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Language Conflict & Language Rights
Language Conflict and Language Rights: Ethnolinguistic Perspectives on Human Conflict

- The course
- The book
The evolution of a course

• In the beginning, … a course on language rights without a book on language rights.
• From “language rights” to “language conflict and language rights”
• Enhancement of the course for the College core.
Underlying theme: Making Linguistics relevant

Can the study of Linguistics (and courses grounded in linguistic knowledge) be relevant to students and to the general public, and what stands in the way?

Impediments:
- Limited contact with the field outside the academy.
- Prerequisite knowledge is a bar to further study.
- Concepts are highly formal and technical.
- Uninformed folk knowledge about language.
The book – An overview

- Language and the speaker
  Introduction to language.
- Language in the world
  Role of language in personal, cultural, and national identity
- Linguistic rights as human rights
- A typology of language conflicts
  (i) indigenous minorities, (ii) geopolitical minorities, (iii) migrant minorities, (iv) dialectal minorities, and (v) competition for linguistic dominance.
- Language endangerment, extinction, and revival
Unit I: Language and the speaker

- The sounds and sounds systems
- Words and word structure
- Grammar and multiword expressions
- Language change and variation
Unit II: Language in the world

- Language & personal identity
- Language & cultural identity
- Language & national identity
- The role of writing systems
- Framing language rights in the context of human rights
Unit III: Typology of language conflicts

- Indigenous minorities
- Geopolitical minorities
- Minorities of migration
- Intra-linguistic (dialectal) minorities
- Competition for linguistic dominance
Unit IV: Language endangerment, extinction, and revival

- Linguistic taxonomy, ecology, and ownership
- Language revitalization and revival
A Typology of Language Conflicts: Indigenous minorities

- Sami in Norway
- Ainu in Japan
- American Indians in the US
A Typology of Language Conflicts: Indigenous minorities

- Basque in Spain and France
- Aboriginals in Australia
- Māori in New Zealand
A Typology of Language Conflicts: Geopolitical minorities

- Hungarians in Slovakia
- Hispanics in Southwest US
- Kurds in Turkey
A Typology of Language Conflicts: Geopolitical minorities

- Amazigh (Berbers) in the Maghreb
- Tetum in Timor Leste
- Tibetans in China
A Typology of Language Conflicts: Minorities of migration

- Roma in Europe
- Koreans in Japan
- Puerto Ricans in the US
A Typology of Language Conflicts: Minorities of migration

- Russians in Israel
- Turks in Germany
- Chinese in Vancouver
A Typology of Language Conflicts: 
Dialectal minorities

- Okinawans in Japan
- African-American English in the US
A Typology of Language Conflicts:
Dialectal minorities

- Occitan in France
- Nynorsk (Landsmål)/
  Bokmål (Riksmål) in Norway
- Singaporean English and
  Local Chinese dialects in Singapore

Translation: Hey, when we date we always eat at the coffeeshop (one).
A Typology of Language Conflicts: Competition for linguistic dominance

- Flemish vs. Walloons in Belgium
- Tamil v. Sinhalese in Sri Lanka
- French v. English in Canada
A Typology of Language Conflicts: Competition for linguistic dominance

- Hebrew and Arabic in Israel
- French and Wolof in Senegal
- Chinese, Cantonese, and English in Hong Kong