Unit 6.1 Language

3 Information contained in the worksheet, not just the blanks, is important, but the worksheet alone does not replace the need for a careful reading of the text. pgs.164 - 180

Field Note: What should I Say?

World maps generalize many of the complexities of daily life. As a geographer you should question what you see, and examine maps at different scales and of different types to draw conclusions about the accuracy of what you see.

The map of Belgium’s languages is a good example. Belgium is divided into __________________________ (a Germanic language) region in the north (Flanders) and a __________________________ (a Romance language) region in the south (Wallonia) with the capital, __________________________, officially bilingual in southern __________________________. In the 19c the French speakers controlled the industrial economy and government. With the shift to high technology in the 1960s the economic power shifted to the north. The existence of two separate language communities tends to foster regionalization that separates the citizens of the country.

Brussels serves as the principal capital of the __________________________ (EU). This role may prevent Belgium from splitting into two countries because both Flanders and Wallonia would be unwilling to give up their __________________________. Some have suggested setting up a __________________________ for the European Union (like the District of Columbia in the US). Language is often __________________________ and is frequently tied to such identify issues as __________________________

What are Languages, and What Role Do Languages Play in Culture?

There are two opposing forces in our globalized world: globalization of __________________________ and preservation of __________________________

• __________________________ is a fundamental element of __________________________ culture.

• The Académie Française was created to __________________________ & __________________________ the French language. The French passed a law banning the use of __________________________ in advertisements, television, and radio broadcasts and __________________________ documents. In 1992 they made French the __________________________. __________________________ reflects where a culture has been, what it __________________________ & how people __________________________, __________________________ and __________________________ things.

According to the chart to the left, what languages have more speakers than English speakers?

• During colonialism many countries, including the US had policies of __________________________ which prevented indigenous people from speaking their native language.

• Language can reveal many things about a culture. Some African cultures have no word for ____________, while some Asian languages have no __________________________ and no __________________________, revealing the lack of cultural distinction between then and now.

• Language can be used as a ____________ in cultural conflict and political strife. People opposed to the use of Spanish in the US are leading movements to promote “________________________” policies.

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Why are Languages Distributed the Way They Are?

Languages are classified into
(1) ___________________________ that are thought to have a shared, but distant origin,
(2) __________________________, where the commonalities are more definite and the origin more recent,
(3) ___________________________ cover a smaller territory, and
(4) ___________________________ a local or regional variation of an individual language.
The __________________________ language family stretches across the greatest extent on the map and has the greatest number of speakers. Within the Indo-European language family, ____________ is the most widely spoken language of all languages in the world, but ________ claims more _________ than English. Use the map (p.174-175) to complete the chart below.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Language Family</th>
<th>Major Language(s)</th>
<th>Location</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>English</td>
<td>Americas, Europe, SW Asia, Australia, S.Africa</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Chinese</td>
<td>China, SE Asia</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Japanese</td>
<td>Japan, Korea</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Arabic</td>
<td>North Africa, SW Asia</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Telugu</td>
<td>India</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Indonesian</td>
<td>Indonesia, Malaysia, Philippines, Madagascar</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Finnish</td>
<td>Russia, Northern Asia, Finland, Turkey</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bantu</td>
<td>Sub-Saharan Africa</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Language Formation

Linguists classify languages by examining particular words looking for ________________ (slight changes in a word across languages in a language family from the present ________________ to its origin. (e.g Latin lacte (milk) became leche in Spanish, latta in Italian, and lait in French.)

• ____________________________ (18th c. Englishman) observed that Sanskrit was closely related to ancient Greek and Latin
• ____________________________ (19th c. German Fairytales author) observed that related languages have similar consonants soften over time (e.g. the v & t vater (Ger)... vader (Dut)... father (Eng). According to Grimm’s theory the consonants became __________ as they went __________ toward the original hearth.

Canada is officially a ________________ state, but ________________ promotes the use of the provinces distinctive version of the ________________. The ________________ (people of Quebec) have called for more independence and even voted on ________________ at times. It has passed laws requiring the use of French in ________________ and allows signs to be in English, as long as the French letters are ____________ the size.

Language is the ________________ or the ability for two people to understand each other when speaking.

Some languages are separate (Serbian and Croatian) but are ________________.

Most linguists recognize between ________________ languages, including ______ in India and over _______ in Africa.

Language is ________________ and advanced societies are likely to have a ________________ language (published, widely distributed, and purposefully taught)

Variants of a standard language are called ________________. Differences in ________________, ________________, ________________, and ________________ all mark a speaker's dialect. Dialects nearest to each other will be the most similar due to more interaction, those farther away from each other will be ________________.

Geographers mark actual differences in the use of words in dialects using a geographic boundary called an ________________.

Bert Vaux studied the words used for soda, pop, and coke as show on the map at the right.

Figure 6.8  © 2010 John Wiley & Sons, Inc. All rights reserved. Adapted with permission from Hammond, Inc., 1977.
• From Jones and Grimm’s a hypothesis was proposed that an ancestral Indo-European language called _______________ was the hearth of ancient Latin, Greek, and Sanskrit.
• Linguists use a technique called ___________________. By attempting to deduce a part of the vocabulary of an ______________________it could be possible to go even further and re-create the language that preceded it. That technique, called ______________________, has yielded important results.
• Vladislav Illich-Svitych & Aharon Dolgopolovsky worked independently and then together to identify an ancient ancestor of the Proto-Indo-European language, the _______________. Nostratic is believed to also be the ancestral language of the _______________of the southern Caucasus region, the _______________ (Hungarian, Finnish, Turkish, and Mongolian) and _______________ languages of India, and the _______________ (Arabic). Speakers were hunter-gatherers (no words for domesticated plants)
• Language _______________ - spatial interactions by speakers break down and the language fragments into dialects and then into discrete tongues.
• Language _______________ - when languages have consistent spatial interaction, two languages can collapse into one.
• Languages may also become _______________ (cease to be used).

The _______________ Model – proposed that three areas in and near the agricultural hearth of the Fertile Crescent gave rise to three language families
(1) from Anatolia (Turkey) diffused the _______________.
(2) west of the Fertile Crescent diffused the languages of _______________.
(3) from the Fertile Crescent’s eastern arc ancient languages spread into Iran west to India (later replaced by _______________).

The _______________ Theory suggests that the Proto-Indo-European language spread from east to west on horseback, overpowering earlier _______________ and beginning the diffusion and differentiation of the tongue.

The _______________ Theory – suggests that the Proto-Indo-European diffused westward with the diffusion of agriculture. (The Etruscan survived until the Roman times and the Basque’s Euskera language isolated in the Andorra Mountains between France and Spain survives to this day.) Support for the Ag Theory came from analysis of genes of individuals from locations around Europe.

We still do not know where the hearth of the Proto-Indo-European language was located, but about ½ of the world’s people speak languages derived from it.

The GREENBERG HYPOTHESIS (proposed by Joseph Greenberg in 1987) suggests that there are only three language families of indigenous American languages. (1) Amerind – the super family & most widely distributed, (2) Na-Dene – spoken in what is now NW Canada, Alaska & the US Southwest, (3) Eskimo-Aleut – concentrated along the Arctic.

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