

## THE REASONS FOR ENDANGERED LANGUAGES AND HOW TO PREVENT THEM

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**Annotation:** Language is one of the most important parts of a cultural identity and heritage representing a specific nation's independence and presence. However, it is getting prevalent for a particular nation to deprive of their mother tongue or to have become on the verge of extinction because of contribution of globalization, urbanization, and cultural assimilation. Many indigenous languages are disappearing, by which cultural and intellectual losses are occurring as well. This article delves into learning why language extinction takes place and what can we do to ensure our language will live forever, applying available methods to find out, especially qualitative and quantitative ones. It is obvious that every country and nation is available due to the presence of a mother tongue, displaying its the most pivotal cultural aspects, such as daily communications, interactions or literature. In this research work individuals' opinions are asked about what are the main reasons leading a particular language to extinction and what kinds of actions can be taken to prevent this global phenomenon. In order to mitigate this problem, different procedures to preserve language are discussed such as actions taken by governmental authorities, language education programs, public bids, and the importance of technology.

**Аннотация:** Язык является одной из важнейших частей культурной идентичности и наследия, представляющих независимость и присутствие конкретной нации. Однако я становится распространенным, когда конкретная нация лишается своего родного языка или оказывается на грани исчезновения из-за влияния глобализации, урбанизации и культурной ассимиляции. Многие языки коренных народов исчезают, что также приводит к культурным и интеллектуальным потерям. В этой статье мы углубимся в

изучение того, почему происходит исчезновение языка и что мы можем сделать, чтобы гарантировать, что наш язык будет жить вечно, применяя доступные методы для выяснения этого, особенно качественные и количественные. Очевидно, что каждая страна и нация доступны благодаря наличию родного языка, демонстрирующего его самые важные культурные аспекты, такие как повседневное общение, взаимодействие или литература. В этой исследовательской работе задаются вопросы о мнении отдельных лиц о том, каковы основные причины, приводящие к исчезновению конкретного языка, и какие действия можно предпринять для предотвращения этого глобального явления. Чтобы смягчить эту проблему, обсуждаются различные процедуры по сохранению языка, такие как действия, предпринимаемые государственными органами, программы языкового образования, публичные торги и важность технологий.

**Annotatsiya:** Til muayyan millatning mustaqilligi va mavjudligini ifodalovchi madaniy o'ziga xoslik va merosning eng muhim qismlaridan biridir. Biroq, globallashtiruv, urbanizatsiya va madaniy assimilyatsiyaning hissasi tufayli ma'lum bir xalqning o'z ona tilidan mahrum bo'lishi yoki yo'q bo'lib ketish arafasida bo'lishi keng tarqalgan. Ko'pgina mahalliy tillar yo'q bo'lib ketmoqda, buning natijasida madaniy va intellektual yo'qotishlar ham sodir bo'lmoqda. Ushbu maqola nima uchun tilning yo'q bo'lib ketishini va tilimizning abadiy yashashini ta'minlash uchun nima qilishimiz kerakligini, mavjud usullarni, ayniqsa sifat va miqdoriy usullarni qo'llashni o'rganadi. Ko'rinib turibdiki, har bir mamlakat va millat ona tilining mavjudligi tufayli mavjud bo'lib, uning kundalik aloqalari, o'zaro aloqalari yoki adabiyoti kabi eng muhim madaniy jihatlarni namoyish etadi. Ushbu tadqiqot ishida ma'lum bir tilning yo'q bo'lib ketishiga olib keladigan asosiy sabablar nima va bu global hodisaning oldini olish uchun qanday choralar ko'rish mumkinligi haqida odamlarning fikri so'raladi. Ushbu muammoni yumshatish uchun tilni saqlab qolishning turli tartib-qoidalari, masalan, davlat organlari tomonidan ko'rilayotgan harakatlar, til ta'limi dasturlari, davlat takliflari va texnologiyaning ahamiyati muhokama qilinadi.

**Key words:** language extinction, endangered languages, language preservation, linguistic diversity, language revitalization.

**Ключевые слова:** исчезновение языков, исчезающие языки, сохранение языков, языковое разнообразие, возрождение языков.

**Kalit so'zlar:** tilning yo'q bo'lib ketishi, yo'qolib ketish xavfida bo'lgan tillar, tillarni saqlab qolish, tilning xilma-xilligi, tilni qayta tiklash.

## INTRODUCTION

Language plays a crucial role as a cultural, human identity and a means of communication. It serves as an inevitable tool for not only the process of communication, but also it helps with transmitting knowledge, cultural traditions, rituals and social values across generations. However, in the recent era the number of languages spoken has declined considerably, not least for minority and indigenous ones, turning into endangerment and extinction. Sean Fleming (2020) states that according to UNESCO, 7000 languages are available around the world and more than 40% (2895) of them are on verge of extinction, but, some can still survive provided that appropriate conditions is supplied [1]. This concerning news warns speakers to be aware of proper usage of their language, ensuring language they are using is in daily use.

Obviously, language extinction takes place, unless it is utilized by its speakers regularly or other dominant languages, such as English or Spain would be prioritized over minority languages. Today, 96% of the population around the world speak in nearly 4% of languages, while 25% of languages possess fewer than 1000 communicators. Additionally, Neus Isern and Joaquim Fort (2014) says that if these present trends are not going to alter, according to linguists' prediction, 90% of almost 6000 languages may be directed towards extinction or large endangerment until the end of this century [2]. For this governmental authorities are also responsible, preferring to favor of such dominate languages in regular communication to local and indigenous languages. Sometime there are reasons, for example, it is said that in Encyclopedia Britannica by Noah Tesch in some cases languages are more likely to die out immediately. This can occur when a small number of communities of speakers are eliminated by disasters or battles. This was the case in el Salvador when indigenous Lenca and Cacaopera speakers gave up their mother tongue in order to being identified becoming as Indians to save their lives after a massacre in 1932 in which Salvadoran warriors killed many indigenous peasants to quell an uprising, or in Egypt Coptic language gradually disappeared because of its speakers' attempt to follow another language to avoid discrimination [3]. Consequently, these languages are more likely to become marginalized and even forgotten over time. The result of language extinction is prone to go beyond the disappearance of words, leading the loss of cultural identity and heritage. Being wary of this phenomenon linguists, researchers and governments are taking actions to hinder the occurrence of this problem. While doing this, they can take many actions, like encouraging

local people to carry on daily communication in indigenous languages, telling stories, singing songs, accomplishing cultural events and the most significant effort would be to teach lessons at schools in these languages. For instance, in Uzbekistan although the primary language is Uzbek language, people from various backgrounds speak in different languages, such Russian, Tajik or even Kazak. It is because that in their family these languages were spoken by their parents from their early ages, hearing from them they were brought up speaking these languages naturally as a mother tongue.

This research paper aims to find out the reasons and consequences of language extinction and endangerment while searching efficient resolutions for preserving endangered ones. The article looks for emphasizing the significance of safeguarding linguistic diversity for the long term, by looking at case studies and global attempts. Additionally, the study highlights the importance of education, technology, and policies to make sure the survival of at-risk languages. Fundamentally, collective and collaborative obligation stands at the forefront of everything to save world's linguistic heritage which is necessary aspect of human history and identity. While respondents in (both qualitative and also findings from qualitative research suggested that) were questioned about what is main reason of language endangerment and extinction and what is the best way of preserving language, many of them believed as dominance of major languages and intergenerational transmission respectively.

### **Literature review**

#### **The reasons of language endangerment and extinction**

In fact, language endangerment and extinction is inevitably related to each other. Before experiencing extinction, firstly, languages are more likely to witness endangerment. While the former means languages through which fewer numbers of speakers are left, by means of the latter we can know that there are no communicators or speakers any more. There are plenty steps through which language is more likely to direct toward the endangerment. First of all, public preference of speaking dominant languages rather than mother tongue. Let's take English or Chinese language learners as an example, more and more people around the world attempt to learn and communicate through these languages as lucrative opportunities they offer, not least for employment chances. True, they are becoming employed by means of these languages, however, this is not without upsides. By looking at them young generations also are coming to decision to prioritize dominant languages over their native ones, unfortunately, they may even consider their own languages as unnecessary compared with dominant languages. In addition, it is true that everything, regardless what it is starts within a family, not only upbringing, but

also cultural customs, rituals and affection for mother tongue also are developed in young minds of youngsters with the assistance of their family. Even though some families are living in a specific community, they are carrying out their conversations in foreign languages, for instance, in my country Uzbekistan lots of famous figures, especially artists and political workers tend to speak in Russian or English even within a family. Thus, their children may also end up preferring foreign languages like their parents. It is urbanization that is another factor contributing to language endangerment. Clearly, many individuals are leaving their countries with the aim of getting employment or education abroad and in many cases they are settling there and thriving. Although this is a positive development, their attempts to communicate in another language due to economic and social reasons, it is impossible devoid of negative trace for native language. Another reason is the sudden eradication of a community of certain speakers owing to war or disasters as it is also mentioned by Stephen A. Wurm, the accelerated death of a given language because of violent acts, such as warfare and genocide, or through epidemic diseases and droughts causing disastrous famines, heavy floods, volcanic eruptions and to name but a few [4]. While Sebastian Drude (2003) argues that language endangerment might become the result of external forces, including military, economic, religious, or educational factors, or it may be triggered by internal reasons like the negative attitude of a community towards its own language. Internal pressures frequently possess their source in external ones, and both stop the intergenerational transmission of linguistic and cultural traditions. Many indigenous, associating their disadvantaged social rank with their culture, have believed that their languages are not worth revitalizing. They tend to abandon their languages and cultures in hopes of dealing with discrimination, to secure a livelihood, and hone social mobility, or to assimilate to the global market [5].

### **The consequences of language extinction**

Inevitably, the extinction of languages leads to remarkable losses, even the loss of a nation, culture and community. Cultural identity stands at the forefront of results of language extinction. It is also mentioned that in the “Language Vitality and Endangerment” the loss of every language brings about the irrecoverable extinction of unique culture, history, and ecological knowledge. Per language is an individual expression of the human identity in the world. Hence, the knowledge of every language might become the basis to finding fundamental questions of the nature. When a single language passes away, there is less evidence for comprehending patterns in the structure and characteristics of a language, human prehistory,

and the consistence of the diverse ecosystems in the world [5]. According to Kat Eschner (2017) there four main occurrences are going to take place when a language dies out. First and foremost, as mentioned above several times the loss of the expression of a distinctive vision of what it means to become human. Secondly, world's histories and cultures will be lost as well as linguistic resources. Additionally, we deprive of the optimum local resources for dealing with environmental dangers. Furthermore, some individuals fail to keep their mother, native tongue [6]. Arjun Nagarajan (2018) explains the consequence of language extinction by giving an example of the difference between humans and animals, for instance, if predators feel hungry when they visit an unfamiliar territory, they just catch up their prey and fulfill their hunger and they understand each other instinctively, but what about humans? What are they going to do if they feel hungry and cannot explain this to people comprehending another language? Conversely, in order to live independently and in life, culture they want humans have to have their own mother tongue as well as independence to communicate through it [7]. Almost each person lives in this world with the aim of fulfilling their cultural needs that were left by their ancestors and they are able to find satisfaction in their lives due to the existence of cultural heritages. However, without mother language this would be impossible. For example, people tend to pray for God and ask for what they are in need of in their mother tongues, unlikely in another language it would be arduous to convey an exact meaning and context.

### **The preservation of language extinction and endangerment**

As the endangerment and extinction of indigenous languages are occurring, it is inappropriate to just stand by. There are some actions that could be taken to prevent languages from extinction and endangerment. What supplies the maintenance of language in use is education. According to Arief Rachman (2006) while being educated in mother tongue, children also learn and search in this language. Instruction in the native language is of vital significance for pedagogical, social and cultural reasons. Hence, it is very crucial to develop the education of the mother tongue as native language at the family and at school because the priority given to the native language of students makes up the best basis for further learning and supports positive emotions that are essential for the construction of a private and cultural identity, as well as the sentiments of belonging to the community [8]. This role of education depends on the governmental actions, in order the enforcement of mother tongue in education to be applied, the government should introduce principles and disciplines related to language preservation, ensuring a regular application of native language not only in daily instructions at school, but also at home, communities. Arianna Berardi-Wiltshire (2017) states that due to the importance played by the

family in both language attaining and socializing, micro-level investigations of language practices in a family and around children generally have long been the concentration of sociolinguistic enquiry. But, in recent days, researchers payed attention to the family as a key factor contributing to the best preservation of a language [9]. It is also worth noting that technology plays a crucial role in preserving languages, providing an attractive atmosphere for students to engage in activities and educational programs in a native language ensure to keep young learners connected with a mother tongue. Let's take David Crystal's (2014) ideas concerning with technology as an example which says the development of Ai-driven language equipments, the proliferation of mobile and web-based language apps, and growing usage of VR and AR for immersive learning experiments are forming the future of language preservation. If these technologies improve in language preservation process, they offer new chances for engaging in language communities, documenting linguistic diversity, and supplying accessible and efficient language learning measurements [10]. These resolutions abovementioned are equally effective in preservation of languages, if applied appropriately and on time, also the collaboration of public and local individuals plays a pivotal role, even it is not possible to implement these actions devoid of cooperative attempts.

### **Methodology**

The aim of this research work was to investigate what factors lead to endangered languages and extinction and propose some actions to take to prevent languages under endangerment. Concentrating on such intentions, this research paper put some relevant questions for adults, particularly those who were over 18 and under 25 years old. In this survey their considerations were asked what did they think as main reason of language endangerment, factors encouraging people to stop speaking their native language, actions they offer to introduce to prevent languages, whether they have an interest towards endangered languages, what do they think about the funding by governments to preserve languages, the role of social media and digital technology, and the most effective way they propose to make endangered language renowned again. Overall, 60 students took part in online survey and the author also carried out interviews with some individuals from which the results were presented below. It was clear that the majority of respondents attending were students in foreign language faculties and many of whom considered globalization and dominance of major languages as primary reason for language endangerment, while most of them confessed that they believe people become pressured by dominant languages, especially English and Chinese. They considered the government policies as one of the most effective ways of language preservation and ideas were



followed by the importance of family communications and teaching. Notably, nearly all of the respondents admitted that they are not indifferent about endangered languages and most thought government should spend a large amount of money for actions such as the organization of cultural events in native language, purchasing digital technologies to implement language learning programs. As expected, the majority of participants considered that social media and digital technology play an important in this process. Finally, the most efficient way of preserving languages was intergenerational transmission for most of them.

### **Findings and Discussion**

The findings of this study provide compelling evidence for the importance of focus on causes of language endangerment and extinction as well as preservation. Both quantitative and qualitative data collected consistently emphasize the strategies to prevent languages so as to save cultural heritage and identity. The qualitative analysis shed light on that the majority of people in the community care about endangered languages and extinction, while the qualitative data further enriched our comprehension of language importance in shaping cultural and human identity. Other researchers' research works also identified how important to specify reasons for endangerment and preserve languages by contribution of collaborative communities, the importance of digital technology and primarily government policies to take further and immediate actions towards saving indigenous languages. This document analysis displayed that although many researchers attempted to urge societies to further actions, encouraging them to be wary of the potential consequences, including cultural heritage and human identity, there is still a room yet has to be filled. There should be more effective strategies to implement which can definitely ensure languages to survive. It is vital to get not only communities' attention towards languages, but also governmental authorities should be directed to the centre of the problems related to languages, forcing them to prioritize language issues over other factors, such as economic, industrial and development. Ai driven tools and other online programs are becoming available in many countries around the world, but in foreign languages, thus, in order to understand these apps and to find well-paid employment, people are trying to learn dominant languages leading them to prioritize foreign languages over theirs. These programs should be available in all languages, so individuals in a certain community do not become drawn by foreign languages. Without any doubt, learning foreign languages and communicating through them are a positive development, but not at the cost of another language's endangerment, nor extinction.

### **Conclusion**



In conclusion, this study underlines the critical reasons of endangered languages and proposing some efficient ways to take into consideration. By understanding what is posing a threat for indigenous languages towards endangerment and extinction, effective actions could be taken by the government, the communities and technology. The survival of languages depends on its consistent utilization, not least for among young generations. While education, technology, and government support play a crucial role, the most vital factor is intergenerational transmission, making sure that parents and older adults regularly communicate the language in front of their children. If language stays an essential aspect of lifestyle, it is most likely to survive for generations to come.

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