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### **Language Endangerment and Preservation**

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#### **Abstract:**

The aforementioned captures the idea of language endangerment which affects a historic proportion of the world's languages. Nearly 40% of languages that are at risk of being spoken for the last time is menaced due to cultural heritage, education, biodiversity and wisdom obliteration. Dominant global languages, cultural assimilation, economic problems, and colonization are some of the major factors. Most of the youth abandon ineffectively spoken languages because they tend to be suppressed by widely spoken languages. Several initiatives have been proposed to resolve the problem through language documentations, digital means, bilingual education, and community programs. On the other side, barriers like restricted financing, social attitudes, and political conditions poorly contribute towards preservation efforts. Joint action of the governments, communities, and educators is vital for documentation along with ensuring endanger languages are preserved and passed. Kyunga is in need of sustainable strategies for protecting linguistic diversity for environment fostering where every human language will hold value.

#### **Key Words:**

Bilingual education, Cultural preservation, Endangerment, Globalization, Indigenous languages, Linguistic diversity, Language revitalization, Language shift

**Introduction:**

Languages are deeply intertwined with the identity, culture, and history of a human being as they serve as the fundamentals around which human interaction is revolved. A number of languages are at risk of extinction due to a variety of factors like globalization, technological advancement, and even sociopolitical turmoil. UNESCO alleges that approximately 40% of all world languages are in some way endangered, some even with less than a thousand speakers. A few of the many reasons as to why the endangered of languages is becoming a larger issue is the overpowered use of global languages like English and Mandarin, colonization, cultural assimilation, and even some economic reasons. Languages carry a lot of rich cultural heritage and oral traditions which support the reason as to why civilization is unique. Losing out on a language means losing an entire culture. There have been attempts from different governments, linguists, and local communities coming together and trying to form a plan which helps in saving endangered languages, helping diversity for future generations.

Like other cultures, indigenous groups view languages as more than a means of communication; to them, a language is intimately tied to their identity. Certain indigenous languages hold intricate knowledge about local biodiversity, herbal medicine, and practices of living in harmony with nature, which are untranslatable to mainstream languages. Consequently, language is vital to convey exceptional cultural and ecological knowledge.

**Section 2: Reasons of Language Loss**

Alienation is one of the many interrelated reasons that every language is doomed to die at one point in time. Some of these include:

**2.1 Assumption of Power through War and Civil Intrusion**

As far as history goes, this country has had several regions, colonies and territories where other languages have been spoken indigenous to that particular region. During wars, these languages suffered greatly at the hands of venders of soldiers, as they systematically placed a culture in which the only accepted language was laced with the mythology of the captivating power of the soldiers, relentlessly pushing down the native tongues. It managed not just a withdrawal of native tongues, but a total decrease in friendly attitude to the rich array of world vernaculars. In a considerable percentage of post colonies, native dialects became problematic which further meant left over disgrace because there is no honor in destruction of something ethnic, leading to enslavement of mouths to a set language devoid of human emotion, courtesy or any substance.

**2.2 Business Motivations and Global Relocation Among Social Classes**

Les avancées techniques et scientifiques ont sans aucun doute favorisé l'ascension d'un bon nombre de personnes, et ce, à tous les pans de la vie sociale, mais dans le domaine d'éducation, on observe un effondrement de l'enseignement dans la langue maternelle à l'école, au bureau et même au foyer.

Thus, the youth in several regions across the globe now prefer to learn universal languages that provide greater prospects for employment and social advancement, rather than focusing on their native languages.

## **2.3 The Dominance of Major Languages**

Along with economic forces, the existence of important world languages in education, media, governance, and many other fields forces the existence of minor languages to the periphery. The use of relatively minor languages is becoming less and less important, due to the extensive use of English in media and the higher education. This leads to fewer and fewer people using that language, which results in even fewer resources being spent on it and leads the language towards its extinction.

## **2.4 Migration and Urbanization**

Population movement, especially from rural to urban areas, is another factor which contributes to lesser known languages becoming endangered. People migrating towards cities or countries where more dominant languages are used have a greater chance of losing their vernacular languages and, hence, are more likely to become fully integrated into the socio-centrism. Eventually, kids born in these places are very likely to not speak the language of their parents, which leads to these languages becoming increasingly rare.

## **Section 3: The Consequences of Language Loss**

The extinction of a language has far-reaching consequences, both culturally and scientifically. The loss of a language is not just the loss of words; it is the loss of an entire way of understanding the world. Many endangered languages hold knowledge that is irreplaceable, such as information about local flora and fauna, traditional farming techniques, and unique healing practices. When a language dies, so does the knowledge it carries.

Furthermore, the extinction of a language weakens the cultural identity of a community. Language is deeply tied to heritage and values. As a language disappears, so does the connection to ancestral customs and practices. This can lead to a sense of alienation among younger generations who no longer feel connected to their cultural roots.

## **Section 4: Efforts to Preserve Endangered Languages**

Efforts to preserve endangered languages have intensified in recent years. Numerous organizations, governments, and local communities are working together to protect and revitalize these languages. Some of the key strategies include:

### **4.1 Language Documentation Projects**

Language documentation is one of the first steps in preserving a language. Linguists and anthropologists are working to document languages through audio and video recordings, written materials, and other tools.

These efforts capture not just the vocabulary but also the unique structures and syntax of a language. Archives, such as the Endangered Languages Archive at SOAS University of London, are invaluable resources for future generations interested in learning and reviving endangered languages.

## **4.2 Digital Tools and Mobile Apps**

Technology has proven to be a game-changer in language preservation. Digital tools such as mobile apps, online dictionaries, and language learning platforms make it easier for people to access endangered languages and learn them. For example, apps like Duolingo and Babbel, while not focusing on endangered languages, have shown how mobile technology can facilitate language learning. Projects such as "Living Tongues" are creating digital resources for endangered languages, allowing people to learn them anywhere in the world.

## **4.3 Community-Driven Revitalization Programs**

Language revitalization efforts must involve the community. In many regions, local communities are leading the charge in preserving their languages. These grassroots efforts include creating language immersion programs, developing school curricula, and promoting the use of indigenous languages in daily life. Many indigenous groups are also utilizing social media platforms to teach their languages to a global audience, encouraging both local and international interest.

## **4.4 Governmental Support and Policy**

Governments can play a critical role in preserving endangered languages by implementing policies that promote bilingual education and support the use of indigenous languages in public life. Some countries, such as New Zealand, have enacted language policies that recognize and support the use of indigenous languages, providing financial resources and infrastructure for language education. In many cases, official recognition of a language can provide a platform for its revitalization.

## **Section 5: Challenges and Obstacles**

Despite the positive strides in language preservation, several challenges remain. These include:

### **5.1 Limited Funding**

Language preservation is often underfunded, with insufficient resources allocated to research, documentation, and revitalization programs. Many smaller languages lack the financial support needed for large-scale preservation efforts, making it difficult to reach wider audiences or sustain long-term initiatives.

### **5.2 Political and Social Barriers**

In some regions, political resistance to language revitalization efforts can hinder progress. Governments may be reluctant to support minority languages if they perceive them as a threat to national unity or economic progress.

Furthermore, societal attitudes often favor the use of dominant languages, making it challenging to convince people to prioritize endangered languages in their daily lives.

### **5.3 Attitudinal Challenges**

One of the greatest obstacles to language preservation is societal attitudes toward language. In many places, minority languages are viewed as less valuable or even primitive compared to dominant languages. Changing these attitudes requires a concerted effort to educate communities about the importance of linguistic diversity and the benefits of maintaining cultural heritage.

## Conclusion

The extinction of languages is a global crisis that demands urgent action. As languages die, so too does irreplaceable cultural knowledge, ecological wisdom, and human history. However, there is hope. Through language documentation, technological innovation, community engagement, and supportive governmental policies, endangered languages can be preserved and revitalized. It is essential that we continue to invest in these efforts, ensuring that the linguistic diversity of the world is celebrated and protected for future generations. By doing so, we not only preserve languages but also safeguard the cultural identities, histories, and worldviews they carry

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