

~~“when a language dies, a culture dies”~~

How do language and culture change over time?

language ≠ culture

Despite being closely associated *language and culture are separable*. Unrelated languages may share in one culture, closely related languages belong to distinct culture spheres.

Statements equating culture and language undermine...

- 1 Contact languages as they are perceived to lack pure autonomous culture.
- 2 Cultural identities of communities in which traditional languages are no longer spoken fluently.

e. g. Ojibwe-Mississauga language does not have fluent language speakers and the people of Ojibwe-Mississauga community are not recognized as indigenous enough despite having their own culture and group identity.

the role of the family

1/5 of the languages spoken in the world today are no longer being learned by children



How minority languages are used in families?

- Tibetan refugees in North America use Tibetan languages in online communication with family members outside Canada, such as video calls or social media chats.
- Parents in Vancouver organize a school with classes in Tibetan reading, writing, singing, and dancing.
- In some Mexican families parents who speak Nahuatl limit their communication with their children to Spanish following the advice of the schoolteachers to make sure that they would do well in school.

the role of the government

The language of institution in schools and the language of access to social services influences the drift in the language use.

Obstacles caused by language

- The lack of immigrant and indigenous language use in secondary schooling and other basic services
- Lack of access to work and economic opportunity in minority language-speaking regions

Government initiatives

For example, in India there are special schools for Tibetan refugee children: Tibetan language, history, and Buddhist culture. Children's language acquisition is continued by the government.

when a language dies, culture shifts

When it comes to language choosing what is spoken, and in what context, it can shift meaning over time. How do you speak at home? In the workplace? In school?

sources used

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3. Ward, Shannon, and Mhamoda Akter Moli. “Caring for and through Language: Tibetan Refugees and Heritage Language Education in Canada - Anthropology News.” *Anthropology News*, 7 Oct. 2024, www.anthropology-news.org/articles/caring-for-and-through-language-tibetan-refugees-and-heritage-language-education-in-canada/.