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PRESERVING LINGUISTIC DIVERSITY IN A GLOBALIZED WORLD

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Abstract

This article dives into a pressing issue: the risk facing many languages today. The UNESCO Atlas of the World’s Languages warns that 2500 languages are in danger, mostly due to global changes like cities growing and cultures blending. Sadly, experts predict that 95 percent of these languages might disappear in the next 100-150 years. Languages aren’t just about words; they hold entire cultures and ways of seeing the world. When a language vanishes, it takes with it traditions, stories, and valuable knowledge about nature. For instance, many indigenous languages share secrets about plants, animals, and ecosystems. Losing these languages could mean losing essential wisdom about our environment. On a brighter note, many people today speak more than one language. While English is widely used worldwide, other languages play vital roles in different countries. Being multilingual can open doors to new friendships, jobs, and understanding between cultures. This article calls for action to save endangered languages. Preserving them means safeguarding diverse cultures, precious knowledge about nature, and beautiful artistic traditions. It’s a step towards a more connected and respectful world.

Keywords: UNESCO Atlas of the World’s Languages, endangered languages, globalization, linguistic diversity, cultural heritage, lingua franca, multilingualism, cross-cultural understanding, language preservation, linguistic diversity, global cooperation.

The UNESCO Atlas of the World’s languages declares that 2500 languages are detected as endangered today. Due to several threats, including globalization, urbanization, and cultural assimilation, regional and less-spoken languages are losing their importance. This means 95 percent of languages are estimated to disappear in the



next 100-150 years. It should be taken into account that the role of the linguistic environment predominates: if a person is surrounded by several languages from childhood at the same time, then one must “win” and the others disappear. If languages were to disappear, several consequences would follow such as cultural loss. As each language carries its worldview and cultural practices, when languages die, their traditional elements and collective memory will also vanish. Another problem is endangered ecologies. Indigenous languages often contain knowledge about local ecosystems, plant and animal species. Language loss can contribute to environmental degradation and the erosion of traditional ecological practices. Another viewpoint is about endangered literature and arts. Since the language has rich literary traditions, oral storytelling, poetry, songs, and artistic expressions, their survival is connected with the language.

However, in fact, everyone in the world is bilingual, which is strange for Europe. Only 19 percent of languages are found in Europe and the East; the rest come from Africa, Asia, and Oceania. Keeping the native language in communication can save their language. What about the ones where people use a number of languages at the certain period? The richest countries in terms of language are: Papua New Guinea, Indonesia, Nigeria, India, Cameroon, Australia, Mexico, Zaire, Burma, China, Russia, USA, etc. Are they losing or not? Statistics show that Mandarin Chinese speakers are at the top of the worldwide rank, followed by Spanish, English, and Hindi. Among them, English continues to be the most comfortable lingua franca, in most cases as the second language in different countries. This leads to language contact between people from different linguistic backgrounds, reflecting cultural exchange and diversity. Language contact can also contribute to enhanced communication and career opportunities. Language learning fosters cross-cultural understanding, collaboration, and friendship. Furthermore, multilingualism is increasingly valued in the global job market. This opens up a wide range of career opportunities in international business, diplomacy, tourism, education, translation, and interpretation.



Language loss not only impacts communication but also erases unique cultural perspectives, traditional ecological knowledge, and artistic heritage. Efforts to protect endangered languages are vital to safeguarding these invaluable aspects of human heritage. On a positive note, language learning and multilingualism offer avenues for bridging cultural gaps, fostering cross-cultural understanding, and creating career opportunities in various sectors. Embracing linguistic diversity is crucial for promoting global cooperation and mutual respect in an interconnected world. So, while language learning in the context of globalization offers numerous benefits, including enhanced communication and cultural understanding, it also requires attention to ensure the preservation of linguistic diversity and equitable access to language education for all.

Historically, it is the English language that today performs the function of the language of international communication, a kind of “lingua franca” of the world community in the era of globalization. According to the famous English linguist D. Crystal, the number of people in the world who speak English is more than 1 billion 100 million people, of whom only a quarter recognize English as their native language (Crystal D. *Global Understanding for Global English//Global English for Global Understanding. Summaries of the International Conference. Moscow, 2001. P. 3.*) As V. Lieberknecht, one of the developers of the programs proposed by the Association of German Ministers of Culture “German Language Diploma”, notes, now in a united Europe English-national multilingualism has become a reality. English, being the language of international communication in Germany and other European countries, is especially widely and naturally used in business, education, science, media, etc. In response to today’s demands, European universities compete with each other to offer students a variety of English language programs for specific purposes and general language practice (Lieberknecht V. *On increasing the linguistic competence of youth within the framework of the implementation of international educational programs in Samara // Current problems of modern socio-economic development: education, science, production. Abstracts of the international scientific and practical conference, Samara May 25-26, 2004.*) Attempts to model the processes of language variation using



the example of modern English have been made for a long time. A great contribution to the study of language variation was made by domestic scientists, such as A.D. Schweitzer. He introduced the concept of “national-territorial version of the English language” into scientific use, was the first to attempt to identify and describe the differences between the British and American varieties of modern English at all levels of the language system, and determined the nature of their interaction. Identifying and describing the varieties of modern English in all the diversity and interaction of its forms is a complex scientific task, the relevance of which has increased in connection with the growing processes of globalization.

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DEVELOPING INTERCULTURAL COMMUNICATION COMPETENCIES AMONG STUDENTS IN UZBEKISTAN

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Abstract

This article will examine strategies for developing intercultural communication competencies and understanding among students, especially in the context of Uzbekistan. The work presents techniques to support language competency, cultural sensitivity, and mutual understanding in