

Abstract

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The Seselwa language (Seychelles Creole or SC) is a contact language, and like other contact languages, it faces the possibility of being an endangered language. It is generally agreed by linguists that to-day there are about 7000 languages spoken across the world and that at least half of these may no longer continue to exist after a few more generations as they are not being learnt by children as their first language. Such languages are said to be endangered languages.

Several creoles spoken today are endangered. In the case of Seselwa (SC), many steps have been taken to vitalize and valorize it, and its vital signs are generally considered to be very strong. However, recent developments in the Seychelles linguistic landscape may make it necessary to reconsider SC's survival in its present form, in the long run.

This paper aims at looking at different issues pertaining to language endangerment, especially smaller languages like SC that are restricted to smaller communities.

A number of scales are in use to express the actual level of endangerment. Grenoble and Whaley propose a six way distinction of evaluating language endangerment:

Safe	At Risk	Disappearing	Moribund	Nearly Extinct	Extinct
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Using this scale, what is the status of SC?

