# Module 11: Endangered Languages

## Introduction

Welcome to the next to last module of the semester! This module is extremely important and interesting, but you will also find it a lot less challenging in terms of reading load than the last two. Moreover, this module will be extended over two weeks, with no graded discussion component in the first week. In this module we will learn about language extinction, its reasons, mechanisms, and circumstances, as well as language revitalization movements and the ways in which some languages can and have been brought back from the brink of extinction. You will also learn about why linguistic anthropologists place so much importance on the negative aspects of language extinction, despite the fact that language extinction is an extremely common occurrence.

As you complete this module, do the readings, and watch the film ***The Linguists****,* think about the role **power asymmetries** play in the disappearance of languages and the possibilities of **agency** in everyday life (more on this in **Module 12**...)

## Objectives

At the end of this module, you will be able to:

* List examples of disappearing languages.
* Identify the criteria for classifying languages as safe, extinct, or somewhere in between.
* Identify the mechanisms by which languages become extinct.
* Explain the position of linguistic anthropologists regarding the extinction of languages.
* Identify language revitalization movements.

## Time Management

This course is designed to maximize benefits gained from our weekly f2f meeting. In order for our class meeting to enhance and further deepen your understanding of course materials and help you achieve our module objectives, I suggest you manage your time wisely. An efficient example of how you can best utilize your time for this course is as follows:

## Week 1

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **Day** | **Suggested Action** |
| Monday | Read Chapter 11 (at some point this week) |
| Tuesday |  |
| Wednesday | Catch up on reading from previous modules |
| Thursday | Attend f2f class and view screening of *The Linguists* |
| Friday | Catch up on reading from previous modules  Take **Online Quiz 5** |

## Week 2

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **Day** | **Suggested Action** |
| Monday | Re-read assigned reading and module content |
| Tuesday | Finish assigned reading and module content |
| Wednesday | Original post due in the weekly graded discussion |
| Thursday | F2F Meeting |
| Friday | Response to another’s original post due by midnight tonight |

## Assigned Reading

This module is longer than any other module we have had thus far but it is also the lightest in terms of reading load.

In **Week 1** of Module 11, your only requirement is that you read **Chapter 11 in Ahearn’s book**. Take this opportunity to catch up on reading that you didn’t get to in previous modules –remember that material from any of them could appear in our final exam. In our f2f meeting, we will be watching a film, **The Linguists**.

In **Week 2** of Module 11, you will complete the required reading and participate as usual in our weekly discussion. In class, we will discuss the film and readings and consider the topic of language revitalization.

This Module’s assigned readings:

* **Week 1**
  + Ahearn, Laura. *Living Language.*Ch. 11.
* **Week 2**
  + Harrison, K. 2007. “A World of Many (Fewer) Voices.” *When Languages Die.*