



IIT Madras

BSc Degree

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English - I (Basic English)
Professor. Rajesh Kumar
Humanities and Social Sciences
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Listening

Welcome to the class. Today we will work in Listening one more time. As you know, listening is an essential component for learning language. Listening has several components embedded in it; it is a very complex cognitive process. This process is functioning underlying us, and we do not know much about the algorithm in a sense the way it works for us.

In order to learn language, it is important for us to work on listening in the sense that we need to listen to content carefully, it works as input for us and then it works in the subconscious and helps us reproduce language. We are going to see how this works through exercises, we are going to work on listening, and we are going to look at how it works and what we are expected to retain after listening and how it yields results.

At this time I can also suggest you to do several more exercises the way we are going to do help you see the output underlying this exercise on listening. Let us go through this and see what we do and how we do it. We have taken up a very short audio clip for this purpose, and then we are going to play this to you, we are going to ask you to listen to that and then see how you work.

You can take your time and listen to the full program, we will play a very short per cent of that program here for you and then we will work on exercises, and then we look at the output before we close. So, for this purpose, we have taken up an audio clip which talks about language keepers. It, what is, what does this mean?

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Introduction

- How would you feel if you were the last speaker of a language that holds your history?
- The words of your language contain the tastes of the foods, the shapes of the customs, the feelings and textures of the relationships that bind you to nature and your community.
- As the earth loses her essence like plants, animals. In the same way, we humans are also losing many different languages that contain them.



You see this; this is story of every part of the world. It is about societies that are losing languages. Loss of language is natural phenomena; it is studied in linguistic to a great deal. But we are going to look at a different aspect of that, but in order to that as part of the background for this, we suggest you to imagine a scenario where you are the last speaker or last few speakers of your language in the world. You do not have other speakers to speak to.

Other people speak different languages, so and you are convinced you know that your language as it works for all languages holds your history, the words that contain the taste of the food, shapes of the customs, so you are familiar with your customs, you are familiar with your history, you are, you can describe your food, the feelings and texture of relationship that bind you to nature and your community.

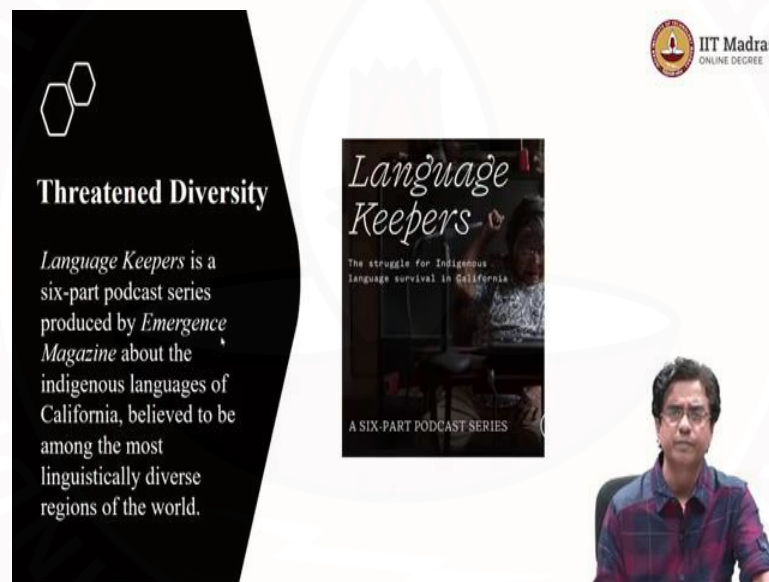
And imagine there is no one to receive those words meaning, there is no one for you to talk to. How would you feel? I mean this is not a nice question to ask, I am leaving this for you to imagine. At the same time, when you imagine things about it, you will need to ask yourselves several questions. What questions can you ask to yourself? I am leaving them for your imaginations as well.

As I said, it happens quite often; the earth loses her essence like plants, insects, animals, landscape, habitats. We also lose in the process we also lose knowledge, cultures and not the least many different languages that contain them. As you know, we are learning; we are in the

process of learning language; we are in the process of learning English. English is one of the most widely spoken languages in the world. But there are languages which are not spoken by too many peoples. In fact, there are languages which are spoken by very few people as low as 5, 8, 10 people.

What happens to them? It is a very moving situation, it is an emotional story about those languages but we again then go into the emotional part of the story of language loss, but we are going to look at how it helps us learn language, how thinking about it, learning about it, listening about it, cumulatively, how these things are going to yield in the result that helps us learn better foundation for making us more confident in speaking English.

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So the, we are picking up something which is talking about Threatened Diversity, it is known as language keepers, it is a six part podcast series, and it is produced by Emergence Magazine, it is about indigenous languages of California. I am sure you know about California? California is one of the well-known states in the United States of America, it is on the western coast of Pacific, and it is California. It is believed to be among the most linguistically diverse region of the world.

This is one way of saying but I can assure you that every part of the world is equally diverse when it comes to measure them in linguistic sense, every part of the world is linguistically diverse again this is different stories for us to discuss if you are interested in this you can learn

them additionally. We are going to look at a very short clip from Language Keepers which is part of Emergence Magazine and listen to this carefully and then on the other side of this we will show you what you are expected to retain out of it, so listen to this carefully.

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In India, Prof. Ganesh Devy has been a part of recording the extent of the country's linguistic landscape with the People's Linguistic Survey of India. He has archived nearly 800 languages and 68 scripts, many of these languages are rapidly disappearing.



You can listen to this again, but an important part of this exercise is to listen to this once very carefully so the exercise and then you can listen to this multiple times. So, see when we talk about diversity about languages when we talk about complex social situations about language. Of course, California is very diverse and linguistically rich, but at least for us, that is for us in India this situation is neither frightening nor unique for us.

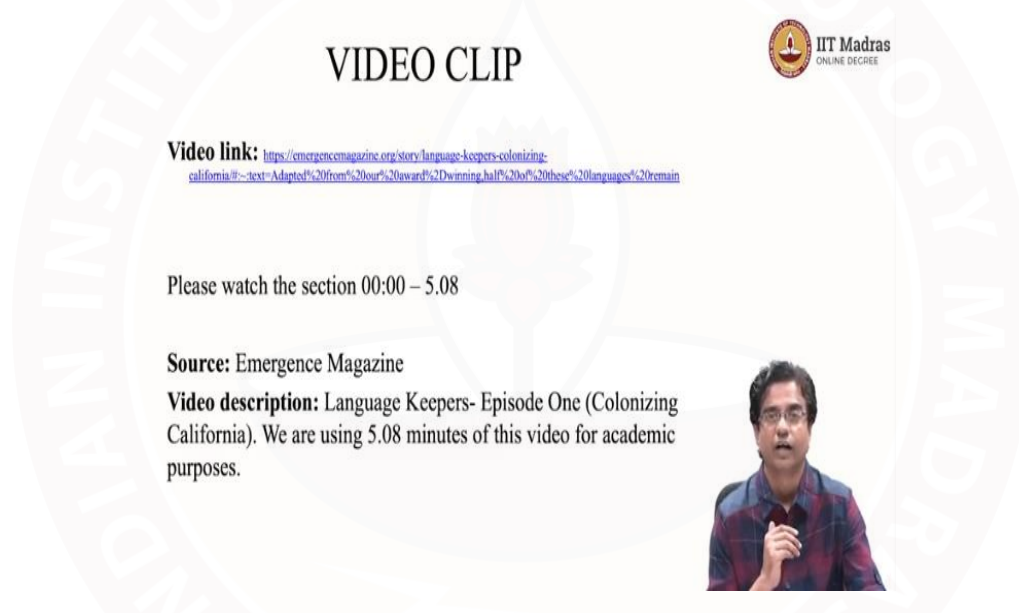
Our story is equally complex, equally diverse and equally moving. If you make yourself familiar with efforts made by Ganesh Devy and his team in his project on people survey, people linguistic survey of India he comes up with roughly 800 languages and 68 scripts that are alive in India. Many of which are rapidly vanishing, before this there was another attempt to study linguistic diversity, and that is also known as linguistic survey of India that was conducted by George Creason, an American anthropologist, it was conducted a long time ago. Without going into the details of what Creason did in his project.

Creason came up with a description of 1600 plus languages that were spoken in India, 1600 plus languages are roughly one-third of the total languages spoken all over the world. So, we are equally diverse or maybe more diverse than any other part of the world that is not a matter of

debate. The important part is Ganesh Devy, among others in modern time and Creason in the ancient time have studied this.

We when people study they go to the essence of this. But for us what is important to look at is not the number 1600 or 800, but the difference between these languages, between these numbers and the extent to which they measure the loss of languages. There are 68 scripts, no we do not know about all of them. And so many of them are rapidly vanishing, so the point is the question about the question of language loss is a well-known thing, and people have worked a lot documenting this part as well.

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The slide features a large, faint watermark of the IIT Madras logo in the background. At the top center, the text "VIDEO CLIP" is displayed. To the right of this text is the IIT Madras logo and the text "IIT Madras ONLINE DEGREE". Below the title, a "Video link:" is followed by a URL. Further down, it says "Please watch the section 00:00 – 5.08". Below that, the "Source: Emergence Magazine" is listed. A "Video description:" follows, stating that the video is "Language Keepers- Episode One (Colonizing California)" and that a 5.08-minute excerpt is being used for academic purposes. In the bottom right corner, there is a small video thumbnail showing a man with glasses and a mustache, wearing a blue and red plaid shirt, with his hands clasped.

VIDEO CLIP

Video link: <https://emergencemagazine.org/story/language-keepers-colonizing-california/#~:text=Adapted%20from%20our%20award%20winning,hal%20of%20these%20languages%20remain>

Please watch the section 00:00 – 5.08

Source: Emergence Magazine

Video description: Language Keepers- Episode One (Colonizing California). We are using 5.08 minutes of this video for academic purposes.

So, let us listen to, now we come to the real part in the sense that now we are going to do the exercise on listening which is about the things that I have just described you in the background. So, you can always think about the content questions related to that. But listen to this carefully. So, this was a 5-minute excerpt of the descriptions from this podcast which is six part series carried out by Emergence magazine. You have heard these 5 minutes.

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Activity 1



Exercise 1: Fill in the blanks.

1. *Language Keepers* is a six-part podcast series produced by _____ about the indigenous languages of _____.
2. _____ is the editor of *Emergence Magazine* and the host of the podcast series.
3. 200 years ago, as many as _____ and _____ were spoken in California.
4. The series follows efforts to revitalise four of these languages: (one is given)
 - 1) _____
 - 2) _____
 - 3) Wukchumni
 - 4) _____



Answers

1. Emergence Magazine, California
2. Emmanuel Vaughn-Lee
3. 90 languages, 300 dialects
4. Tolowa Dee-ni', Karuk, Wukchumni and Kawaiisu.



And at this time we want you to, we have basically picked just a few questions, and these questions will give you an idea about the kinds of things that you need to retain after listening to any conversation, any audio clip, any recorded material. You are expected to retain information; you are expected to use that information later. So, what kind of information we might be expected to retain after listening? So, please look at this.

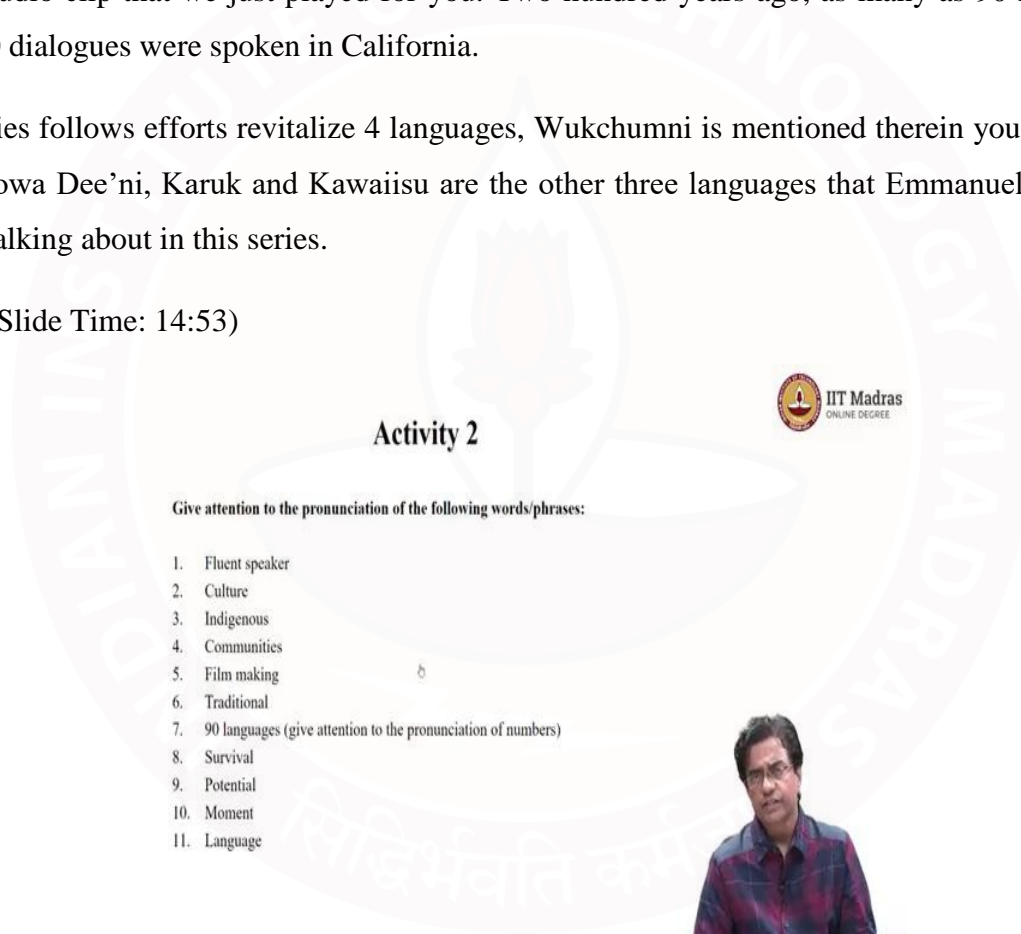
So, language keepers is a 6 part podcast series produced by? Who produced this series? It is about indigenous languages of which place? Who is the editor of this, of the emergence magazine and the host of the podcast series? Two hundred years ago, how many languages and dialogues were

spoken in California? The series follows efforts revitalize 4 of these languages, Wukchumni is mentioned here what are the rest of the three languages that they are talking about? So, when you look at these questions, they give you a sense of they are basically the test of what you retain from listening.

You will come to realize that the language keepers is the first part is a 6 part podcast series produced by Emergence Magazine about the indigenous languages of California. Emmanuel Vaughn-Lee is the editor of Emergence magazine and host of the podcast; these things are there in the audio clip that we just played for you. Two hundred years ago, as many as 90 languages and 300 dialogues were spoken in California.

The series follows efforts revitalize 4 languages, Wukchumni is mentioned therein you question, the Tolowa Dee'ni, Karuk and Kawaiisu are the other three languages that Emmanuel Vaughn-Lee is talking about in this series.


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Activity 2

Give attention to the pronunciation of the following words/phrases:

1. Fluent speaker
2. Culture
3. Indigenous
4. Communities
5. Film making
6. Traditional
7. 90 languages (give attention to the pronunciation of numbers)
8. Survival
9. Potential
10. Moment
11. Language



So, this is the kind of information you need to retain, what we also expect you to retain is the pronunciation of the following words in this series in the audio clip. What are those words? Fluent speaker, culture, indigenous, communities, film making, traditional, 90 languages, survival, potential, moment, language.

In addition to these words and phrases, please pay attention to the pronunciation of Emmanuel Vaughn-Lee, the editor throughout the presentation, how easy is it for you to follow him, is it difficult? I raise this question for you to think about why is it easy or why is it difficult, how is it difficult? Please familiarize yourself with these questions, challenge yourself with these questions; it is possible to work on it. We have very specifically picked these audio clips for you, and more specifically, we are asking you to listen to the whole hour.

And allow yourself to see the miracles that these methods produce for you and enable you with better and quality English for giving you much better results and confidence for your functioning. Thank you.

