

Endangered Language and its Future

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Abstract

According to the changes of time, the language also change as a normal process of change. It is common to all the languages of the world that it change according to the time and space. Sometimes a language can be disappeared due to the want of its user and get a new shape. Majority of the languages of the world has been identified as endangered languages as its use has been decreasing day by day. It is due to the fact of globalization, as well as, influence of mass-media and communication that a few language has been widely circulated through print and electronic media and as a result a few language has been totally neglected. In this manner due to the falling out of use few languages has been identified as endangered language. In this paper the author tries to find out the reasons of the endangered language and its remedial measures.

Technical word – Endangered language, remedial measure, preservation.

1.0 Introduction

Language is a vocal symbol for communication of masses with a group of people. Man expresses his or her views through language and it helps people for living a social life. Language is the factor that divides man from other animal. As time changes, the nature and mode of expression of languages also changed accordingly.

Sometimes a language while stepping forward in the path of progress, it loses its general characteristics due to some influence of powerful language or the people who speak a particular language fails to improve its communication skill due to the socio-cultural or political factor and thus becomes less popular. Such languages have been felt to be endangered and a few characteristics have been that the language may die due to its unused by the speaker. On the other hand an endangered language may be energetic due to broad use of it, through technology, through political influence and through other factors of course it will depend upon the willingness, interest of the language speaker of a particular language. For example *Hibru* was a dead language before the formation of *Israel*, the *Judies* worked hoped to reconstitute the language by studying old manuscripts and made it popular and strong. Now it is the main language of *Israel*. Recently *Bo* language of Andaman and Nikobar has been one of use i.e. died for ever.

1.01. Purpose of the study :

The purpose of the study is to know the factors responsible for endanger language and its socio political factor that is responsible for endangered language.

1.02 Scope and limitation of the study

The study limits only on the endangered languages and its factors which are directly or indirectly responsible for the survival of a particular language community and its remedial measure for solution of the research problem.

1.03 Research methodology

Descriptive method of research has been adopted in preparing the research paper.

1.04 Hypothesis

- The death of a language the factor of unconsciousness among the language speaking group.
- Shyness, feelings of backwardness influence in endangered.
- Grammar and Dictionary has a great role for survival of such language.

1.05 Review the related literature:

Scholars from different parts of the world played an important role in the study of the survival of the language which has been identified as endangered. The UNESCO has defined the endangered language in the international background and it attracts the linguistics of the world. It is the reason for which the Govt. of India has given the responsibility to the UGC which has already selected nine different universities as language centre for study about endangered language. The CIIL has been given the responsibility to archive 500 nos. of such language. The Tezpur University has already studied six endangered languages of the north-east and to care of its practical use by preparing grammar etc.

'It doesn't mean that dying a particular language means all the speaker of a particular language died. A language can be died due to the change of its language by a particular community. (Samaj Bhakha Bijyan, P.17)

1.06 Definition

According to UNESCO – *'An endangered language is a language that is at risk of falling out of use, generally because it has few surviving speakers.'* (Moresby, C (ed) *atoms of the world language in Banger*, 3rd Edn, p.n 35). Accordingly, a language can be supposed to be endangered whose use has been decreasing or whose speaker is a very few.

In other place of the same book it states that – 'A language is endangered when its speakers cease to use it, use it in fewer domains, use fewer of its registers and speaking styles, and or stop passing it on to the next generation. No single factor determines a language is endangered. (P. 40)

When the people do not use a particular language it becomes endangered. As it is used by a limited people and it is not passed to the next generation, it becomes endangered. For example of the people who speak 'Khanayeng' language of tai-group is only fifty in number. The UNESCO has described six stages of endangered language. They are

1. Critically endangered
2. Severely
3. Vulnerable.

4. Definitely endangered.
5. Extract
6. Safe

1.07 Preservation of endangered language

It may be mentioned that as long as a particular language disappeared, all the special rights and rituals, cultural speech of that particular community also disappeared automatically, because, language and culture are correlated. Therefore the role of language in this context is very important. In such circumstances for the preservation of such languages, we can take the following measures as given below.

1.07.01 Creating awareness

When a language is going to the endangered stage due to its unused special awareness among the language speaking group may be taken so that they were able to survive among the people. The UNESCO, as well as the Govt. of India has taken different plans for preservation of the endangered language. Accordingly seminar, workshop and awareness programme with the help of resource persons has been taken, so that the language community may be aware about their own language.

1.07.02 Change of mental attitude

When a particular language goes beyond the endangered state, it automatically reflects the language speaking group because, if their attitude towards the language is changed, the language can be survived. In this cases the language group should be free from the lower mentality about the language and they should honour the language and use it in their everyday life. So, self-realization is essential.

1.07.3 Mother tongue as a medium of instruction

Use of mother tongue as a medium for instruction also keeps away from endangered language to a particular language and help its survival. At least in the primary level the medium of instruction should be primarily level the medium of instruction should be primary school level should be mother tongue. In this context **Biswajit Das** writes – *If the primary education could be provided through the local languages spoken among the group or people, it may be one of the positive step for the survival of the little languages.* (Samaj Bhakha Bijyan, P.124)

The learning of one's own language by a particular language community makes them responsible about their own language. Therefore, mother-tongue should be preferred for educating the children. It increases their affection about their own language. Otherwise, if it is taught as a second language, their love about the language decreases and they do not feel attracted towards their culture and tradition and it helps the interest about their mother tongue.

1.08 Preservation and protection

The endangered language can also be preserved by the following process -

- Use of state language should be made compulsory for all the official works of every state.
- Formal education should be provided through one's mother tongue as a state language.

- In everyday life, as well as, household activities every language community should use their mother tongue.
- The language community should not influenced by other largely used language.
- The language should have writers documents as well as emphasis should be given in preparation of grammar and dictionary.
- Introductory book for language learning should prepared stage wise, so that the new learner can learn the language.
- The folk literature should collected and it should published.
- Socially they language group should emphasis an use of the language an compulsory and social consciousness should arose among the language community.
- The history and nature of the language can be focus through electronic media like you tube, Wikipedia etc.
- The attraction among the children of a particular language may arose through children book, cartoon, jokes etc. so that, they feel attracted about their own language.

These were some suggestions for preservation of the endangered language and if it is followed, endangered languages can be preserved for future. Now a days the Govt. emphasis an documentation through which a language can be protected and preserved artificially. Because, when socio-economic factor helps, it may survive through its positive effort.

The central institute of Indian language has been taking utmost care for the protection and preservation of the endangered languages and they have identified at least 500 language as endangered language, whose use is less than 10,000 people. Therefore, they tried for documentation of such languages. The Govt. of India had taken a plan for protection and preservation of endangered languages in 18th Dec, 2014. According to this plan the preparation of Grammar and dictionary of endangered language has been emphasized and for this modern technology has been adopted. The UGC has been given responsibility to formulate rules for detailed study of these languages. Accordingly the UGC has selected nine university to established 'Language Centre' and 50 crore has been sanctioned for this purpose.

1.09 Conclusion

From the above discussion it is seen that if the speaker of a language community decreases and it terminate endangered language. If the all people of the particular community dies, the language dies automatically, In fact, the multi-lingual circumstances, languages context, change of language, natural calamity, migration, influence of rich language directly impact upon the small language and made it to be endangered. Death of a languages influences in the death of a particular culture and tradition of a particular language – community.

Consciousness among the language community is one of the factor that helps in survival of the language by using it in their daily life and express it in a powerful manner. It means, only consciousness among a particular language group can save a language from endangered language.

Presently the Govt. of India has taken some plan for protection and preservation of different endangered language and for this purpose they have sanctioned a sum of Rs. 50 crore so as to protect and preserve the endangered languages. The respect about one's own language and its proper use in verbal as well as written form can only protect and preserve a language from its untimed death.

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