

Death of Language is Death of Culture

Muhammad Rafique Wassan*

Language is the core component of culture and culture is an identity of a social group in any given society. For anthropologists, language and writing (form of language expression) are the major elements which have contributed in the development of world civilizations. Therefore, Language is considered as the medium of cultural identity. In other words, survival of culture and human society is implicitly linked with survival of language. If language survives, culture survives, identity survives and human society survives.

The main theme of this research paper is to analyze the questions of language loss in terms of cultural deterioration & destruction. The research question of this paper is to highlight and analyze the recurrent social linguistic theme of “Language death as a cultural death” in this era of globalization, commercialization, consumerism, electronic media, capitalism, linguistic imperialism etc. Moreover, the speaker will try to look into the historical background of vanishing languages and cultures from anthropological perspective. Also an effort will also be made to highlight the issue of neglect of indigenous languages at state level. How state policies of language and culture affect the rich multi-cultural heritage of Pakistan? The state sponsored education policies which ignore the indigenous languages and promote the alien languages as source of power & strengthen social class.

* Muhammad Rafique Wassan is working as a Research Associate in the Department of Community Health Sciences, The Aga Khan University Karachi. He is interested in the study of the issues of poverty, equity and social justice, gender equality, human rights and indigenous rights.