The main objective of this paper is to present and discuss some relevant aspects of the ongoing debate in the field of language studies, regarding the relationship between politics, linguistic policy and globalization. The first of these aspects is the language policy models that guide contemporary discourses on “diffusion” of Portuguese as an international language or common language, in spaces/times produced in recent decades by the economic and financial globalization. We intend to show that those models are inherited from colonialism (the Portuguese imperial model), neo-colonialism (the hegemonic national model) and also from post-colonialism and decolonization (the transnational, transcultural and transidiomatic model). The second aspect, not separable from the first one, is the modes of articulation and disarticulation of these models within the Community of Portuguese Language Countries (CPLP). Together with Brazil and Portugal, others members of the CPLP are the PALOP group (Países Africanos de Língua Oficial Portuguesa [African Countries which have Portuguese as an Official Language: Angola, Cape Verde, Guinea Bissau, Mozambique, Sao Tome and Principe] and East Timor. As we argue, the Lusophone globalist model follows: a) the post-colonial reference to the old Portuguese empire of the South Atlantic, which means that geopolitical, geostrategic and economic interests of contemporary globalism are confused with messianic ideals of restoring old spaces of Portuguese domination; b) the Brazilian globalist model, which is related to the idea of leadership in building strategic partnerships and opportunities within the global economy and lacks any reference to a monolingual and monocultural origin as that designed by the Lusophone tradition; and c) the African condition, which is a kind of exotic other to be monetized within the parameters of contemporary globalism, and which has been an important catalyst factor of the modes of critique of both Lusophone and Brazilian globalisms, particularly in the symbolic field.

Keywords: language globalization, Portuguese, Lusophonia.