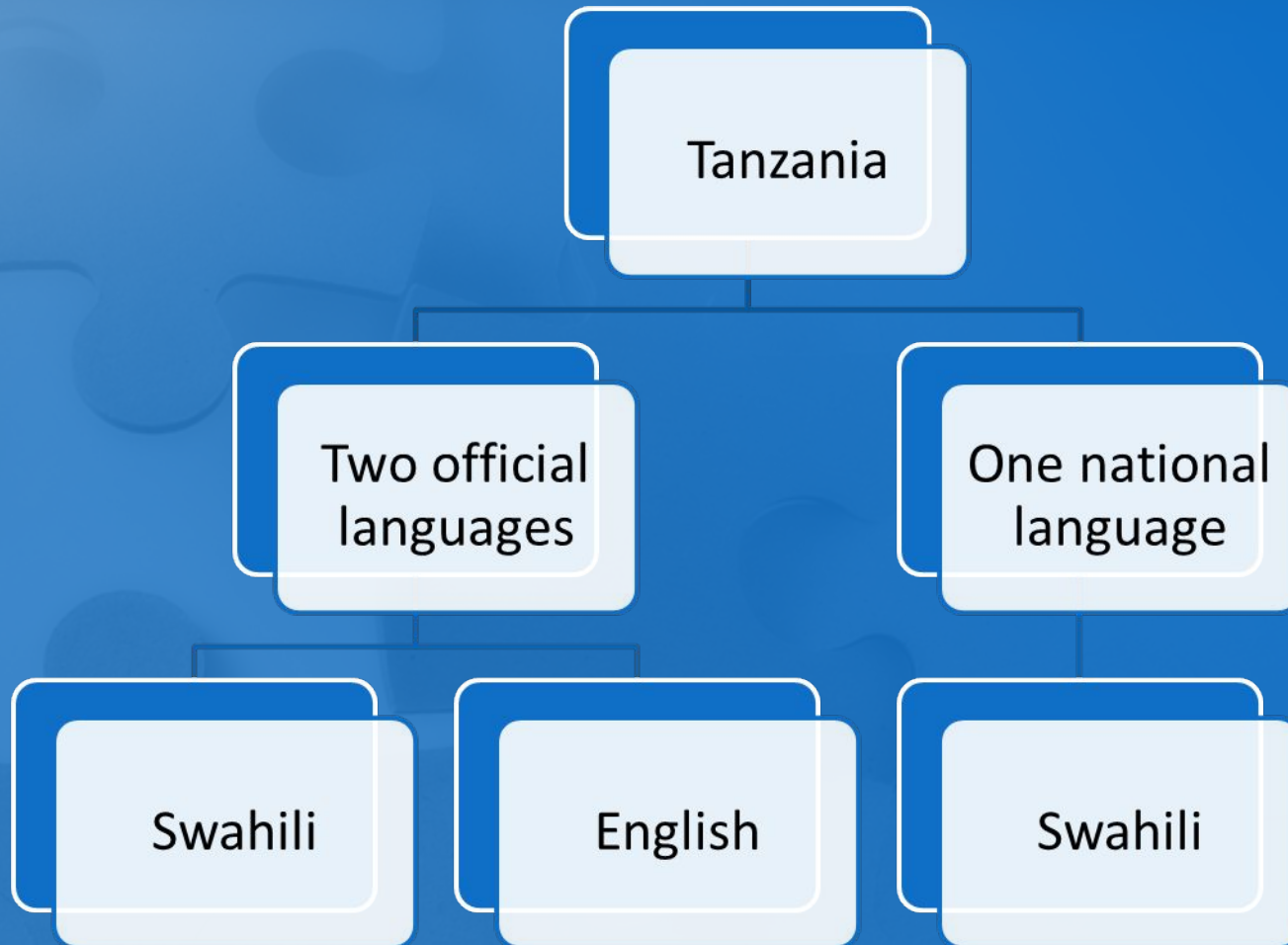
- The ideological dimension.
- A symbol of national unity

Official languages

- The instrumental dimension.
- Used for government business

In monolingual nations (as they way they see themselves)

A national language = An official language

In multilingual nations

Tanzania

Two official languages

One national language

Swahili

English

Swahili

Choosing a national language

- Political reasons
  - Nationhood
- The choice of a national language is problematic.
  - India-Hindi
  - 14 regional languages as official languages + Hindi and English

Selecting a national language

- The majority rules.
  - A single dominant group
  - Danish (Denmark): 98%

Selecting a national language:
The role of political power

Language Planning: Process

Selection → Codification
- Orthography
- Vocabulary

↓

Acceptance ← Elaboration
- Extending the use into new domains.

QUESTIONS?