

Evaluation Of The Movie “The Linguists”

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Introduction

Scientists believe that there are approximately 7000 languages being spoken all over the globe, and one language every two weeks is becoming extinct. The Movie “The Linguists” scientists Gregory Anderson and David Harrison, follow the path to document the languages that seem to vanish soon. They world journey of David and Gregory takes them to discover knowledge, cultures, and communities that are at risk when their language perish.

They both recorded the Chulym dialect in Siberia, which has been unknown to outsiders for the last three decades. Both linguists bump into leftovers from the racist Soviet establishment that might have quieted Chulym’s language. Tribal children in India go to boarding schools where they are taught English and Hindi. Gregory and David had traveled to the village of children, where economic strife was on the surge. The linguists witnessed the poverty and fear that have driven the youngsters out of the societies. Kallawaya language in Bolivia has lasted for several millenniums with less than a hundred speakers. David and Greg marched to the Andes to reveal its undisclosed secret.

Discussion

Chemehuevi Language in Arizona

Native American Language Chemehuevi had left with five speakers in 2005. All the elders died who were known to Chemehuevi. Only recordings of perished Chemehuevi language have been left to listen. This practice illustrates the essential role of documenting and preserving the languages to save them from becoming scarce.

Kallawaya language in Bolivia Passing down Languages

One of the most secret and mysterious spoken languages in Bolivia is Kallawaya. Adult males taught this language to the teenage boys with the aim of enduring the survival of the healing technique. There are only 150 speakers left, who have been striving for its survival for the last hundred years.

Sora language of India

Sora language appealed to the linguists for its feature to intact the entire sentence in a single verb. In

the documentary, both linguists go to Sora villages, attend the wedding and interview the speakers. It was “Eureka” moment for them when they have been taught to build large numbers with the use of the twenties and twelves. Both visited a school when Sora kids were getting an education along with the groups of 40 indigenous. They were amazed to see that the young generation of Sora village is influenced by Hindu practices (*The Linguists. For Educators 2018*).

Due to globalization and colonialism, small languages have become inhibited and directly favor the major spoken languages. Currently, over 500 languages have become endangered including two of them are featured in the movie *The Linguists*. A) Chemehuevi being spoken in Arizona, and, B) Chulym dialect in Serbia. Other languages, like Sora, spoken in India, and Kallawaya, spoken in Bolivia, are also facing challenges to survive.

Both linguists show the people who speak endangered dialects what it means for them when their spoken language is gone. They show that language is essential to preserve history, culture, identity, traditions, and values.

Questions that were raised in the movie *The Linguists*: Why are languages becoming extinct? What can we do to save them?

The Linguists highlight cultural diversity and the world’s linguistics to the students. It shows some themes that one can collect after thoroughly watching the documentary.

Culture

Speakers in the documentary are worried that the young generation might not learn and speak their ancestral language. They would ultimately lead them to the loss of their culture and history. Linguists Gregory and David, in a documentary film, recorded the stories told to them by Chulym speakers. These stories imitate the customary Chulym civilization.

Time, Endurance, and Conversion

The Linguists are of the opinion that the Kallawaya language culture has a history of over 400 years. Kallawaya civilization improved their healing arts by discovering a “clandestine” dialect. Since they victoriously preserved, passed and saved their language in the human history chapter.

Places, People, and Surroundings

In the shaping of any language, its geography plays a vital role. The area, having diversity in linguistics, causes people to split into groups. For example, Papua New Guinea has been home to 820 different languages. Language is always a provider of ideas regarding insight about places, their people, and their environment.

Identity and Progress

The language of any region expresses its thoughts because it is directly linked to the way of life. A man from Chemehuevi tribe said, "Language defines who you are, it is your breath that you breathe, you are dead without your language." Same as this, the language of any country in the world represents the identity.

Groups and Institutions

When speakers are compulsorily forced to vacate their language or encouraged to speak another dialect, their language becomes endangered. The documentary shows us how boarding schools in India, Siberia, and the United States impacted groups and their languages. Revitalization of speech is a vital goal to regain the respect for languages in the contemporary world.

Authority, Power, and Governance

The Linguists tell us that you lose fundamental human rights when you lose the liberty to speak. During apartheid time in Africa, Africans were forced to restrain their language. Those who are in power can save the rights of minority groups instead of endangering their history, culture, and language.

Society, Science, and Technology

Gregory and David emphasized on use of technology with an aim to sustain and preserve small languages.

Global Acquaintances

United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) in 1996, with other organizations, signed the Declaration of Universal Linguistic Rights. It says a language is a fundamental human right, and nations should take steps to preserve their endangered dialects.

Public Practices to Preserve Languages

The Documentary suggests that non-linguists should involve themselves in revitalizing the languages. They shall do projects and aware the public aware to preserve their dialect. Public gatherings, presentations, stories, and tableaux can play a role in achieving this ambition.

References

The Linguists. For Educators / PBS. (2018). *Pbs.org*. Retrieved 16 February 2018, from <https://www.pbs.org/thelinguists/For-Educators/>