

Support
**minority language
preservation** in
your community!

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Language Shift

Language shift is the process by which languages lose speakers and become extinct.

Language Revitalization

Saving a language is possible with time and dedication. Five important steps for successful revitalization efforts are listed below:

Raise
Awareness

Document
the Language

Assess
Language
Vitality

Develop
Education
Programs

Evaluate Progress and
Make Adjustments



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Linguists predict that **half** **of all world languages will** **disappear** by the next century.

Factors of language vitality:

#1: Intergenerational language transmission

#2: Absolute number of speakers

#3: Proportion of speakers within the total population

#4: Trends in existing language domains

#5: Response to new media and domains

#6: Materials for language education and literacy

#7: Governmental and institutional language policies

#8: Community members' attitudes towards their own language

#9: Amount and quality of documentation

Navajo Language Revitalization

Using the Graded Intergenerational Disruption Scale developed by linguist Joshua Fishman, an analysis of the Navajo language revealed that:

- Fewer children are learning Navajo as a native language
- English is overtaking Navajo in many language domains
- With "critical linkages... breaking down," greater community awareness and investment is needed to preserve the language

Grenoble, L. A., & Whaley, L. J. (2006). *Saving languages: An introduction to language revitalization*. Cambridge University Press.

The United Nations has declared 2022-2032 the "International Decade of Indigenous Languages" to raise awareness for language revitalization efforts.