



YOU HAVE GOT TO KNOW YOUR LANGUAGE TO UNDERSTAND YOUR
CULTURE

Amirova Gulruh Ilhomovna

Uzbekistan State World Language University

Research advisor: S.Yuldasheva

Abstract: It is a recurrent theme in sociolinguistics that besides fully documenting endangered languages, it is important to ensure somehow that they will continue to be used. The basic trope is that of “language death,” analogous to the extinction of species. But the analogy fails: languages do not die, though they may be abandoned by their users, usually in favor of a more widely spoken language. Those who hold that linguistic diversity increases cultural diversity – and that the equal treatment of language groups mitigates inequality between and within groups – are adopting an essentially sentimental position. It is also a fallacy: promoting minority, local and immigrant languages, which are all too often ill-equipped for modern life, actually strengthens the position of the dominant language as the only common language of communication: the more languages there are, the more English is spoken. This process can be seen at work both in post-Apartheid South Africa and in the European Union as it undergoes enlargement. Key words: sociolinguistics, endangered languages, language death, linguistic diversity, cultural diversity.

Аннотация: В социолингвистике постоянно обсуждается, что помимо полного документирования языков, находящихся под угрозой исчезновения, важно каким-то образом гарантировать, что они будут продолжать использоваться. Основным тропом является «языковая смерть», аналогичная вымиранию видов. Но аналогия неверна: языки не умирают, хотя их пользователи могут отказаться от них, обычно в пользу более широко распространенного языка. Те, кто считает, что языковое разнообразие увеличивает культурное разнообразие и что равное отношение к языковым группам уменьшает неравенство между группами и внутри них, занимают по существу сентиментальную позицию. Это также заблуждение: продвижение языков меньшинств, местных и иммигрантских языков, которые слишком часто плохо приспособлены для современной жизни, на самом деле укрепляет позиции господствующего языка как единственного общего языка общения: чем больше языков, тем больше Английский говорят. Этот процесс можно увидеть в действии как в Южной Африке после апартеида, так и в Европейском союзе, который подвергается расширению.

Ключевые слова: социолингвистика, исчезающие языки, языковая смерть, языковое разнообразие, культурное разнообразие.

Annotatsiya: Bu sotsiolingvistikada takrorlanuvchi mavzu bo'lib, u yo'qolib ketish xavfi ostida turgan tillarni to'liq hujjatlashtirishdan tashqari, ulardan qandaydir tarzda foydalanishni davom ettirishni ta'minlash muhimdir. Asosiy trope turlarning yo'q bo'lib ketishiga o'xshash "til o'limi" dir. Ammo o'xshatish muvaffaqiyatsiz tugadi: tillar o'lmaydi, garchi ular o'z foydalanuvchilari tomonidan tashlab ketsa ham, odatda kengroq so'zlashuvchi til foydasiga. Til xilma-xilligi madaniy xilma-xillikni oshiradi va



til guruhlariga teng munosabatda bo'lish guruhlar o'rtasidagi va guruhlar ichidagi tengsizlikni yumshatadi, deb hisoblaydiganlar mohiyatan sentimental pozitsiyani egallaydilar. Bu ham noto'g'ri: zamonaviy hayot uchun juda mos bo'lmagan ozchilik, mahalliy va immigrant tillarini targ'ib qilish haqiqatda dominant tilning yagona umumiy muloqot tili sifatidagi mavqeini mustahkamlaydi: tillar qancha ko'p bo'lsa, shunchalik ko'p bo'ladi. Ingliz tilida gapiriladi. Bu jarayonni aparteiddan keyingi Janubiy Afrikada ham, kengayish jarayonida Yevropa Ittifoqida ham ko'rish mumkin.

Kalit so'zlar: sotsiolingvistika, yo'qolib borayotgan tillar, til o'limi, til xilma-xilligi, madaniy xilma-xillik.

INTRODUCTION

What do we mean by endangered languages? Yes, of course, nowadays this word attracts people's attention. That's why smart scientists and we young people should pay more attention to this topic and we should think more deeply about whether these disappearing languages will have a negative impact on our society, the reasons for their disappearance, and of course how to prevent it. In our current article, we will introduce the scientists who are conducting research on these disappearing languages, the causes of the problem and their solutions, as well as which languages are disappearing and which have completely disappeared.

Animal species can become endangered, but what about languages?

Around 80 percent of the world's population speaks just 20 percent of its 7,000 languages. That means most languages are used by small communities. A language can eventually reach a point where it loses all of its speakers. When that happens, the knowledge and traditions that are passed down through it are lost as well. Gabriela Pérez Báez, curator of linguistics in the Anthropology Department at the Smithsonian's National Museum of Natural History, answers questions about endangered languages:

How does a language become endangered?

Pérez Báez: A language can, unfortunately, become endangered relatively easily. It happens when fewer and fewer people speak it, and especially when children stop learning it as their dominant language. These children are then less likely to speak it at home and teach it to their children. Gabriela Pérez Báez working with children of the Zapotec community of San Lucas Quiavini, Mexico, on options for the orthographic representation of their language. One main reason the intergenerational passing down of a language can stop is external pressures on a language community that drive some of its members to favor a more dominant language. This often occurs because the more dominant language is perceived or presented as a condition for ensuring quality of life. For instance, having to speak a certain language might be a condition for getting a job, or accessing healthcare or education. Under such pressures, many people opt to shift to the favored language.

Why should an endangered language be saved?

Pérez Báez: When languages disappear, we lose information about how language functions. For instance, language documents information about what might be important for a people to survive. Some languages can be traced back thousands of years and the survival strategies of their speakers are often encoded in a language. Pérez Báez at work



during a visit to the Zapotec community of La Ventosa, Mexico, with a team of other researchers. The group was conducting a collaborative and participatory project to document the lexicon and cultural knowledge associated with the flora of the town. In many ways, language is like a map that shows us how humanity has come to be the way it is. Language endangerment also is associated with human rights issues. Access to healthcare is one example. Many communities around the world have ancestral means to stay healthy, but sometimes they need to seek outside health services. If these services aren't offered in their language, their access to healthcare is restricted. What most people don't realize is that this doesn't just happen in faraway places. It happens here, in the U.S., too. If a person who uses sign language goes to a hospital and there is no American Sign Language interpreter available, that person has difficulty communicating. That difficulty in and of itself constitutes a restriction to the access of a critical service, and is a human rights issue.

What languages does your research focus on?

Pérez Báez: Zapotec languages spoken in Mesoamerica, mostly in the state of Oaxaca in southern Mexico. We don't know how many Zapotec languages exist because they are one of the most diverse language families in the region. You could learn the Zapotec used in one town, then drive just a few miles to another Zapotec speaking town and find enough differences in the second town's language that you cannot understand what they are saying. UNESCO provide a classification system to show just how 'in trouble' the language is:

Vulnerable - most children speak the language, but it may be restricted to certain domains (e.g., home)

Definitely endangered - children no longer learn the language as a 'mother tongue' in the home

Severely endangered - language is spoken by grandparents and older generations; while the parent generation may understand it, they do not speak it to children or among themselves

Critically endangered - the youngest speakers are grandparents and older, and they speak the language partially and infrequently

Extinct - there are no speakers left

Language	Number of speakers	Degree of endangerment
South Italian	7500000	Vulnerable
Sicilian	5000000	Vulnerable
Low Saxon	4800000	Vulnerable
Belarusian	4000000	Vulnerable
Lombard	3500000	Definitely endangered
Romani	3500000	Definitely endangered
Yiddish (Israel)	3000000	Definitely endangered
Gondi	2713790	Vulnerable
Paunaca	5	Critically endangered
Resígaro	5	Critically endangered
Tuzantec	5	Critically endangered
Umbrul	5	Critically endangered



Vano	5	Critically endangered
Wappo	0	Extinct
Western Mansi	0	Extinct

CONCLUSION

In order to prevent this problem, we should never stop using our mother tongue and should always use it. Nowadays, parents of many young people are teaching their children another modern language without teaching their own language and customs. If our society continues in this state, many languages will disappear in the world. And our ancient traditions will also be forgotten. Later, this can cause all kinds of problems. In order to avoid this, we should at least use our mother tongue in the circle of our family or friends.

REFERENCES:

- 1.Sarah G. Thomason Endangered Languages 2015
- 2.Peter K .Austin, Julia SallabankThe Cambridge Handbook of Endangered Languages 2011
- 3.Patience Epps, Danny Law , Na'ama Pat-El HistoricalLinguistics and Endangered Languages 2021
- 4.Maria Anderson April 12, 2018 Why languages become endangered, and how we can keep them alive.