

Linguistic diversity and Multilingualism

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Unit 1

Outline of the presentation

1. Linguistic diversity
2. Multilingualism

1. Linguistic Diversity

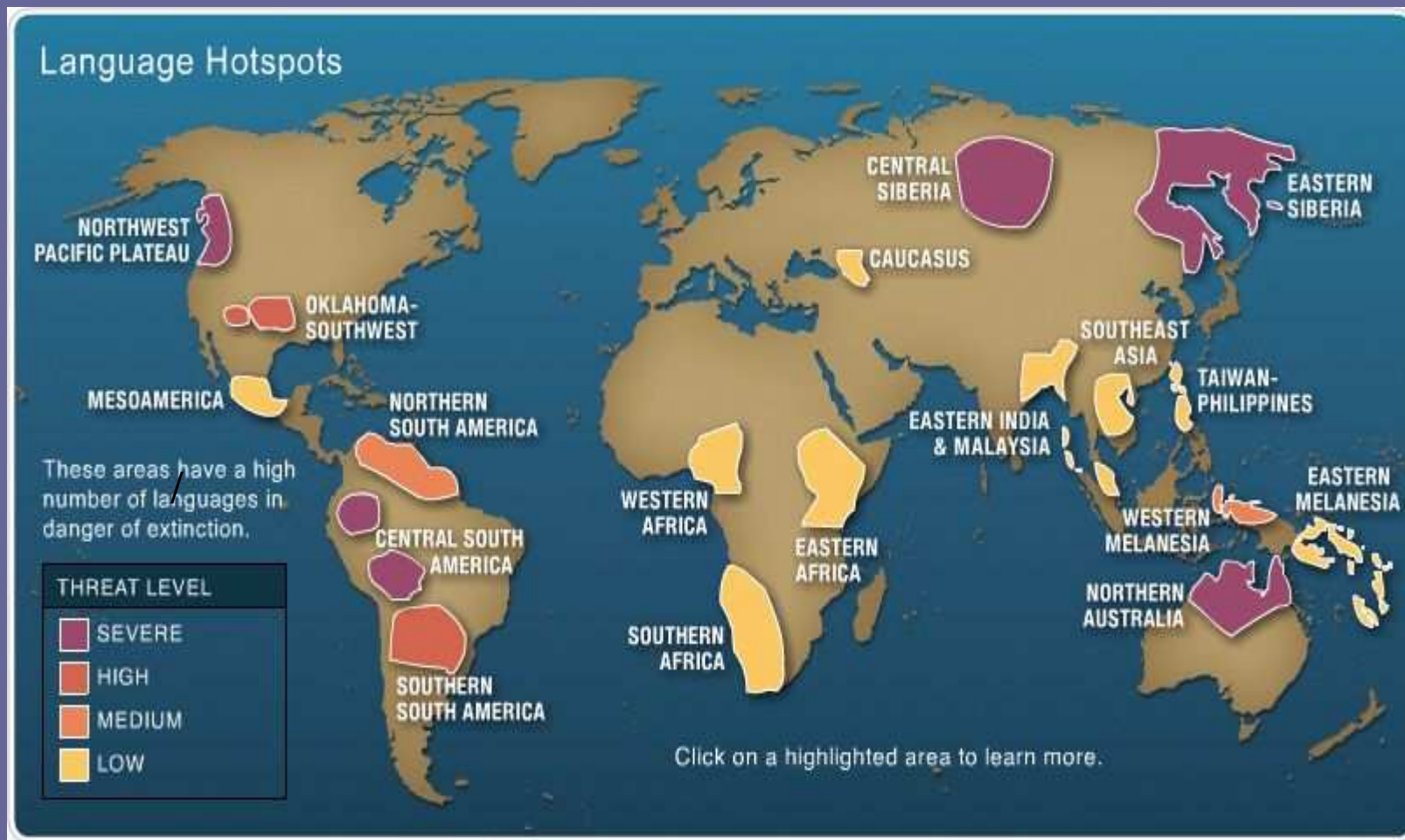
Linguistic Diversity

Surely just as the extinction of any animal species diminishes our world, so does the extinction of any language. Surely we linguists know, and the general public can sense, that any language is a supreme achievement of a uniquely human collective genius, as divine and endless a mystery as a living organism. Should we mourn the loss of Eyak or Ubykh any less than the loss of the panda or California condor? (Krauss, 1992: 8)

Language size

- ▶ There are almost 7000 languages in the world and about 200 independent countries.
- ▶ There are languages with millions of speakers and languages at risk

Language hotspots



<http://www.nationalgeographic.com/mission/enduringvoices>

2.

Multilingualism

Multilingualism as an individual and social phenomenon

‘The ability of societies, institutions, groups and individuals to engage, on a regular basis, with more than one language in their day-to-day lives’

(European Commission, 2007)

Multilingualism

‘Experts know that multilingualism is not the aberration or minority phenomenon many English speakers suppose it to be. It is, on the contrary, a normal and unremarkable necessity for the majority of the world’s population’ (Romaine, 2001)

Multilingualism in the world today

- ▶ Increasing linguistic and cultural diversity in Western societies
- ▶ The spread of English as a language of wider communication

European Commission

It is this diversity that makes the European Union what it is: not a 'melting pot' in which differences are rendered down, but a common home in which diversity is celebrated, and where our many mother tongues are a source of wealth and a bridge to greater solidarity and mutual understanding (European Commission 2005.2)

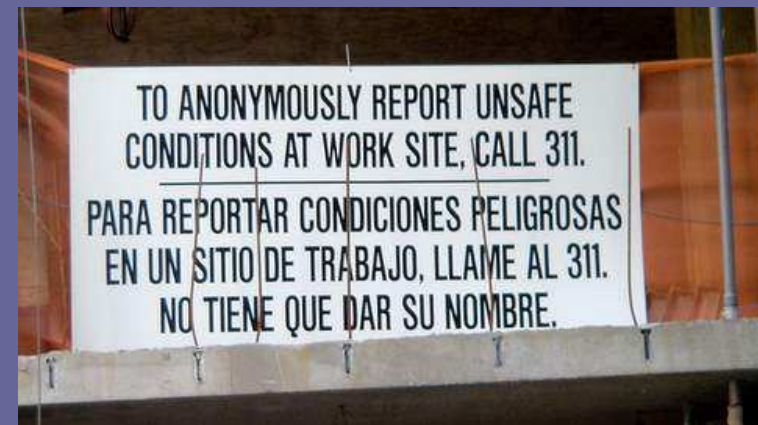
Education

- ▶ Important role in the protection and development of minority languages
- ▶ Teaching English as a LWC
- ▶ Contribution to the development of multilingual identities

Multilingual education and society

- ▶ Schools are part of society and the relation between schools and the society in which they are located is bidirectional
- ▶ Multilingual education is a real-life dynamic laboratory of language acquisition, language contact and language use in society

Multilingualism



Multilingualism



	Bar	Terraza
GOSARIA Kafesnea croissantarekin edo ogi zerrada errez	2.00	2.70
GOSARI BEREZIA Kafesnea croissantarekin edo ogi zerrada errez eta karanja zikza	3.30	4.30
DESAYUNO Café con leche y croissant o tostado	2.00	2.70
DESAYUNO ESPECIAL Café con leche y croissant o tostado y zumo de naranja natural	3.30	4.30
BREAKFAST Coffee with milk, croissant or toasted bread	2.00	2.70
SPECIAL BREAKFAST Coffee with milk, croissant or toasted bread and fresh squeezed orange juice	3.30	4.30
PETIT DÉJEUNER Café au lait avec croissant ou pain grillé	2.00	2.70
PETIT DÉJEUNER ESPECIAL Café au lait avec croissant ou pain grillé et jus d'orange	3.30	4.30



¿Roma?



References

European Commission (2005a) A New Framework Strategy for Multilingualism

<http://europa.eu/languages/servlets/Doc?id=913>

European Commission 2007 final report. High level group on Multilingualism.

http://ec.europa.eu/education/policies/language/doc/multireport_en.pdf

References

Krauss, M. (1992) "The World's Languages in Crisis". *Language* 68, 4-10.

Romaine, S. (2003) *Multilingualism*. In Mark Aronoff and Janie Rees-Miller (eds). *The Handbook of Linguistics*. London:Blackwell.