

Precedents can thus be found for the spelling *SerboCroatian*, which is a linguist's minuscule yet important protest at the madness now prevalent in the Balkans, where speakers of SerboCroatian, who once constituted a single people, have been riven into three by religious differences.

Afrikaans has a distinct advantage over English in that it has an excellent spelling system, in which the fit between phoneme and grapheme could probably not be better. The chaos of English spelling and the orderliness of Afrikaans spelling could thus not be in starker contrast. Afrikaans has that good fortune thanks to its having a commission which sets the official spelling for everyone writing the language. Since in a well-ordered society a certain degree of discipline is expected of all its members, I accept the spelling rules of the Afrikaans Language Commission of the South African Academy of Arts and Sciences, which allow only for *Serwo-Kroaties* (cf. the Afrikaans keywords of this interview), even though that spelling is not consistent with *SerboCroatian*. On the other hand, innovations which enhance understanding only enhance the very goal of language itself. Perhaps, then, the language commission will consider accepting *SerwoKroaties* (at least as an alternate spelling) and thus, like English-writing linguists who prefer *SerboCroatian*, make its tiny but important contribution to peace."

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