

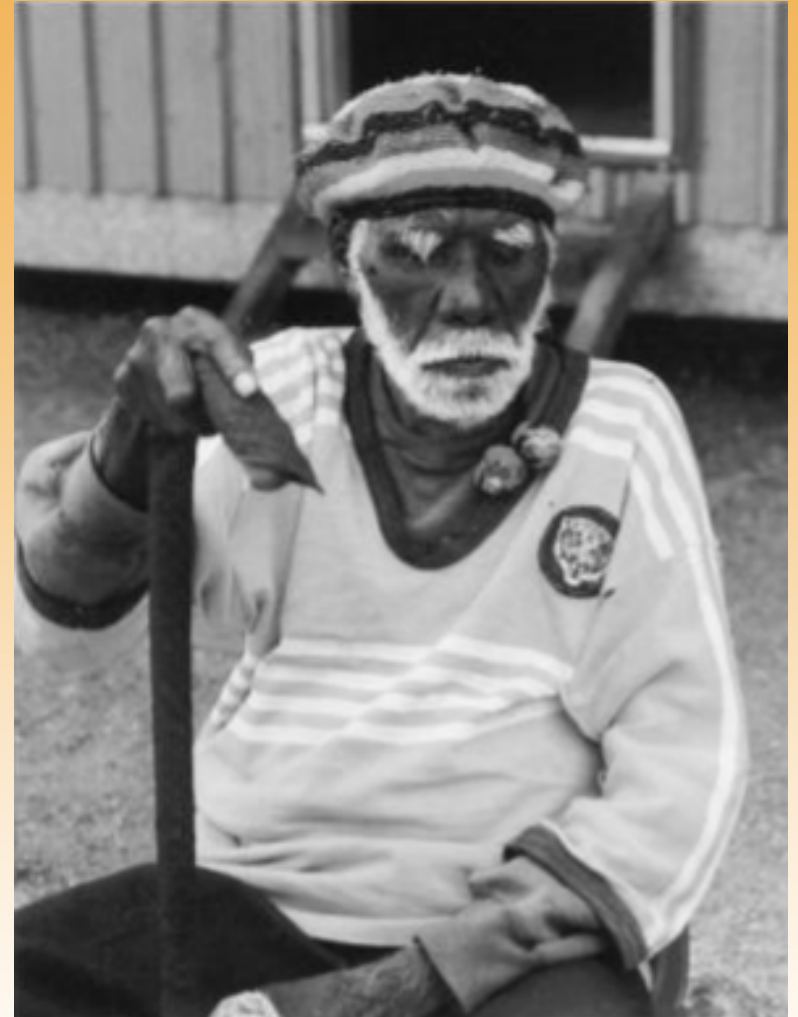
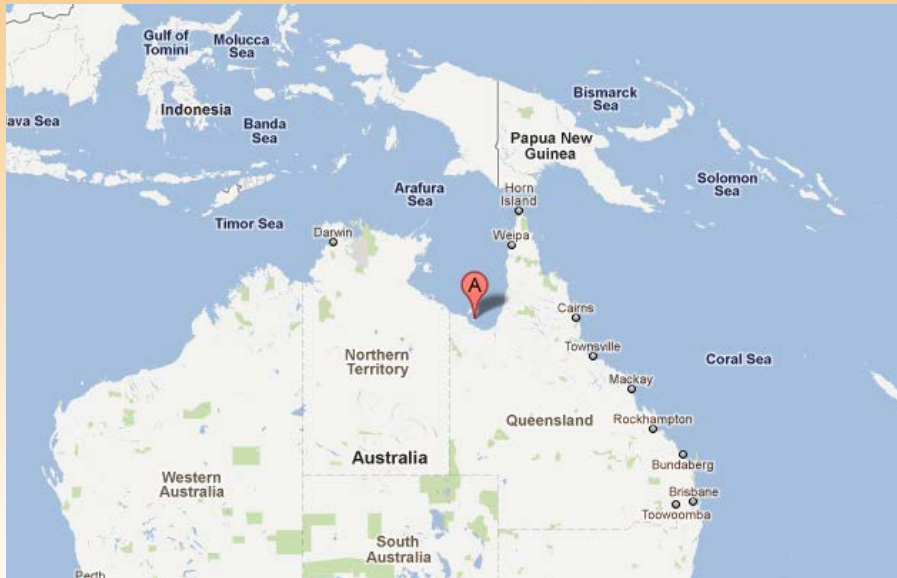


You've come too late to learn our language, you should have come earlier. Nowadays we are a numbered people.

~ Marta Kongarayeva (born 1930), Tofa speaker

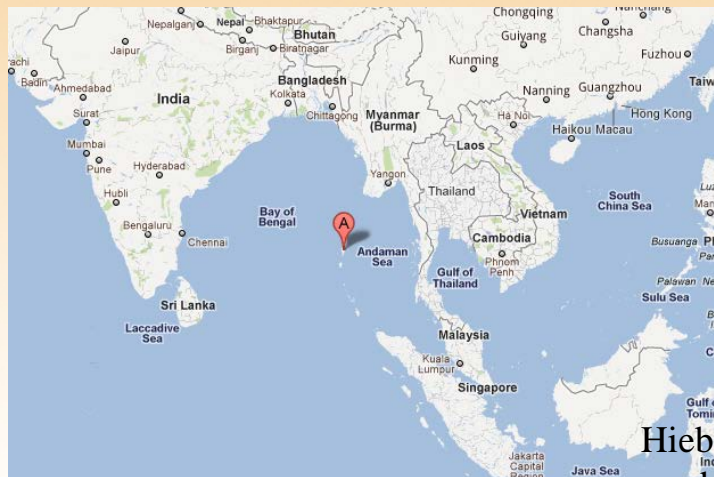
Pat Gabori

- One of the last 8 speakers of Kayardild
- Passed away in 2009



Boa Sr

- Last speaker of Aka-Bo
- Passed away in 2010, at age ~85



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Great Andamanese Languages

- Aka-Bo
- Aka-Bea
- Akar-Bale
- Aka-Kede
- Aka-Kol
- Oko-Juwoi
- A-Pucikwar
- Aka-Cari
- Aka-Kora
- Aka-Jeru
- Extinct
- Extinct
- Extinct
- Extinct
- Extinct
- Extinct
- Extinct
- Extinct
- Extinct
- 7 speakers (2006)

The Last Speakers of Chitimacha



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Daniel W. Hieber

Rosetta Stone

November 10, 2011

Language Endangerment: A History





Overview

1. State of Languages Today
2. History of the Causes
3. History of the Responses
4. Language Profile: Chitimacha
5. Language Profile: Navajo

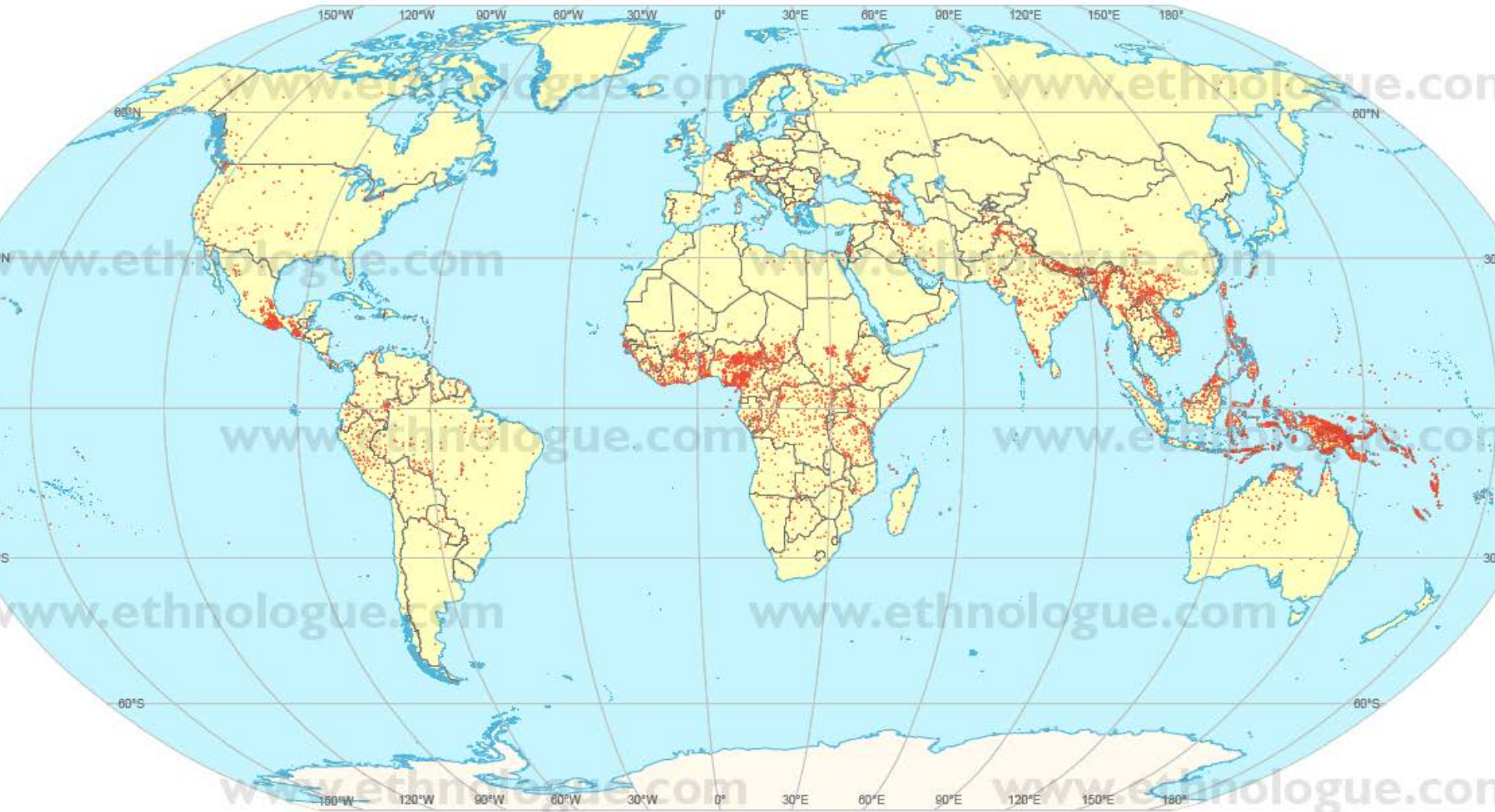


1. Living Languages
2. Critically Endangered Languages
3. Countries by # of Languages
4. Languages by Vitality
5. Small & Large Languages
6. Poor Data

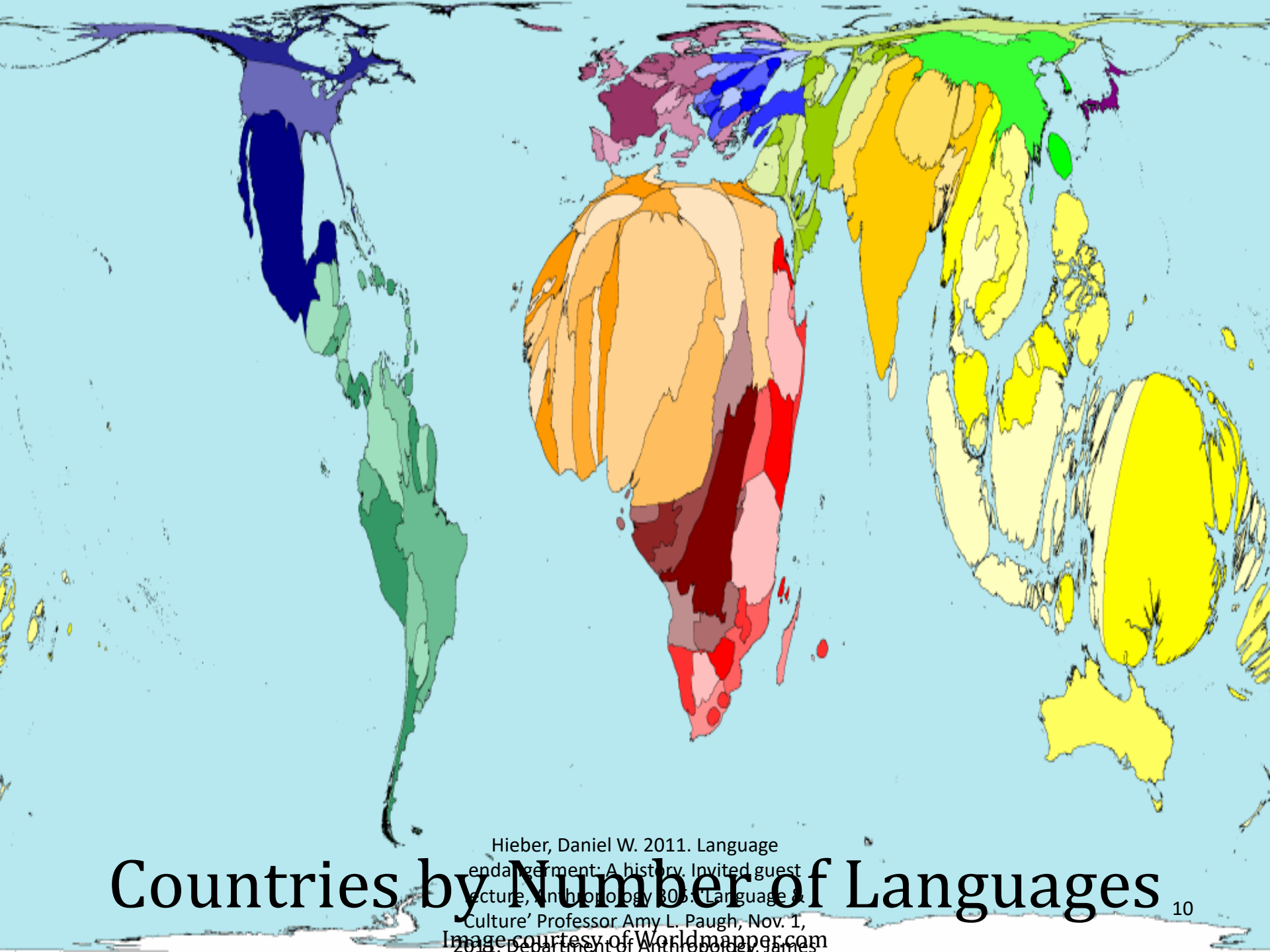
THE STATE OF LANGUAGES TODAY

LANGUAGES OF THE WORLD

Each dot represents the geographic center of a language.



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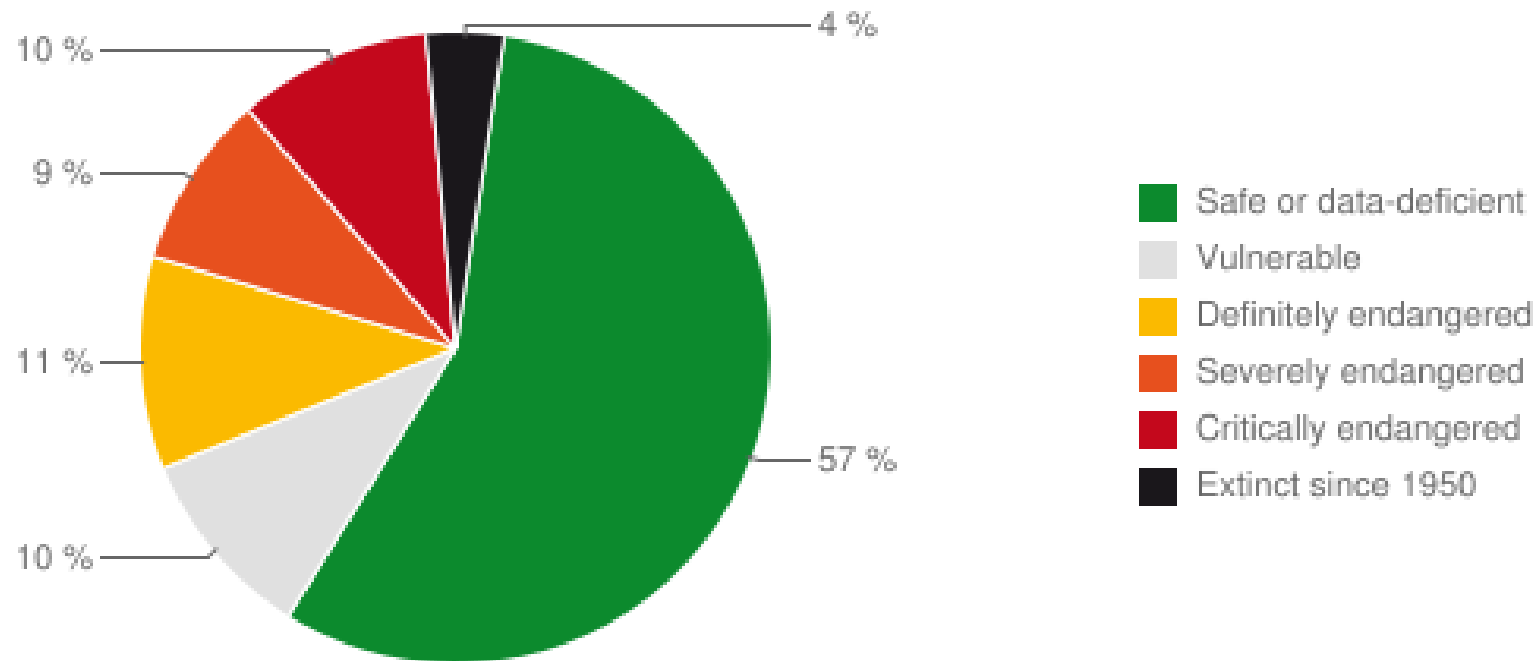


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lecture, Anthropology 303: 'Language &
'Culture' Professor Amy L. Paugh, Nov. 1,
Image courtesy of Worldmapp.com

Countries by Number of Languages

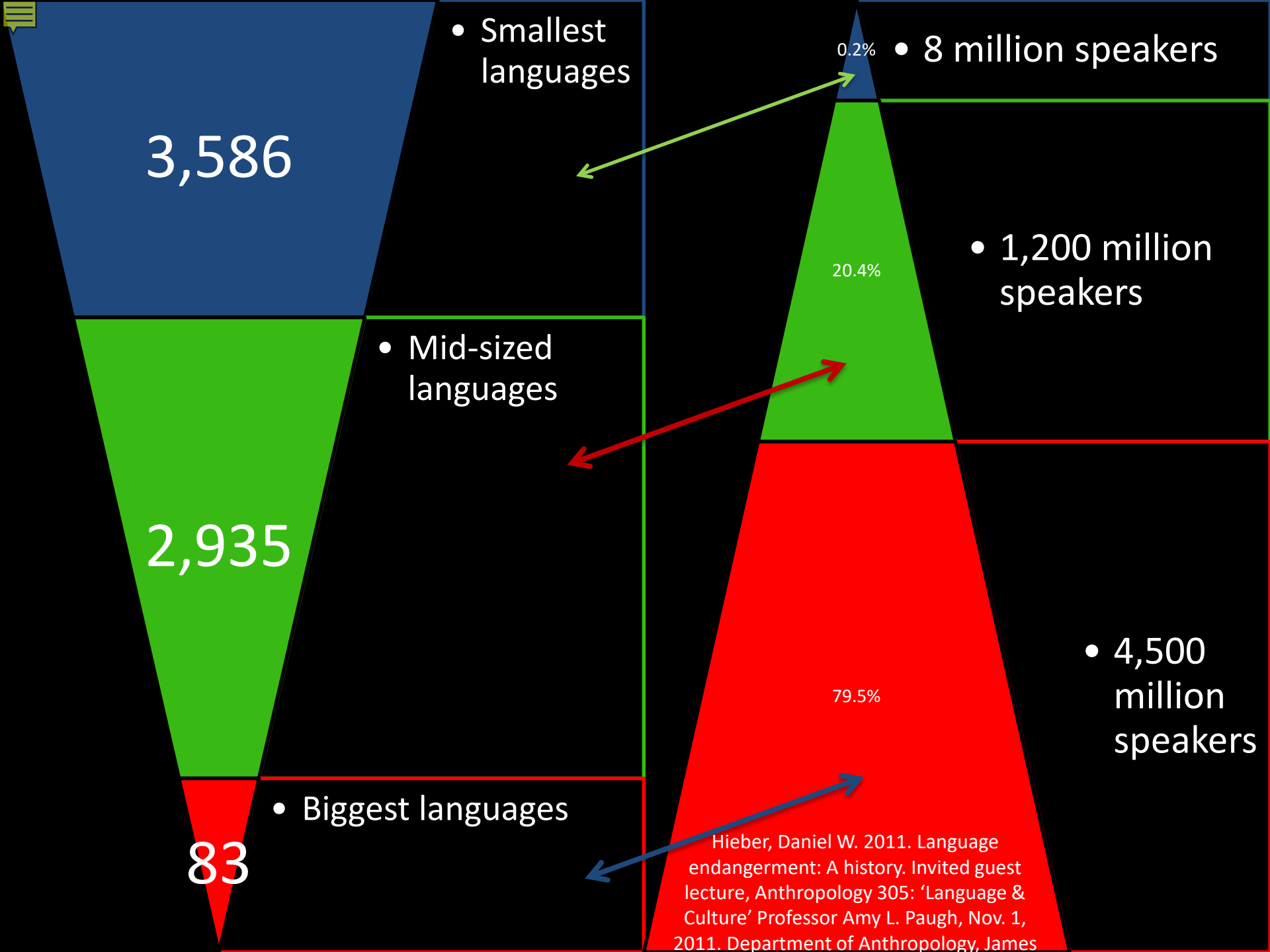
Critically Endangered Languages





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3,586

- Smallest languages

0.2%

- 8 million speakers

- Mid-sized languages

2,935

20.4%

- 1,200 million speakers

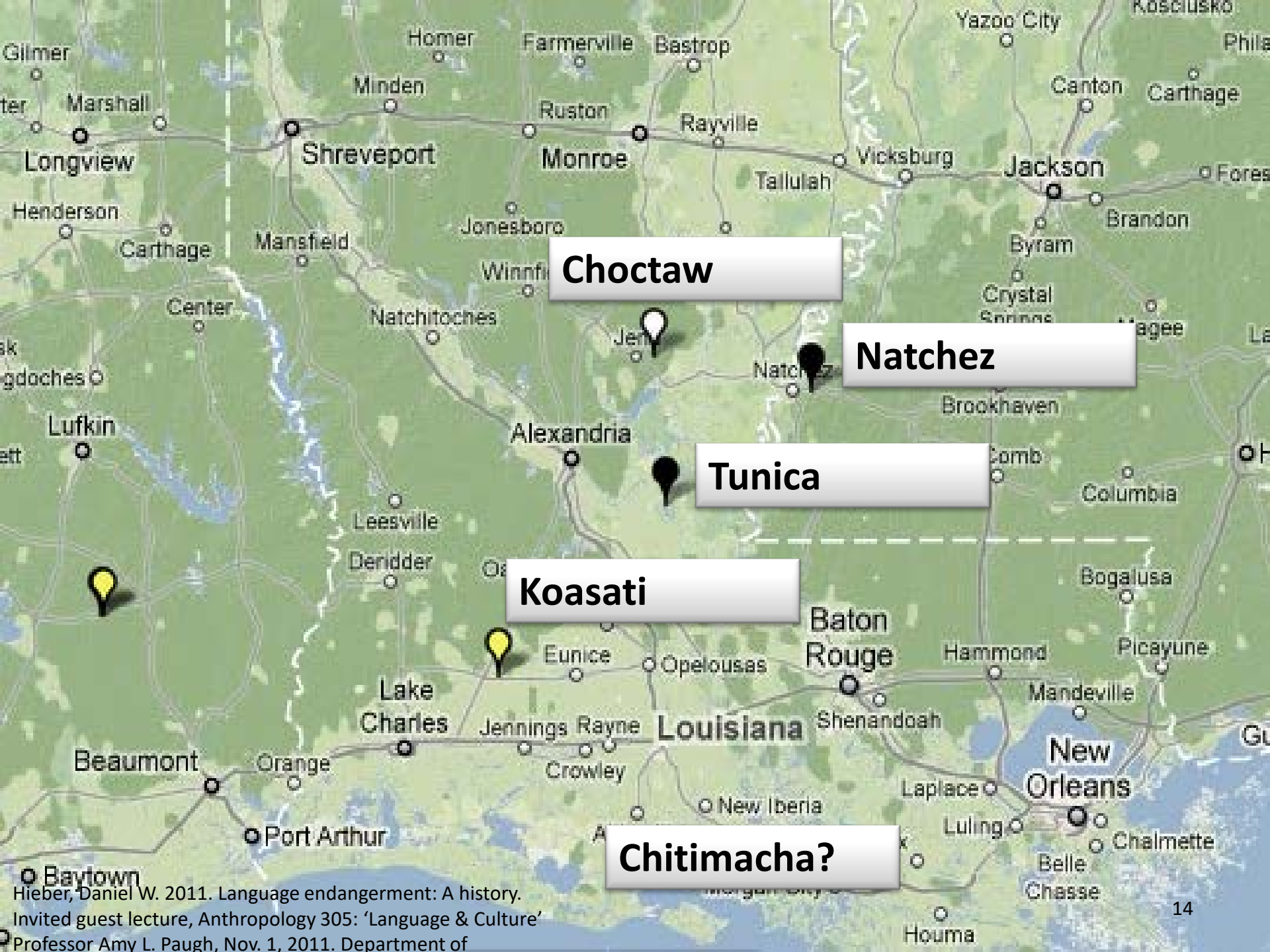
- Biggest languages

83

79.5%

- 4,500 million speakers

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Choctaw

Natchez

Tunica

Koasati

Chitimacha?



1. The Original State of Language
2. The Agrarian Revolution
3. Languages Outgrow Their Borders
4. The Rise of the Nation-State
5. The Political Means

CAUSES: FROM PREHISTORY TO TODAY

The Original State of Language ante 8,000 BCE

- Language itself is 50,000 years old (at least)
- Population estimate, dawn of Neolithic: 10 million
- Size of communities is capped at several thousand until 5,000 BCE (city-states in the Fertile Crescent)
- Most languages had fewer than ~500 speakers
 - Kayardild – probably never more than ~150 speakers
 - Gurr-goni – stable 70 speakers for as long as anyone remembers
- Number of languages peaked 10,000 y.a.
 - ~ 5,000 – 20,000 languages

The Agrarian Revolution

8,000 BCE – 5,000 BCE

- Shift to sedentary communities
- Speaker communities became larger
- Decrease in # of languages offset by population expansion
- Renfrew-Bellwood Effect
 - Decrease in deep-level diversity, i.e. the number of unrelated stocks or deep lineages
 - Decrease in number of language *families*
- First massive extinction of languages
- Didn't happen everywhere
 - Papua New Guinea still fits the pre-Neolithic model¹⁷



Languages Outgrow Their Borders

3000 BCE – 1500 ACE

- Celtic (Europe, prehistory – 51 BCE)
- Akkadian (Mesopotamia ca. 2250 – 500 BCE)
- Greek (Balkans, Persia, Eastern Europe 1600 BCE – 1453 ACE)
- Hittite (Turkey 1750 – 1180 BCE)
- Aramaic (Mesopotamia ca. 700 BCE onward)
- Sanskrit (Southern Asia 500 BCE onward)
- Arabic (Middle East, North Africa 622 – 750 ACE)
- Latin (Europe, North Africa, Middle East 753 BCE onward)
- Germanic (Northern Europe (ca. 500 BCE onward)
- Mandarin (221 BCE onward)
- Nahuatl (Central Mexico 600 – 1519 ACE)
- Quechua (South America ca. 1100? ACE – 1572)



The Rise of the Nation-State (1500 – 1900)



- Portuguese – Brazil, Southern Africa
- Dutch – Indonesia, South Africa, New England
- French – Europe, West Africa, North America, Madagascar
- Russian – Northern Asia
- English – North America, India, Eastern Africa, Australia

The Political Means (1900 – today)

- Compulsory education
- New, post-colonial states
- Unintended consequences
 - Konmité Pou Etid Kwéyòl (KEK) – Dominica (Patwa)
 - Native Title legislation – Australia
 - No Child Left Behind (NCLB)
- Continuation of linguistic nationalism
 - English-Only legislation
- Imagined communities
- Reliance on State services, conducted in the language of the State



1. The Spanish Missionaries
2. Colonial Explorations
3. The Boasian Linguists
4. The Rise of Generativism
5. Revitalization

RESPONSES & REVITALIZATION



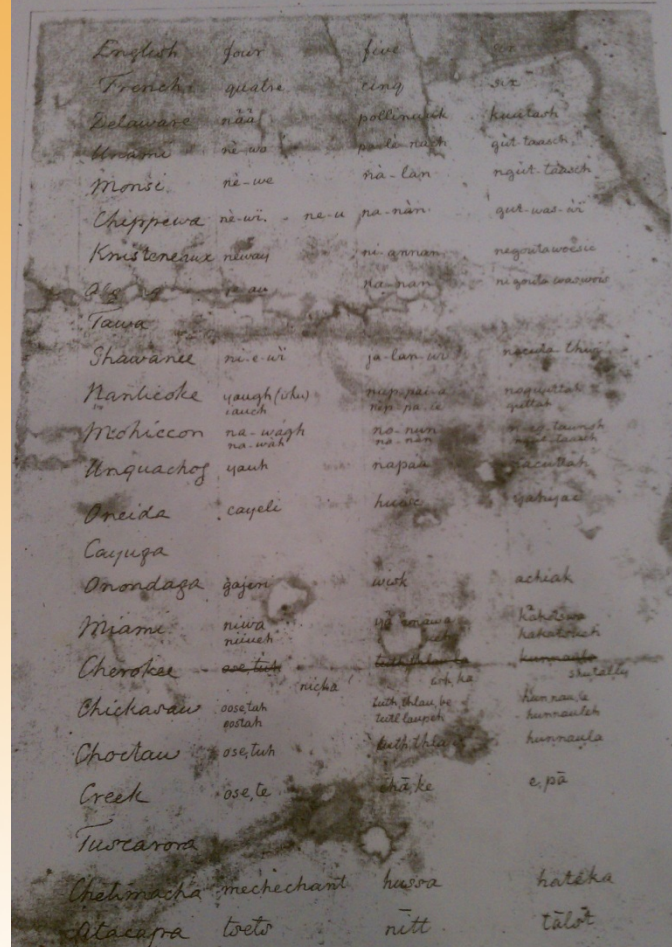
The Spanish Missionaries 1500s – 1700s



- Alonso de Molina – Nahuatl
- Franciscans, Dominicans, Augustinians each wanted their own Nahuatl grammar
- Tradition continued in S. America (Quechua), N. America (Guale, Timucua; Florida), and Brazil
- Jesuits were excellent field linguists
 - Numerous manuscripts lost when they were expelled from Paraguay
- By 1700, 21 grammars were published
- Missionary work was (and is – SIL) common globally

Colonial Explorations 1700 – 1900

- Jefferson lists
- Bureau of American Ethnology
- Roger Williams – Narragansett (Rhode Island)
- Intense interest in comparative linguistics



English	four	five	six
French	quatre	cinq	six
Delaware	nāā	poll-nūsh	kaestach
Urogon	nā-wo	pa-da-nūsh	gut-taach
Monsi	nā-wo	nā-lan	ngut-taach
Chippewa	nā-wi	nā-u	gut-wad-ai
Kristonewa	nūwā	nā-gnan	nagula-wesie
Algon	nā-wo	nā-nan	nā-gula-wesie
Tawa			
Shawnee	nā-wo	ja-lan-ai	nā-wo
Nanticoke	yaugh (oh)	nā-pa-ai	nā-pa-ai
Mechiccon	nā-wo	nā-nan	nā-nan
Anquachog	yaugh	nā-pa	nā-pa
Oneida	cayeli	hūsh	gahyae
Cayuga			
Onondaga	gajen	wish	achiek
Miami	nūwā	nā-pa-ai	nā-pa-ai
Cherokee	ose, tuh	nā-pa-ai	nā-pa-ai
Chickasaw	ose, tuh	nā-pa-ai	nā-pa-ai
Choctaw	ose, tuh	nā-pa-ai	nā-pa-ai
Creek	ose, te	nā-pa-ai	nā-pa-ai
Tuocarora			
Chetumacha	mechechant	hūwā	hātēka
Alacapa	tweto	nūtt	tūlōt

The Boasian Linguists

1900s – 1950s

- Franz Boas – describing each language and culture in its own terms
- Sparked a whole cadre of field linguists
 - Mary Haas
 - Morris Swadesh
 - Edward Sapir
 - Benjamin Lee Whorf
 - J. P. Harrington
 - Margaret Mead
 - Ruth Benedict



The Rise of Generativism

1950s – 1980s



- Leonard Bloomfield, *Language* (1933)
 - Structuralist linguistics
 - Comprehensive description of N. American languages
 - Meaning is irrelevant to understanding how language operates
- Noam Chomsky, *Syntactic Structures* (1959)
 - Transformational grammar
 - Universal Grammar (later works)
 - Introspection as a method

Revitalization 1990s – 2010s



- 1992 – *Language* publishes seminal article
 - Ken Hale – On endangered languages and the safeguarding of diversity
 - Ken Hale – Language endangerment and the human value of linguistic diversity
 - Krauss – The world's languages in crisis
- Training indigenous speakers as linguists (Hale)
- Journals (LD&C), Conferences (LD&D, SILS, SSILA), Organizations (FEL, ELF)
- Recognition and support from the field



1. Prehistory
2. Interactions with the Europeans
3. Revitalization

PROFILE OF AN ENDANGERED LANGUAGE: CHITIMACHA



Prehistory – 1940

- Lived in the Louisiana area for 2,500 – 6,000 years
- Language isolate – possibly the first inhabitants
- 1700 – diseases halved the population
- ca. 1706 – 1718 – French colonists actively enslaved tribe
- 1727 – Chitimacha rediscovered west of Mississippi
- 1802 – Jefferson list collected by Martin Duralde
- 1881 – 1882 – Documented by Albert S. Gatschet
- 1907 – 1920 – Documented by John R. Swanton
- 1917 – sold tribal land to the government
- 1930 – population dropped to 51 people
- 1930 – 1934 – Language documented by Morris Swadesh
- 1934 – Chief Benjamin Paul, last expertly fluent speaker, dies
- 1940 – Delphine Ducloux, last proficient speaker, dies

- Documentation

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Revitalization 1990? - 2011



- 2000 census – 720 registered Chitimacha
- 3 beginner – intermediate speakers
- 1995 – Revitalization program begins
- 2008 – Chitimacha Rosetta Stone begins
 - Constructed from Swadesh's documentation
- 2010 – Chitimacha Rosetta Stone released
 - Being learned by every student in school
- 2010 – Preschool immersion program begins
- In progress – Chitimacha dictionary and grammar



1. History & Conflict
2. Navajo today
3. The Navajo Handprint

PROFILE OF AN ENDANGERED LANGUAGE: NAVAJO

Navajo Today

- Most widely spoken American Indian language
- 1970 – 90% of BIA boarding school children spoke Navajo
- 1992 – 18% of preschoolers knew Navajo
- 2011 – Less than 5% of school-aged children
- 2006 – Navajo Language Renaissance
- 2010 – Rosetta Stone released
- In progress – Navajo workbooks



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