

transferred from place to place  
d. Language Shift *language shift and shift to other language*

FAIZAN  
contact.03059909344

Language shift, language transfer, language replacement and language assimilation are all used as alternative terms. It is the process whereby a community of speakers of a language shifts to speaking a completely different language, usually over an extended period of time. "Language shift" means the process, or the event, in which a population changes from using one language to another. As such, recognition of it depends on being able to see the prior and subsequent language as distinct. So, the term excludes language change which can be seen as evolution. Language shift may be an object of conscious policy; but equally it may be a phenomenon which is unplanned, and often unexplained. Language shift is a dynamic phenomenon of social change, and is therefore a topic of sociolinguistics. Stability is a subjective notion. There are many bilingual situations which do not last for more than three generations. In some cases indigenous languages can be swamped by intrusive ones over a relatively shorter period. This has happened to the Aboriginal languages of Australia and the Celtic languages of the British Isles.

In other places, immigrant languages have disappeared as their speakers have adopted the language of the new environment. An example can be of South Asian languages, like Gujarati and Bengali, in Britain. In such cases of bilingualism without diglossia, the two languages compete for use in the same domains. Speakers are unable to compartmentalize and the shift may be unavoidable. Many attempts to increase the domains of use for a Low variety fail, as in Ireland, where there was no widespread knowledge of the classical written variety, and decreasing use of the spoken language. In Australia the decline of non-English languages has been similarly dramatic. Only 4.2 per cent of the Australian-born population regularly uses a language other than English. Globally, many smaller languages are dying out due to the spread of a few world languages such as English, French, or Chinese.

Another example is the use of German and Hungarian in the Austrian village of Oberwart. Villagers, who were formerly Hungarian monolinguals, have over the past few hundred years become increasingly bilingual. Oberwart is located near the present-day border of Austria and Hungary and has been surrounded by German-speaking villages for at least 400 years. Today, we see a clear shift towards German. Once the process of shift has begun in certain domains and the functions of the languages are reallocated, the prediction is that it will continue until the whole community has shifted to German.



## Factors that affect language shift:

Religious and educational background

- Settlement patterns
- Ties with the homeland
- Extent of exogamous marriage
- Majority and minority language groups
- Government policies concerning language and education.
- Where large groups of immigrants concentrate in particular geographical areas, they are often better able to preserve their languages

## Examples:

Third-generation Chinese Americans who reside in China-towns have shifted less towards English than their age-mates outside China-towns. Often a shift from rural to urban areas triggers a language shift. In Papua New Guinea, where Tok Pisin (an English-based pidgin used as a lingua franca) is the language most used in the towns, many children grow up not speaking their parents' vernacular languages.

The inability of minorities to maintain the home as an intact domain for the use of their language has often been decisive for language shift. There is a high rate of loss in mixed marriages, e.g. in Wales, where if Welsh is not the language of the home, the onus for transmission is shifted to the school. Identification with a language and positive attitudes towards it cannot guarantee its maintenance.

In Ireland the necessity of using English has overpowered antipathy towards English and English speakers. Languages undergoing shift often display characteristic types of changes and simplification of grammatical structures. Changes are a result of decreased use in certain contexts, and loss of stylistic options. In some Native American languages of the south-western United States complex syntactic structures have become less frequent because the formal and poetic styles of language are no longer used.



*doesn't have native language*  
*→ pretend I But not*  
*\* Latin → not have*  
*\* Sanskrit → native speaker*

### e. Language Death

If we look at 'Biodiversity' in biology we notice that ecosystems host a wide variety of plants, animals and microbes which rely on each other in complex ways to survive. Many species are now becoming endangered or extinct. If many extinctions happen at the same time then system will be thrown out of balance which is termed as 'biodiversity crisis'. A similar crisis is happening in linguistic diversity and it is called 'linguistic crisis'.

At the moment, linguists believe, around 6,000 languages are spoken. Michael Krauss has predicted that by the end of this century 90 per cent will be extinct (see Hale et al., 1992). The Foundation for Endangered Languages estimates that half the world's languages are moribund and are no longer being passed on to younger generations. According to Crystal (2000, 2003), a language dies every two weeks. For example, in Australia out of the 260 aboriginal languages originally spoken, 100 are already extinct, 100 are nearly extinct and only around twenty are being passed on to children.

**Immigrant Communities:** For grandparents who speak Finnish in Canada or Hungarian in Argentina it can be heartbreaking to see grandchildren growing up without speaking a word of the ancestral language.

**Numbers of Speakers:** Can it be a way to decide if a language is endangered? According to Michael Krauss, for a language to survive it needs at least 100,000 speakers (Hale et al., 1992). But it is very complicated. For example, only 185 speakers of Karitiana in Brazil, but out of a total community population of 191. It still makes up 96 per cent of the population of their community. Another extreme is of Yiddish that has around 3 million speakers but it is still endangered. Unlike the Karitiana community, most speakers of Yiddish are elderly and very few are children. It is not being passed on to the next generation.

### **Three Types of Language Death**

1. Mostly the term 'dead language' means an ancient language, such as Latin, Ancient Greek or Old English languages. Only some left written records exist behind. Thousands died without a trace, but sometimes they 'died' because they gradually developed into new languages. Latin became the modern Romance language family, including French, Portuguese and Italian. Ancient Greek became Modern Greek. Old English became Modern English. This kind of 'death' is inevitable. A more radical type of language extinction is sudden death.



by various factors such as scattering of an entire community of speakers or due to natural disasters.

ample:

- ❖ In 1998 an earthquake off the coast of Papua New Guinea killed and displaced thousands of speakers of Arup, Malol, Sissano and Warupu.
  - ❖ In other cases, genocide or invasion is the cause of language death.
  - ❖ After the arrival of Columbus in 1492 the Spanish rounded up the entire Taino population of the Bahamas and sold them into slavery.
  - ❖ No indigenous Caribbean languages survive today.
  - ❖ British settlers in Australia hunted down the aborigines of Tasmania in the nineteenth century; their languages are all now extinct.
  - ❖ In 1835 Maori warriors from New Zealand sailed eastward to the Chatham Islands and killed the men of the Moriori tribe.
  - ❖ The Morioris went into decline and the last full-blooded member of the tribe died in 1933, along with their language
2. Today, the most common cause of language death is not population death, but language shift. This happens when speakers of a language do not pass it on to their children. Instead, they acquire a different language from the parents. Gradually, the language of the entire community 'shifts'. Unlike the extinction of an animal species, the people don't die, only their language does.
3. Fishman (1991) asserts that a typical case of language shift can happen over three generations. If speakers of language X are the grandparents and speakers of Y are the parents who have a passive knowledge of X but are fluent speakers of Y. So, their household is bilingual. Now when it comes to grandchildren, they are full speakers of Y, knowing a few words of X and the rest.

of X and the rest.  
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## Language Policy

Language policy refers to a set of principles, regulations, and decisions formulated by governments, educational institutions, or other authorities to address issues related to language use, preservation, promotion, and planning within a specific society or jurisdiction. It encompasses the rules and practices that govern the status, usage, and development of languages within a particular context. Language policy can have a significant impact on language rights, linguistic diversity, cultural identity, education, and social cohesion.

Elucidating further, language policy involves a range of decisions and strategies that aim to address various linguistic aspects, including:

- 1. Language Status:** Language policy may designate official languages, regional languages, or minority languages, determining their legal status within a country or region. Official languages typically receive official recognition and are used for government functions, legal proceedings, education, and public communication.
- 2. Language Planning:** Language planning focuses on the deliberate efforts to shape and regulate the development and use of languages. It involves decisions regarding orthography (writing systems), standardization, terminology, grammar, and vocabulary. Language planning may aim to establish a unified standard language, codify dialects, or revitalize endangered languages.
- 3. Language Education:** Language policy influences decisions regarding language education, such as the choice of languages of instruction, curriculum development, and language proficiency requirements. It can determine whether education is conducted in a single language, multilingual or bilingual, and the extent of support provided for language learners.
- 4. Language Rights:** Language policy plays a crucial role in protecting and promoting language rights. It ensures that individuals and communities have the right to use and maintain their native or heritage languages, participate in public life, access education, and receive government services in their preferred language.

**5. Language Promotion:** Language policy may include measures to promote the use and visibility of certain languages, especially those at risk of decline or endangerment. Promotion efforts can include language awareness campaigns, media initiatives, funding for language revitalization projects, and support for cultural events and institutions.

**6. Language Access:** Language policy addresses issues of language access, aiming to provide equitable access to public services, legal proceedings, healthcare, and information for speakers of different languages. It may involve translation and interpretation services, language accommodations, and the provision of bilingual or multilingual resources.

Language policy is influenced by various factors, including historical, political, social, economic, and cultural contexts. It is often a subject of debate and can be shaped by the aspirations and interests of different language communities, language planning experts, policymakers, educators, and linguists. The goals of language policy can vary, ranging from fostering linguistic diversity and cultural heritage to promoting social integration and economic development.

Language Revival:-  
→ taking some steps for maintain the language