

Homework

Languages of the world

October 27, 2016

1. How many languages exist at the world today?
2. Do you expect the number of languages to increase or decrease? Justify your answer!
3. Name three languages that are extinct (in the sense that nobody speaks them as native languages anymore). Briefly explain for each language why/how it died out.
4. Why is it difficult to determine the number of languages in a given region at a given time? Name two problematic cases.
5. Two important internet resources about the languages of the world are the „World Atlas of Language Structure“ (<http://wals.info/>) and „Ethnologue“ (<http://www.ethnologue.com/>). Briefly explain what kind of information can be found at these sites.