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## PRZYCZYNY ŚMIERCI JĘZYKÓW

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**Adnotacja.** Artykuł dotyczył tak dużej i nowoczesnej kwestii, jak śmierć języka i jego przyczyny. Opisano i przeanalizowano czynniki powodujące śmierć języka, podając przykłady, rodzaje i etapy umierania języków, co badacze mogą o tym powiedzieć, a także niektóre prognozy dotyczące listy współczesnych i przyszłych zagrożonych języków. Na szczęście w naszym świecie technologii, cyfryzacji, można zapobiec śmierci językowej dzięki nagraniom i napisanym książkom, przemówieniom, lekcjom w Internecie, aby każdy mógł zapoznać się z takimi informacjami, które zyskują coraz większą popularność wśród uczniów wszystkich języków. Artykuł skupi się również na tym, jakie kraje robią coś, aby zachować swój “język ojczysty”, według jakich reguł i zasad. Smutne statystyki wskazują, że ogromna liczba języków zostanie podporządkowana innym lub całkowicie utracona na zawsze. Aby temu zapobiec, należy zrozumieć, dlaczego niektóre języki mogą być bardziej niebezpieczne i mieć status podatności, jakie rodzaje języków są “zagrożonymi”, co jest również ważne.

**Słowa kluczowe:** Językoznawstwo, rozwój języka, języki zagrożone, badania, wymieranie, utrata kultury.

## CAUSES OF LANGUAGE DEATH

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**Abstract.** The paper considered such large and state-of-the-art issue as a language death and its causes. Also some more points were described and analysed like the factors of that reasons with given examples; the types and stages of the language death; what the researchers can say about it and some predictions about the list of present and future endangered languages. Fortunately, in our world of technologies, digitalization, most of all languages can be prevented from dying due to records and written books, speeches, lessons on the Web, so that everyone will have a look at such information, which will get more and more popular among the learners of all languages. In the paper will be discussed which countries do something in order to preserve their “mother tongue”; what are the rules and principles. The gloomy statistic says that a huge number of languages will be surrendered and lost forever. In order to avoid it we need to understand why some languages can be more endangered and have a vulnerable status, the types of a language “being endangered”, which is also important.

**Key words:** Linguistics, development of language, endangered languages, researches, extinction, culture loss.

## ПРИЧИНИ СМЕРТІ МОВ

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**Анотація.** У статті було розглянуто таке велике і сучасне питання, як смерть мови та її причини. Описано та проаналізовано фактори, що спричиняють смерть мови з наведенням прикладів, типи та стадії вмирання мов, що можуть сказати про це дослідники, а також деякі прогнози щодо переліку сучасних та майбутніх мов, що зникають. На щастя, у нашому світі технологій, діджиталізації, можна запобігти мовних загибелі завдяки записам та написаним книгам, промовам, урокам в Інтернеті, щоб кожен міг ознайомитися з такою інформацією, яка набуватиме все більшої популярності серед учнів усіх мов. У статті також йтиметься про те, які країни роблять щось для того, щоб зберегти свою «рідну мову», за якими правилами і принципами. Сумна статистика свідчить, що величезна кількість мов буде підпорядкована іншим або взагалі втрачена назавжди. Щоб цього не сталося, потрібно розуміти, чому деякі мови можуть бути більш загрозливими та мати вразливий статус, які типи мов є «зникаючими», що також є важливим.

**Ключові слова:** лінгвістика, розвиток мови, зникаючі мови, дослідження, вимирання, втрата культури.

**Introduction.** Unfortunately, the number of dying languages increases every year. Why does it happen? What are the causes of language death and how to prevent it from dying. Of course, for answering such questions, we need to know the reasons of it. Nearly 5000 languages were in use around the world, but thousands of them are in danger of disappearing at all. This is up-to-date issue, which needs some ways and approaches for understanding its nature. The article has a target to describe and observe the reasons for languages to die; the main causes, which are quite different; the stages of language to vanish; prediction for future – which languages will die.

If the language dies, it will be huge loss to the culture of its nation. With the loss of speakers, there will be the loss of writing system and oral means for communicating in the society, so accordingly to it, there will be no society. The process of language death can be slow or quick, it greatly depends upon its causes and conditions, which led them to it. Also, it's crucial to remember about some examples, when language doesn't die, but transforms into other languages. The common spread example of it is Latin. Though this is a dead language, but not wholly. At universities of Ukraine there is subject, which calls "The Latin language", many internationalisms as "quorum", "class", "repetitio", "aqua" are came from Latin and widely spread now, although we don't notice it. But the Latin language is a main base for other Indo-European languages, like French, Spanish, Italian, English, etc.

This issue was discussed in details by such scientists as D. Crystal, M. E Kraus, S.A. Wurm, P. Newman, M. Janse, L. Campbell, N. C. Dorian, M. H. Christiansen and others. In their works, which will be mentioned below, they tried to find out what is the language death, its causes, a negative impact on cultures of nations, the ways and approaches how to prevent the language from disappearing.

Let's get started with discussing some points in their works. David Crystal in his book "Language death" (Crystal, 3) tries to realize what is a language death and how many languages are in danger. Well, language death is inexistence with human beings, cause it's the only way language can survive – to have the representatives, who can speak and write fluently in that language.

If you are the latter representative of your native language, as a communicative tool it's already dead, because language can be alive only if there are some speakers to talk to, When it happens, your knowledge about language looks like a huge archive of documents, which conclude something that was spoken by people of its nation in the past. And that's the point for culture loss forever.

Let's move on to the scale of this issue. Do you know how many languages are on the facet of death. It was mentioned in reference books that such number can be approximately between 3000 and 10000. But, of course, due to the lack of true facts and statistics this number isn't exact.

Now I would like to look through some reasons for languages to die. Stephen A. Wurm in his paper "Language Death and Disappearance: Causes and Circumstances" explains more about the nature of this issue and the reasons for it. There are many reasons, but the most widely spread are:

- death of all speakers – it's the crucial reason why more and more languages are gone. This can be represented by natural disasters, as earthquakes, floods, volcanic eruptions and so on. But it doesn't mean the death of all representatives only in the natural way. It can be hand-made. Lots of acts of cruelty and violence, such as warfare, genocide, or due to epidemic illnesses such as plague, etc. Here is an example of such language: Coptic language. It's the Egyptian language which was considered to be the first language of Christianity. Its basis is a writing system, which used the Greek alphabet. Also it's a combination of the Hieratic, Demotic, Hieroglyphics languages. The Coptic language was substituted by Arabic in the mid of the 7<sup>th</sup> century when the latter tried to conquer Egypt.

- culture connection and contact – so-called "assimilation" when one nation wants to conquer and defeat another one by imposing their culture, language, rules of behaviour and style of life. It has disastrous influence upon the minority nation. Gradually they'll forget their language and national identity. I can give an example from the history for better understanding. The Norman invasion of England on 14<sup>th</sup> October, 1066. It was successful, Normans conquered the England, although it was minor scale settlement of the Normans there. In England was represented a strict feudal system. The peasants were Anglo-Saxon and barons were French speaking Normans. The Norman (French) language became dominant in all fields of the society in England. It can be a start in introducing French words to the English language like "bouquet", "ballet", "repertoire", etc.

- bilingualism – when a human being tries to learn more than one language, he/she can forget about their native language while learning another.

The most visible illustration of this can be in society, when citizens of the country earlier spoke one language and then suddenly tries to speak another. It can be done by political or economical views of the government, when speaking other language can be more prestige, you can obtain your education/career, etc, only by doing this forcefully. And some marketing products or advertisements want you to buy their products by selling them with a label, which the information is written on another language. First language is going to die when there is no interaction or delay, lack of communication (Cummins & Cameron, 1994).

It's not odd that nearly all original languages compulsory went through midway to bilingualism (Adams, Janse & Swain, 2002). For example, modern Wales can be a good choice for explaining such issue. There people fluently speak English, although it's not their "mother tongue". About 20% of Welsh people talk to each other with the help of Welsh Cymraeg – their native language. Due to that, they can sing in a choir, conduct some festivals like Eisteddfod – the national festival of Wales, which celebrates Welsh arts, language and culture (O'Driscoll, 1995)

- migration – it's an important reason, which has a remarkable influence on language death. Enough to remember when representatives of Proto-Indo-European language moved a lot to Europe and also some large settlements in Asia nearly 6000 and 8000 years ago. It's not oddly that it caused gigantic language changes and deaths.

There are some types of terms, due to which we can suppose that language died. The matter is in the scale of this death. To understand why it's important, I would like to turn to UNESCO (M. Christopher, N. Alexandre, 2010). This organisation supplies a strict system of classification of languages in danger of vanishing. This is done in order to represent how much the language is on the facet of death. This classification system can be described like this:

- vulnerable – enough amount of children are the speakers of their language, the trouble is that it can be connected with a few domains, for example, home, school, university, etc. Vulnerable languages are: Chuj language (Guatemala) with 59048 number of speakers; Cuona Menba with 50000 number of speakers, etc.

- definitely endangered – such languages are not anymore the children's "mother tongue", although its their native language, but they can't learn it at school, speak at home, etc. Definitely endangered languages are: Buryat (Manchuria) with a number of 50000 representatives; Eastern Cham with a number of 50000 representatives, etc.

- severely endangered – it's the language of older representatives, like grandparents, generations of that kind. Only they can take in the use of language, but they don't talk to children or themselves as well, with the help of this language. Such languages are: Samei with a number of 12000 representatives; Wolcalan with a number of 1631 representatives, etc.

- critically endangered – when the youngest speakers are only grandparents, they can only speak the language relatively enough, but in very rare occasions. Such languages are: Quechua of Yauyos with a number of 1700 representatives; Bung language can speak only 3 representatives.

- moribund – minuscule amount of speakers of the same age remain language's representatives. There are: Chulym and Chemehuevi. The number of speakers is quite tiny, only a few elder people.

- extinct – no speakers are left for interaction due to that language at all. There are: Canichana with 3 speakers; Tamazight (Alt Rouadi) with 1637 speakers

It's important to remember that languages develop not only in one way, they can draw out or be born again. Nearly 2280 recorded languages are considered vulnerable, and 250 have formerly failed out. To date, the only successful reanimation of a language in history was Hebrew, which was revived by Zionists further than a century ago with the understanding that a state needed a unifying language as well as a home.

**Main part.** The aim of the paper is to determine deeper what is a language death, consider some points of it such as: types of language death, stages of that death, the researches of the scientists, which can prove such points. The task is to give an approximate prediction and list of endangered languages, which are going to die and discuss some points, which will help to protect languages and prevent it from dying.

**Materials and methods.** The following both theoretical and empirical methods of research helped a lot in considering this issue: systematic analysis of linguistic literature on the topic, explanation and deduction about the endangered languages, which ones are going to die and description of types and stages of the language death. All materials are based on the researches of the scientists on the topic.

**Results and discussion.** According to Campbell (Campbell, 1994), language death is the language loss due to moderate shift to the supreme language in the interaction at the level of that language. The reasons, which regulate the language death, as a rule, are usually not linguistic (Swadesh, 1948). The most frequently mentioned are sociopolitical and socioeconomic ones. The socioeconomic causes claim the shortage of opportunity of the county's economy, quick changes in that field, developing industrialization, migrant labor, etc. Sociopolitical causes are policies, which responsible for languages; discrimination of the language, suppression; war.

Although language discrimination can be a huge cause of language death, on the other hand, it can be simultaneously the powerful resource of reawakening of national identity among the representatives of a minor language. It has become a brand-new idea from 1970 up today. After the fall down of communism, many countries like Australia, Japan, Canada, etc., caused useful changes, which led to the revival and preservation of many endangered languages around the world, especially, some extinct languages like Aboriginal Australian.

Scientists, such as Campbell and Muntzel (Campbell and Muntzel, 1989) proposed some types of language death:

- gradual death – means slow renewal of one language by another. As an example can serve the replacing of Gaelic in some parts of Scotland (particularly in the Highlands of Scotland)

- sudden death – fast process disappearance of language, which doesn't proclaim the intermediate interval of bilingualism, cause the last representative remains monolingual in the language, which dies, as it was with the Tasmanian language

- radical death – situation when the society ends speaking their native language because of self-protection. For instance, after the slaughter of countless Indians in El Salvador, which took place in 1932 the representatives of such languages as Cacaopera and Lencia ceased speaking their language because of not having any identity to the Indians.

- Bottom-to-top death – when a language isn't used for everyday life or as a part of usual conversation, but was preserved as the key conceptual language, which has a exceptional use, such as religion, folklore, song traditions, etc. I want to mention Tzeltal language in Mexico, which, however, has a tiny portion of a few older speakers, but has a special use in prayers. Coptic language is an ancient Egypt language, which also used for religious rituals now, Latin is a dead language, but the names of plants or medicine nearly all are written in Latin, as an international kind of language.

So, as you can see, quite different factors, which caused the language death, also influences upon the types of death. Unfortunately, it happens more frequently, when there is no use of the language, or the nation decides to begin speaking another language, as a prestigious form in the world.

Now I would like to turn to the stages of a language death, which exist. Mentioning such scientist, as Fishman (Fishman, 1991), and his 8-level Graded Intergenerational Disruption Scale of languages is the illustrious evaluation based upon the issue of endangerment of the language. This scale derived from the understanding of language use in the public. Also it has a main focus on language destruction rather than maintenance. Nevertheless, it has a description only in static way, not accounting for the shift and development of the language. However, Fishman concentrated mostly on cross-generational transference as the major point in the language shift. It's an adaptation of the scale, which proclaims 8 stages of language death, which are connected with certain domains – places, where you can use the language:

GIDS	(adaptation from the Fishman's book, 1991)
Stage	Description
1	As usual, language has a normal use, as in our everyday's life: it can be used in work, education, social media, politics on the national level
2	Now language use decreased only to local and regional social media and some authority services
3	In a local and regional work by both members and those, who aren't
4	Education transforms into the literacy, education is only the very way by which it can be changed
5	Oral way of language use is supplied by all generations, the writing system and form of language is widely spread in the society
6	All generations use a language orally, also children learn it, as the first language
7	The adults speak fluently the language, so they can use it as a tool of communication with elder people, but it doesn't pass on their children
8	The very young speakers of the language like grandparents are the very remaining generation, which knows the language well enough

So, from the table above you can observe, that when the certain amount of domains, with which people are connected, especially children, begins to decrease, first of all, language loses its sense, because of having no active speakers. Secondly, parents, but not children, decide which language is suitable for them. The scale above mentions the gradation from the full use of language to no use at all. With the popularity of that scale, provided by Fishman, such terms as “language revitalization”, “language development” became brand-new issue for the preservation of languages.

The list of endangered languages only increases. That's bad for our world. The national identity, as languages, will just fade away. I want to represent you the list the most endangered languages in the world, which are going to die, unfortunately.

Here is given the short list of the languages, which are ranked from critically endangered up to at risk status:

- critically endangered:
  - Lopnor Uighur with 24000 speakers
  - Baraba Tatar with 8000 speakers
  - Samatu with 7500 speakers
  - Suabo with 800 speakers
- severely endangered:
  - Okinawan with 95000 speakers
  - Biak with 70000 speakers
  - Northern Tujia with 65000 speakers
  - Amami with 37000 speakers
  - Youle Jinuo with 10450 speakers
- endangered:
  - Cajun French with 136701 speakers
  - Scots with 89000 speakers
  - Kachari with 59000 speakers
  - Tangkhui Naga with 58167 speakers
  - Cora with 54999 speakers
- threatened:
  - Romagnol with 1500000 speakers
  - Logurdorese Sardinian with 500000 speakers
  - Aromanian with 350000 speakers
  - Udmurt with 324338 speakers
  - Limbu with 300000 speakers
- vulnerable:
  - Piemontese with 2000000 speakers
  - Dimli with 1000000 speakers

Languedocien with 1000000 speakers

Anaang with 733040 speakers

Garo with 700000 speakers

• at risk:

Eastern Yiddish with 1200000 speakers

Ho with 1000000 speakers

Talysh with 912000 speakers

Vlax Romani with 885970 speakers

Yucatec with 706000 speakers

There is no doubt that we need to preserve our languages. Well, turning to the United Nations, it's crucial to save indigenous languages from dying every two weeks. This is a gloomy statistic, but the UN's DSPD works consistently with experts at linguistic and indigenous nations in order to regenerate and defend their languages.

Professor Megan Davis proclaims that safeguarding indigenous languages can guarantee the growth of cultural identity and national heritage as well. Here are some examples, how more powerful countries preserve their mother tongue. For instance, French academy scolds about some intrusive words, especially from English, like "prime time", "chewing gum", etc. They were claimed to be unwanted foreign vocabulary. The Chinese government tries to safeguard the interaction of national language by getting rid of foreign words from vocabulary.

There are some specific tips, which can be useful for maintaining the language as long as possible:

• coming up with recorded and printed resources, which can be vital for taking care of language sound and peculiar context

• using digitalization and social media resources, which is a brilliant way to preserve the language from dying. Some channels on Youtube, apps, platforms for making up courses for students can boost up its life and demand.

• teaching and visiting language classes gives a great merit to some nuances, word meanings in the contexts, some of them can't be translated in a direct way

• insisting on speaking your native language, which depends fully on you, language cross cultural interaction can be done through interpreters in order to revive the language again

**Conclusions.** So, after looking up some different points of language death, I can surely say that this issue will be discussed in more details by scientists in the future, cause it's inexhaustible source for inspiration in the topic. Now you can differentiate the stages of language death, what it depends on, types of language death. I think that now you can spread some ideas from the paper for influencing the whole world and appealing to them for revealing the topic deeper. The effect of this would be brilliant, so it will come home to everyone, finally, that the loss of a language it's a loss of culture, so the whole nation can be forgotten in the very near future, That sounds sadly, so let's try to preserve our native languages. At first, it seems that the language death is a very simple issue, but simultaneously it's very complicated, developing on its type, stage of death, and what we can do in such conditions.

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