

Demographics and ethnographics of the Ishi'nqulu language

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1 Name of the Language

Ishi'nqulu is a creole language spoken by the Kuxutshwe, a community in KwaZulu-Natal, South Africa of people of mixed Zulu and Chinese ancestry. The term “Kuxutshwe” means “mixed” in Zulu, and is the self-referent of the Kuxutshwe people.

Before the 2020s, there had been American scholars and organizations in eastern South Africa building health infrastructure. This trend motivated other organizations, mostly from the Greater China Region, to add to their presence in eastern South Africa. By the end of the 2020s, because of a strengthened South African government and a pivot of US international policies, most Americans set out to contribute to cross-nation collaborations had left. In 2034, a private corporation from Taiwan discovered an oil well just off Richards Bay, a town in KwaZulu-Natal, South Africa. This incentivized more Chinese people to reside in eastern South Africa, and a community of Ishi'nqulu speakers descended from a mixture of Zulu and Chinese people. By 2105, Ishi'nqulu had about 1500 speakers in KwaZulu-Natal.

Ishi'nqulu is now mostly spoken in KwaZulu-Natal near the east coast. In these communities where Ishi'nqulu is spoken, Zulu and Chinese are usually also used. The Kuxutshwe people usually live and engage in social interactions with Zulu and Chinese people. Both Chinese and Ishi'nqulu have seen a slight decrease in the number of speakers since the 2080s, a fact possibly attributed partially to their lack of legal status. There has been some but insufficient literature on marginalization of the Kuxutshwe people in both Zulu- and Chinese-speaking communities, but the existing research has indicated that the interactions between Ishi'nqulu speakers and other peoples are mostly friendly and social, and that the marginalization stems from the way local educational and legal systems are set up. The major languages spoken in KwaZulu-Natal is listed in Table 1, and the racial makeup of Richards Bay is shown in Table 2.

Zulu	71.8%
English	15.2%
Xhosa	4.4%
Afrikaans	2.6%
Ishi'nqulu	< 0.01%

Table 1: Major languages spoken in KwaZulu-Natal (2105)

Black African	43.0%
Coloured (Including Kuxutshwe)	4.2%
Indian/Asian	19.2%
White	33.1%
Other	0.4%

Table 2: Racial makeup of Richards Bay (2101)