

Nasir Abbas Syed (LUAWMS, Uthal, Pakistan) & **Rajkumar Malik** (New Delhi)

Influential factors in language attrition and change

As a result of a mass migration in 1947, Saraiki speaker migrants from Pakistan became a linguistic minority on reaching in India and their language endangered. The current study analyses speech of 60 such migrants and 60 of their progeny in Delhi to identify role of age, markedness, gender, attitude, incomplete acquisition, language contact, frequency of occurrence and frequency of use in language attrition and change. Half of the total participants of this study were male. The participants read three randomized repetitions of words carrying sonorants [m^h n^h l^h ɲ^h ŋ^h], retroflex [ɳ], fricatives [z x ʃ] and implosives [ɓ ɗ ɠ] of Saraiki. The recordings were evaluated by 3 native speakers of northern Saraiki, a dialect that participants speak. A questionnaire was also served for background information and to determine participants' attitude towards Saraiki, English and Hindi. Reliability of data was determined through Cronbach's alpha test and RMANOVAs were applied for hypotheses testing. The results show that those participants who were more affiliated to Hindi were losing Saraiki consonants faster than others. Those who were younger at the time of migration, were faster in losing Saraiki phonemes than those who were adults at that time. Role of phonetic factors was evident in that they were losing coronal implosives more rapidly than labial implosives, as labial implosives have strong acoustic signals. They had preserved retroflex nasal because it is not only used frequently in Saraiki but also frequently occurs in Hindi, the dominant contact-language. They were more accurate in producing coronal fricatives compared to velar fricatives. This shows the role of markedness in language loss. The female participants had less accurate pronunciation than male participants. All participants were losing velar nasal faster than alveo-palatal nasal because the former exists in English, a third language also spoken by the participants.

Laila Alhazmi (Sheffield)

Perceptions and attitudes towards the Bedouin and Hadari dialects in Mecca

This study provides the first detailed account of speech perception within the city of Mecca in Western Saudi Arabia (SA). Mecca is a cosmopolitan city that contains many ethnic social groups speaking two different dialects, Bedouin and Hadari. The Bedouin dialect is the original dialect that is spoken by the original nomadic people in the area, while the Hadari dialect is the dialect of those who have recently moved to Mecca (i.e. newcomers). The experiment conducted in this study was designed to obtain information on the attitudes and perceptions of Meccan participants towards their dialects, and to ascertain whether participants associate certain characteristics with the Bedouin dialect and others with the Hadari dialect. In order to test this, participants were given a questionnaire containing twenty-two characteristics; in theory some of these characteristics are associated with the Bedouin dialect and some with the Hadari dialect. They were asked to rate each characteristic from 1 (the least) to 5 (the most). Thus, The scale was testing participants attitudes towards each given characteristic. The data analysis consisted of several stages: a reliability test, factor analysis, and ANOVA. Each stage has its own effect in terms of refining the data. In the reliability test, items that negatively affected the internal consistency of the data were removed. In the factor analysis, many solutions were applied, based on statistical techniques and the theoretical background of the research, until I reached the two-factor solution that best represents the initial conceptualisation of the research. Finally, ANOVA analysis was used to test whether there is a significant difference in the factor scores when compared to the social background of the participants. The results suggest that the two-factor solution illustrates a clear dialect dichotomy between the Bedouin and Hadari dialects in Mecca city. Further examination of the results using ANOVA demonstrated that the social background, especially social group, of the participants strongly affected the results; that is, participants from the Bedouin social group associated positive characteristics with their own dialect, and the Hadari social group did the same with their own dialect.

Márton András Baló (Hungarian Academy of Sciences)
Nominal oblique patterns in Romani

The Romani language is interesting from two aspects: considering language contact and contact-induced change on the one hand, it often borrows lexical and grammatical elements due to the fact that it is almost exclusively used in a bilingual context; on the other hand, as for endangered languages and their documentation, we find that the different varieties of Romani are considered to be at risk, with the number of their native speakers constantly diminishing. Although persistent and heavy language contact or endangerment can induce structural borrowings, based on recent fieldwork among native speakers of Romani in Hungary, I suggest that the overall structure of a language can be extremely resistant, especially when endangered and/or affected by bilingualism. This is illustrated by the example of two different oblique patterns in the masculine nominal inflection of Romani: *-es-/-en-* and *-os-/-on-*. The relevant literature often emphasises that the two patterns are applied according to the inherited or borrowed nature of a word. However, our data show that this is not the case: fairly recent borrowings can behave ambiguously and inflect according to both patterns. Thus, endangerment may have a counter effect by “strengthening” the structural elements already present in the language.

Julie Auger (Indiana) & **Anne-José Villeneuve** (Alberta)

Building on an old feature in minority language innovation: Interrogatives in Picard

Oïl languages of Northern France face challenges in their quest for recognition, in part due to their perceived similarity with French. Picard is no exception. While scholars recognize that its phonology, morphology, and lexicon differ considerably from French, Éloy (1997:137) states that Picard syntax differs little from French. Suspecting that such assessments are based on superficial comparisons, we undertook detailed analyses of specific structures to determine how much Picard syntax truly differs from that of French. Work on auxiliaries, future tense, subject doubling, and *ne* deletion shows that while these structures share similarities with their French equivalent and show some convergence, systematic differences provide evidence for distinct Picard and French grammars. This paper focuses on interrogatives. We compare older and contemporary written data, as well as contemporary oral data, and show that Picard and French use the structures they share differently. Indeed, Picard intonation questions are restricted to specific pragmatic functions, subject clitic inversion remains the dominant strategy for second person subjects in total questions, and use of interrogative particle *-ti* is spreading to verbs in the second person, a context from which it was excluded in older texts. We thus conclude that Picard interrogatives show minimal convergence toward French.

Marcela Cazzoli (Durham)

When the vulnerable language acquires prestige abroad: Immigrant Welsh in Argentina

Welsh is a vulnerable language in the UK and an immigrant language in Patagonia, Argentina, where it is used by approximately 13,000 native speakers and about 25,000 learners. In Wales, the number of learners is increasing and perceptions have become more positive but revitalisation has been only partly successful and the language remains fragile. This contrasts with the immigrant situation in Patagonia; while in the UK Welsh is associated with stereotypical assumptions based on socio-economic, historical, religious or political information, Patagonia is too far away geographically and culturally to hold those perceptions. This presentation will throw light into how geographical distance, together with Argentina’s economic and political difficulties, have created a situation where, regardless of heritage, Welsh has acquired a prestige rarely associated with other immigrant languages, and where knowing the language is desirable because it offers an imaginary escape to Europe in the face of difficulties at home. Can processes of revitalisation take place in a contact situation between typologically different languages, away from where the language originated? The discussion will also make reference to Cymrellano, the linguistic outcome of the contact situation.

Peter Cleave (AUT)

Language and time: The historiography of contact and change in endangered languages, with special reference to Māori

If only we held in our minds the grail of the critical dynamics of endangered language change, especially in contact situations. This paper quests in the direction of historiography and asks how the stories are told of key language factors like the state, a sense of identity and kinds of memory. The map of Polynesian languages by Krupa (1973) and the close inspection of the colonial period in New Zealand with respect to Māori by Moon (2016) are discussed in terms of cartography and history. Standard questions are asked (Carr 1961, Elton 1967 *inter alia*) along with particular ones like colonial or nation state approaches (Cline 1967) where Mexico and Paraguay are compared with New Zealand, or those approaches to do with memory (Halbwachs 1950, Nora 1989, 1996) and the relation of that approach to work on memorialisation (Foote 2003, Cleave 2013) or the ‘cultural turn’ (Burke 2008). The journey imagined is through historiography, language and identity in heightened or other senses of language and locale (Kawharu 2010). This quest concludes by asking how best to assess and set out the trajectory, past and supposed future, of an endangered language with respect to critical dynamics of a historiographical kind.

Jeffrey Davis (Tennessee)

Language contact and change: Evidence from endangered signed and spoken languages

This paper centers on language contact and change among endangered American indigenous signed and spoken languages, as well as contact between the indigenous sign language and urban sign language varieties used in American Deaf communities of the U.S. and Canada. Heretofore, few studies have concentrated on contact between indigenous and urban signed languages; and, there is also a need to consider contact among indigenous signed and ambient spoken languages. The findings presented are based on extensive research of linguistic data from historical sources and contemporary fieldwork, demonstrating continuous language contact between signed and spoken indigenous languages since the 1800s and earlier, and encompassing a variety of multilingual contexts and multimodal outcomes (signed, spoken, gestured, and written). In these contact situations, code-switching is common-place, plus outcomes unique to the cross-modality nature of signed-spoken language contact; e.g., the co-occurrence of signing and speaking; and code-blending of lexical signs and gestures. Evidence is also considered for historical relatedness in terms of lexical borrowing and grammatical similarity along with a discussion of language status, change, and resiliency. The aim is to engender a greater understanding of signed language-spoken language contact, while illuminating the relationship of speech, sign, and gesture in the linguistic stream.

Nicole Dołowy-Rybińska (Polish Academy of Sciences)

Language contact and culture conflict: Acquiring language competence by Upper Sorbian learners (Germany)

The paper presents the preliminary results of a research project (2017-2020) concerning the way young people from German speaking homes who attend the Upper Sorbian High School in Bautzen/Budyšin acquire Sorbian language competence and how they create an identity in relation/opposition to their Sorbian speaking peers. The number of Upper Sorbian speakers is diminishing. There are fewer children who learn the language through family transmission (because of the demographic crisis, internal migration of Sorbs, linguistic assimilation, etc.). The Sorbian immersive pre-school education, “Witaj”, functioning there since the beginning of XX century finds continuation in, “2plus”, a bilingual model of education in which (in theory) pupils from Sorbian- and from German-speaking homes are expected to learn together, through language contact, to facilitate gaining Sorbian language competence and to break the existing ethnic boundaries between Sorbs and Germans. This system is perceived by language planners as the only possibility of augmenting the number and range of people who know Sorbian. But this project meets numerous problems resulting from the German speaking pupils’ attitudes to Sorbian and relations between the two language groups. I will present and discuss the results of the sociolinguistic survey performed in the school among pupils in the 10 and 11 grades in March 2017.

James Hawkey (Bristol)

Manifestations of language attitudes in an endangerment scenario: The rhotics of French-Catalan bilinguals

Current language attitudes research emphasises the role of fine-grained linguistic practices as outward manifestations of underlying attitudes and ideologies (cf. Schilling 2014). Traditional Rossellonese Catalan varieties maintain a distinction between two rhotics: the tap [ɾ] and the trill [r]. Intervocally, these are realisations of two different phonemes /ɾ/ and /r/, and elsewhere their distribution is lexically governed. In supra-local and Southern Regional varieties of French (with which Rossellonese Catalan is in contact), there are a number of uvular realisations [ʁ̥, ʁ̥̥, ʁ̥̥̥] of the single rhotic phoneme /ʁ/, in addition to [Ø] as in [kat] (*quatre*, ‘four’). In Southern Regional French, this picture is complicated yet further by the presence of the tapped and trilled variants we also see in Catalan. Gómez Duran (2016: 36) notes that the traditional Rossellonese Catalan tap/trill dichotomy is often not observed, and attributes this to generational differences and interference from French. She claims that younger participants, or those more influenced by French, are more likely to either indiscriminately use [ɾ] and [r] without observing constraints as to their distribution, or to produce uvular realisations of all rhotics. Twenty speakers of Rossellonese Catalan (five urban males, five urban females, five rural males, five rural females) were asked to complete a language attitudes questionnaire before undertaking a wordlist translation task. The present analysis seeks to ascertain the reasons for the choice of a given rhotic variant, be these macrosocial (sex, geographical origin) or more locally constructed (language attitudes).

Jeanette King, Margaret Maclagan (Canterbury, NZ), **Ray Harlow** (Waikato), **Peter Keegan & Catherine Watson** (Auckland)

Thou shalt not borrow! Attitudes of Māori speakers towards Te Reo Māori and New Zealand English

During the last 200 years the Māori language and New Zealand English (NZE) have been in close contact. As a consequence there have been additions to the lexicons of both languages beginning in the 19th century with addition of words relating to social and material culture into both languages. A more recent wave of neologism has occurred in Māori since language revitalisation efforts began over 30 years ago, which resulted in the need to coin a large number of technology related words. These new words were coined using a number of processes, but borrowings from English were eschewed. At the same time there has been an increase in the borrowing of Māori words relating to social culture into NZE. There is an increasingly expressed attitude amongst the Māori speaking population that Māori words in English should be pronounced “correctly”, in other words, using Māori phonology. We discuss the reasons for these attitudes to borrowing in both languages and argue that they arise from a concern about the status of the Māori language.

Suzi Lima (Federal University of Rio de Janeiro, University of Toronto) & **Susan Rothstein** (Bar Ilan University)

Borrowing of Brazilian Portuguese measure words in Yudja

This paper explores the borrowing of measure words in Yudja (a Brazilian language spoken by approximately 300 people). Lima 2014 shows that in Yudja numerals can be directly combined with all nouns, including substances (*txabiū y’a* ‘three (portions of) water’). Interviews with Yudja speakers suggest numerals are primarily required to refer to precise quantities of individuals (number of objects, plantation goods, clothes, containers) in the community; interviewees emphasized that Yudja speakers usually count quantities (number of objects or portions), rather than measuring volume. (1) naturally counts portions of water, located in different bottles, as substantiated by recent experimental work (Lima 2016).

- (1) Maria yauda y’a (karaha he) dju wī
 Maria two water (bottle in) bring
 ‘Maria brought two bottles of water’
 Lit.: Maria brought two water (in bottles)

The observation that there is a preference for counting over measuring correlates with the borrowing of measure words from Brazilian Portuguese (2). Measure syntax is also taken from Brazilian

Portuguese, with *litro* directly following the numeral.

- (2) Una yauda litro y'a awi
 1s two liter water drink
 'I drank two liters of water'

We explore the implications of the contrast between counting and measuring uses of numerals, and the contexts which favour construction (1) over construction (2), and discuss fieldwork in progress to explore the issue further.

Péter Maitz (Augsburg)

Language endangerment in a post-colonial setting: The case of Unserdeutsch (Rabaul Creole German)

Unserdeutsch (Rabaul Creole German) is the only German-based creole we know of. It had its beginnings in the Bismarck Archipelago in Papua New Guinea (PNG) among mixed-race children at the Vunapope Mission in what is now East New Britain Province shortly before and after World War I. Nowadays, only about 100 elderly speakers living in Papua New Guinea and the eastern states of Australia are still proficient in Unserdeutsch (cf. Maitz 2016; in press). In my paper, I will correlate the current language status with the communicative and social functions of the language as well as its current structural profile, using data collected during fieldwork in Australia and PNG between 2014 and 2016. In doing so, I will focus on the role of language contact and language endangerment (a) for code alternation in everyday language use, (b) for linguistic transfer phenomena from the two contact languages Tok Pisin (Melanesian Pidgin English) and Australian Standard English.

Christopher Moseley (UCL, UNESCO)

Slicing the continuum: What identifies a language variety as distinct?

The editorial team of the UNESCO Atlas of the World's Languages in Danger, and its planned World Atlas of Languages, is constantly faced with apparently arbitrary decisions about which language varieties can be identified as distinct languages. Is the distinction purely arbitrary? As languages evolve over time, and undergo processes of attrition or reinforcement, so they may become more divergent or more convergent. If the Atlas represents a truly objective snapshot of the present situation, which criteria should be applied to distinguish them:

- Mutual intelligibility?
- Lexical similarity in percentages?
- Identical orthography?
- Official recognition or institutional support?
- Degree of standardisation?

These and other criteria will be examined in this paper as they are applied to several examples of language continua from different language families and geographical areas, particularly those which have been problematic for the Atlas editorial team.

Colleen Alena O'Brien (Hawai'i at Mānoa)

Speaker perceptions of linguistic change: contact and endangerment in Camsá

Camsá is an endangered language isolate spoken by fewer than 4,000 people in southern Colombia. Aside from just a few elders, all Camsá speakers are bilingual in Spanish, the language now used for most daily interactions. Unsurprisingly, Camsá has borrowed many words from Spanish, including *pasear* 'stroll', *computadora* 'computer', and *celular* 'cellphone'. Younger members of the Camsá community (typically semi-speakers) are upset by such lexical change, while also adopting major structural features from Spanish, such as SVO word order and constructions with predicative adjectives. Ironically, lexical borrowing has been present in Camsá for centuries, including at times when the language was vital, as speakers of the small isolate have often readily adopted words from their neighbors. Nevertheless, it is lexical change (and not structural change) that is now under the scrutiny of language activists, a preoccupation that could prove detrimental to language revitalisation efforts. I argue that when a language is endangered and therefore undergoing contact-induced change, speakers are likely to notice lexical borrowings, as they constitute a salient form of linguistic change. Such awareness, however, can come at the cost of attention paid to sweeping structural changes, often completely unnoticed by younger speakers.

Justyna Olko (Warsaw)

Contact-induced change and language shift: Bridging diachronic and synchronic perspectives on Nahuatl

Looking at the Spanish impact on Nahuatl both in its full historical trajectory and modern synchronic dimension, I focus on the differentiation between ‘balanced’, long-term language contact and ‘unbalanced’ contact leading to rapid language shift in contemporary indigenous communities. I discuss the connection between accelerated contact-induced change and language endangerment and shift, highlighting and assessing the mutually interdependent extra- and inter-linguistic variables that influence and shape both processes. Taking into account historical (written colonial sources) and modern data (including both urbanized and rural communities in the Mexican states of Puebla, Tlaxcala and Veracruz), I pay special attention to the shift in the Nahuatl’s typological profile from a polysynthetic to a more analytic language. Of considerable importance is also the synchronic variation linked to speakers’ proficiency that influences language transmission in the diachronic perspective. On the basis of extensive fieldwork I identify several types of Nahuatl speakers as agents of this accelerated language change which leads to individual attrition and shift at the community level. This point is documented by specific reductional processes at the levels of lexicon, morphosyntax and phonology, with a focus on decreasing lexical richness and substitutive borrowing, semantic simplification, unmarked code-mixing, (de)grammaticalisation, and disappearance of word-formation mechanisms.

Chia-jung Pan (Nankai)

Linguistic Attrition of Argument Manifestions in Saaroa

This study attempts to investigate linguistic attrition of argument manifestations. A moribund Austronesian language of Taiwan, Saaroa, is examined. Currently, Saaroa is spoken in southern Taiwan, with no more than 10 fluent speakers. Saaroa becomes moribund when their speakers are in contact with other speech varieties which are considered to carry greater social prestige. The two major speech varieties are Mandarin Chinese and Bunun. Mandarin Chinese is the national language in Taiwan, and Bunun is the dominant indigenous language in the area where Saaroa people live. The interactions of the two major speech varieties lead to some change in how Saaroa is spoken. This is in terms of the linguistic structure of the Saaroa language itself or of the sociolinguistic situation and context in which the Saaroa language is spoken. This study pays special attention to the linguistic structure of the Saaroa language itself, i.e. linguistic attrition of argument manifestations. Due to language obsolescence, argument manifestations become simplified, complicate or transposed. For example, case markers become optional. Personal pronoun system becomes complex. Besides, while the basic constituent order in Saaroa is VSO, in some circumstances, SVO can be observed.

Elisabetta Ragagnin (Freie Universität Berlin)

Endangered Sayan Turkic varieties in northern Mongolia

Dukhan and Tuha are two highly endangered Sayan Turkic varieties spoken in Mongolia’s Khövsgöl region. Dukhan speakers number approximately 500 individuals. About half of them live in taiga areas and follow a lifestyle based on reindeer herding. The other half has settled in low-land areas, mostly herding Mongolian-style cattle. Nowadays, Dukhan is actively spoken by speakers older than 40. Younger Dukhans, though possessing passive knowledge of Dukhan, communicate in Darkhat-Mongolian, the local Mongolian variety which diverges in many respects from Khalkha-Mongolian, the official language of the country. There is no Dukhan language teaching in the local boarding school. Tuhan is presently actively spoken by a handful of individuals, all aged above 55. All Tuhan speakers are bilingual in Tuhan and Khalkha-Mongolian. Tuhan is both a non-dominant and a non-written variety and is only used as the in-group language. This paper will a) present an overview of Dukhan and Tuhan contact-induced changes in grammar and vocabulary and b) compare them with linguistic changes that occurred in standard Tuvan, the titular (Sayan Turkic) language of the South Siberian Tuvan Republic.

Jakraphan Riamliw (University of the Thai Chamber of Commerce)
Lexical change: A study of different generations of Korat language speakers

Language change results from a variety of factors; among them, the social factor is considered to be on the top layer. The social factor involves and induces a particular language contact situation of each generation of language speakers. The language speakers of one generation, in other words, are more likely to experience and use the language in a different way from the other generations, whether in a constructive or destructive process. This study, therefore, aims to present an investigation of the lexical change of the Korat language, a regional dialect spoken by an ethnic group in Nakhon Ratchasima province, Thailand. The research participants were three different generations whose ages ranged from 11-20, 21-40, and 41-55. The research instruments consisted of questionnaires and individual, face-to-face interviews. The change of vocabulary or words reported by the participants was analysed based on its existence or presence/absence and the types of change. The primary results showed that the younger generation did not know some dialect words that the older generation knew, as the older generation did not transfer those words to or use those words with them. Finally, the presentation will discuss how mass media and technology can help save a dying regional dialect or endangered language.

Eleanor Ridge (SOAS, University of London)
Use of loan verbs in Vatlongos, Southeast Ambrym

Southeast Ambrym is an endangered language spoken by ~2500 speakers in Vanuatu. It is spoken in villages on Ambrym island and also in Mele Maat, a peri-urban community near the capital. The language is more severely endangered in Mele Maat, as evidenced in interrupted intergenerational transmission, lack of transmission to incomers, more frequent code switching, restriction to fewer domains and greater economic pressure to use national languages, especially Bislama (Drude 2003). Not only are Mele Maat speakers more likely to use Bislama loans, they also prefer a different grammatical strategy for incorporating loan verbs: direct insertion into the verbal affix template over a copular light verb strategy that is more common on the island (Wohlgemuth 2009). This is possible evidence to support Wichmann and Wohlgemuth's (2005) hypothesis that more direct integration of loan verbs correlates with higher levels of bilingualism in the source language. In this case speakers in both communities are fluent in Bislama, but speakers in Mele Maat will exclusively use Bislama in key domains (e.g. education, worship). This paper investigates patterns of loan verb usage in a corpus of spontaneous and elicited texts, and explains possible links to variables such as age, education level and employment status.

Valentina Schiattarella (Università degli studi di Napoli "L'Orientale")
Linguistic change among speakers of different ages in Siwi (Egypt)

Siwi is a Berber language (Afro-asiatic) spoken in Siwa, Egypt. Its speakers are mostly bilingual: contact between Arabic and Siwi is very long-standing, but the increasing endangerment of Siwi can be mainly attributed to recent factors (TV and school in Arabic, exogamous marriages, etc.). In the first part of my presentation, I will briefly show that the loss of some Berber features (absent in Arabic) in Siwi cannot be attributed to its endangerment, but has to be linked to the long-lasting contact between the two languages (Souag 2013). In the second part, I will compare data collected in the field (period: 2011-2014) from speakers of different ages to show that, on the contrary, the variation of their linguistic production can be analyzed as a consequence of the rapid endangerment of the language: young speakers tend to use a lexicon which is more influenced by Cairene Arabic (because of the presence of fellow Egyptians moving to Siwa or Siwi travelling outside the oasis); they lose the knowledge of traditional genres, and so on. This shows that the endangerment of a language is particularly evident when considering the rate at which linguistic change takes place, especially in some parts of the grammar.

Ellen Smith-Dennis (Warwick)

Contact with a contact language: language endangerment and linguistic change in Papapana

This paper investigates the consequences of language contact for Papapana, a severely endangered Austronesian language of Papua New Guinea (PNG). Language contact is pervasive in PNG, leading to both linguistic change (e.g. Evans&Palmer 2011) and language shift and endangerment (e.g. Kulick 1992). Historical contact with non-Austronesian language speakers has led to morphosyntactic change in Papapana (Smith 2016a) while more recently, contact with the creole Tok Pisin has led to considerable shift, resulting in language endangerment (Smith 2016b). However, contact with Tok Pisin has also led to lexical change and calquing. This shows reversed influence, since Tok Pisin is a contact language which evolved from English and Austronesian languages. I analyse these changes and consider whether Tok Pisin lexical items are nonce borrowings or established loans. Furthermore, since the data comes from a documentation and description project, I reflect on writing a grammar, dictionary and educational materials for a language which exhibits such contact-induced change and in an endangerment context where attitudes towards the ‘dominant’ language are generally disparaging. Except Jenkins (2005), little has been written about Tok Pisin influence on local vernaculars and thus this paper increases our understanding of not only contact-induced change and language maintenance in PNG, but also in other contexts worldwide where a creole may be dominant.

Monica Ward (Dublin City University)

Language change in Nawat and Nahuatl: Has Spanish had the same impact on both?

Nawat is a critically endangered language spoken in western El Salvador (Moseley, 2010). It has around 200 mainly elderly native speakers. Nawat is known as Pipil (Campbell, 1985) in the academic literature (ISO 639-3 ppl). It is an Uto-Aztecan language and branched off from Nahuatl (ISO 639-3 nhn + 34 other dialects), which spoken in Mexico by around 1.5 million speakers (INALI, 2012) about 900 hundred years ago. Spanish is the dominant language in both countries and has greater social prestige. Indeed, Nawat was banned in El Salvador in the 1932, but has been in serious decline since a major insurrection in 1833. This paper looks at how Spanish has impacted on Nawat and Nahuatl. It is interesting to investigate the similarities and differences it has had on Nawat (the more endangered language) and Nahuatl (a more stable and vibrant language). The paper analyses the Swadesh lists for Nawat and Nahuatl and investigates the effect of Spanish on both languages. The paper also looks at some common greetings in both languages and reports on how Spanish has impacted on them.