

**A COMPARATIVE STUDY OF LANGUAGE DEATH IN
ENDANGERED LANGUAGES**

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ABSTRACT: *Language is fundamental to our existence; it allows us to distinguish between people and animals and helps us comprehend who we are. People continue to lament language disappearing despite its widespread use in human life, since many people have died and others are in danger. Only a small number of the questions that were meant to be asked were actually asked. We attempted to examine key topics, including the significance of languages, language statistics, the actual source of the endangerment, and a solution. Even though the problem is somewhat broad, we made an effort to keep it as simple as possible so as not to mislead readers.*

KEYWORDS: *Language, death, endangered, and revitalization*

INTRODUCTION

The world currently boasts approximately six to seven thousand languages, but a stark reality is that nearly half of them are projected to disappear by the end of the 21st century. According to Crystal , a language is estimated to vanish every two weeks. Miroslav (2010), citing Ethnologue (2005, 12), noted that around 51 languages (now 50) globally have only a single speaker remaining, with a significant concentration in Australia as well as other places including the USA, South America, Africa, Asia, and the Pacific Ocean islands. Furthermore, nearly 500 languages have fewer than 100 speakers; 1,500 are spoken by less than 1,000 people; approximately 3,000 have up to 10,000 speakers; and 500 have no more than 100,000 speakers. It has been estimated that a mere 4% of the world's population speaks 96% of the world's languages. As William Cuppy aptly stated,

“Most of us feel we could never become extinct. The Dodo felt that way too.”

METHODOLOGY

This study employs a comparative qualitative methodology to analyze the processes of language death in three endangered languages: This approach is chosen due to the complex social, cultural, and linguistic factors at play, requiring an in-depth examination of qualitative data. The framework is informed by linguistic ecology theory, which emphasizes the interaction between language, culture, and environment in language maintenance and loss.

RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

There was a noticeable tendency toward less complex morphology in all three languages. For instance, complex verb conjugations with several prefixes and suffixes were gradually reduced to utilizing the basic form of the primary verb with one auxiliary verb. demonstrated a notable decrease in the usage of grammatical cases, instead depending on word order and prepositions to express semantic roles. Using a single plural marker for several categories resulted in a loss of differentiation between some plural forms.

- **Syntactic Simplification:** Sentence structures were generally becoming simpler. In every instance, shorter, more straightforward sentences joined by conjunctions were utilized more frequently in place of embedded clauses and relative clauses. Extend the first argument, which is that language dying is a complex issue influenced by a number of linguistic, social, cultural, and economic factors. Talk about how these elements work together harmoniously as opposed to separately. How can economic pressure, for example, raise the possibility of language shift, which in turn causes linguistic attrition? Examine the ways in which certain factors might occasionally work against one another or reinforce one another. Link the economic demands of having to communicate in that language for employment with the social pressures of having to use it in public settings to understand the impact of dominant languages. By examining the complex interconnection of different forms of impact, demonstrate how these connections lead to the loss of indigenous languages. > * **Theoretical Connection:** Make a clear

connection between this topic and linguistic ecology ideas, which highlight the interdependence of language, environment, and society. Talk about how language is susceptible to different kinds of pressure and disturbance, just like an ecosystem.

CONCLUSION

The study has emphasized that language death is a result of interrelated linguistic, social, political, and economic issues rather than a straightforward, linear process. Along with a transition in language use from indigenous to dominant languages, especially in public settings, educational institutions, and increasingly the household, we saw recurring patterns of linguistic attrition, including lexical borrowing and grammar simplification. These languages have been marginalized in large part due to socioeconomic constraints and governmental regulations, yet speaker attitudes show a complex interaction between cultural preservation, emotional attachment, and the practical difficulties of navigating a dominant language environment. Although these trends were widespread, there were significant differences in the particular paths and decrease rates, highlighting the significance of context-specific analysis.

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