

# **ENDANGERED LANGUAGES**

**PROF. NICOLE NAU, UAM 2017**

**Fifth lecture  
(20/03/2017)**

# QUESTIONS OF THE DAY

Another system for assessing language endangerment:  
EGIDS

Languages of Southeast Asia:  
what languages are there and  
why are they endangered?



**JOSHUA FISHMAN (1990, 1991): GIDS  
(GRADED INTERGENERATIONAL DISRUPTION SCALE  
FOR THREATENED LANGUAGES) SEE HANDOUT**

Examples for necessary actions on individual levels:

Level 8: Need to record the last speakers.

Level 7: Need to promote the language among younger speakers.

Level 6: Need to support families; maybe need for developing writing and educational materials

Level 5: Need to support the use of reading and writing in the language.

# LEWIS & SIMONS (2010)

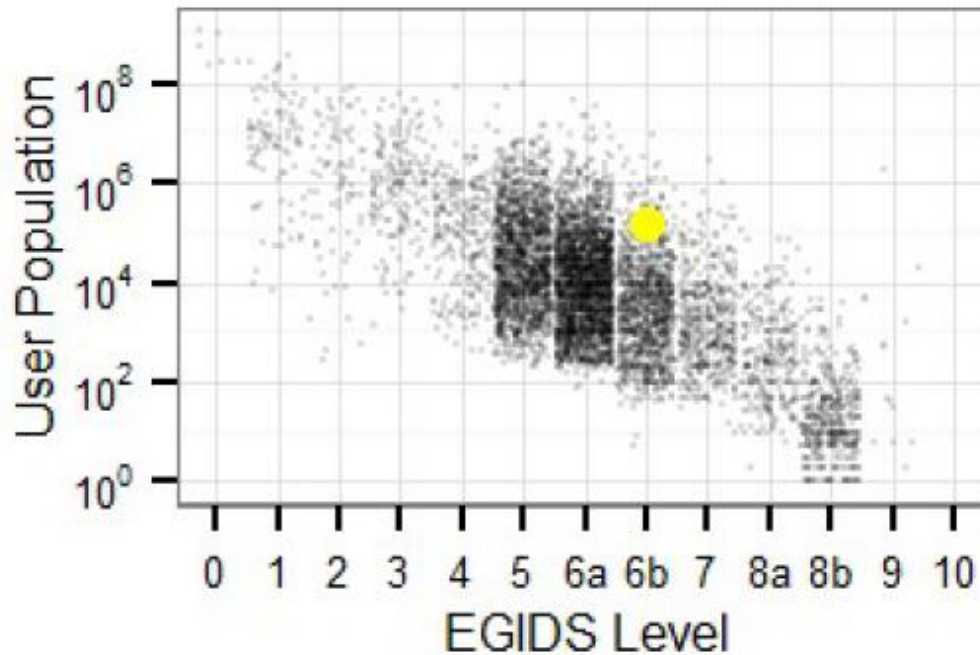
EGIDS – Expanded Graded  
Intergenerational Disruption Scale

(Handout)

Lewis, Paul & Simon, Gary. 2010. Assessing endangerment: Expanding Fishman's GIDS.  
Revue Roumaine de Linguistique 55(2):103–  
120.

# THE EGIDS IN ETHNOLOGUE: EXAMPLE

## Maori in the Language Cloud



# LANGUAGES OF SOUTHEAST ASIA

Main source:

Bradley, David. 2007. East and Southeast Asia. In: *Encyclopedia of the world's endangered languages*, ed. Moseley, Christopher. London, New York: Routledge, 349-422.



[http://www.nationsonline.org/maps/south\\_east\\_asia\\_map.jpg](http://www.nationsonline.org/maps/south_east_asia_map.jpg)



[http://www.art-and-archaeology.com/seasia/area\\_map.jpg](http://www.art-and-archaeology.com/seasia/area_map.jpg)



# LANGUAGE FAMILIES AND GROUPS

(bold: official national languages)

- ❖ Sinitic languages: **Chinese** languages and dialects
- ❖ Tibeto-Burman: **Burmese** (Myanmar)
- ❖ Austroasiatic languages > Mon-Khmer languages : **Khmer** (Cambodian), **Vietnamese**
- ❖ Tai-Kadai : **Thai**
- ❖ Miao-Yao (Hmong-Mien)
- ❖ Austronesian languages: **Malay**

# LANGUAGE ENDANGERMENT

“virtually every language in this area which is not the official majority language of a nation is at least potentially endangered “  
(Bradley 2007: 388).

# MULTIETHNIC STATES: NUMER OF OFFICIALLY RECOGNIZED GROUPS

Table 5.1. Ethnic Categories

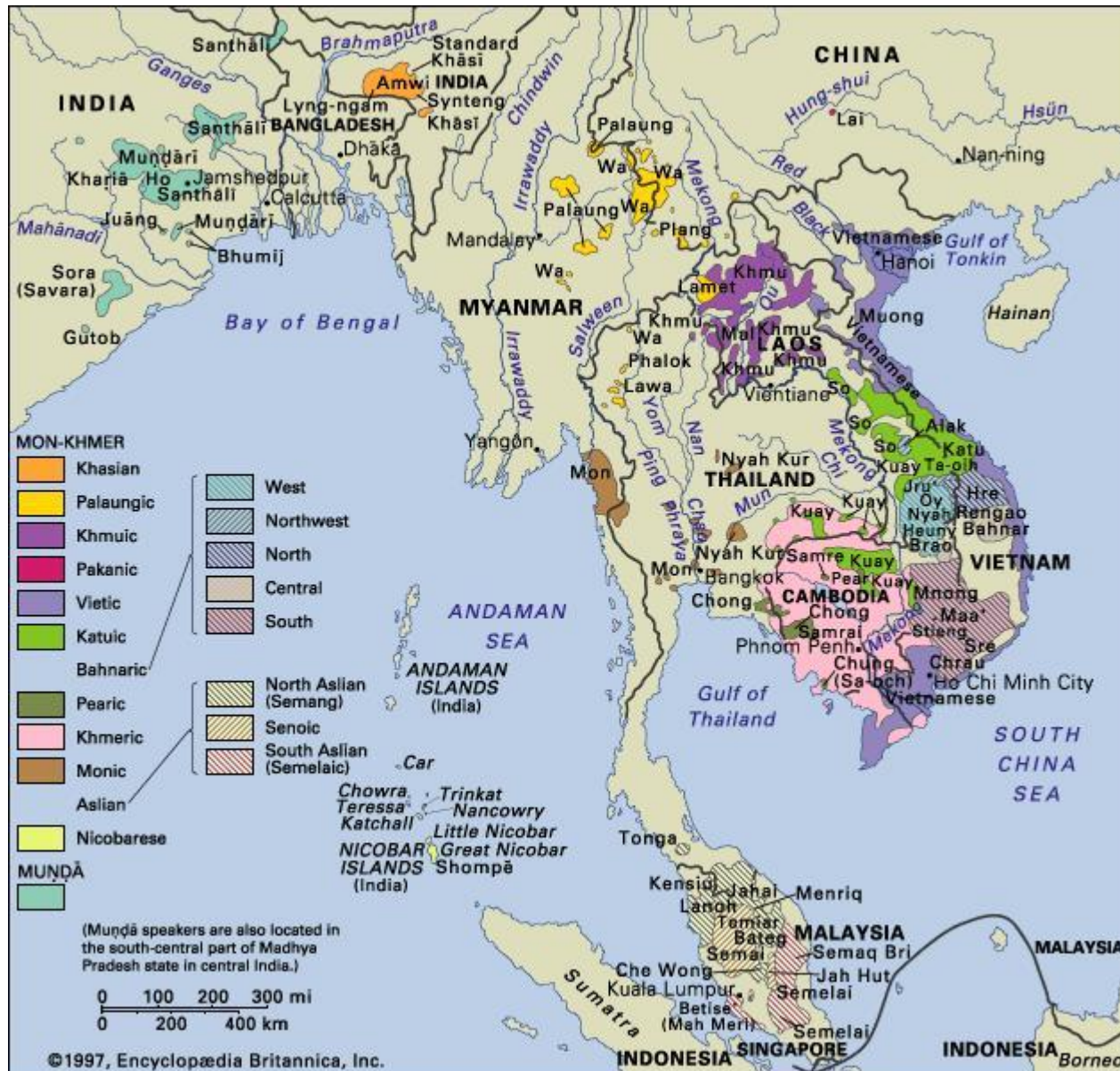
	ethnic groups	per cent majority
China	56	92
Vietnam	54	87
Laos	47	50.1
Burma	135	(63?)
Thailand	17	over 95
Cambodia	—	over 98
Malaysia	3	(60+)

# MON-KHMER LANGUAGES

«Of over 110 known MK languages in the area covered, **fifty-four are now endangered**, and most of the rest are at least potentially endangered. There are also certainly more MK languages not yet located, especially in Laos and Burma.»

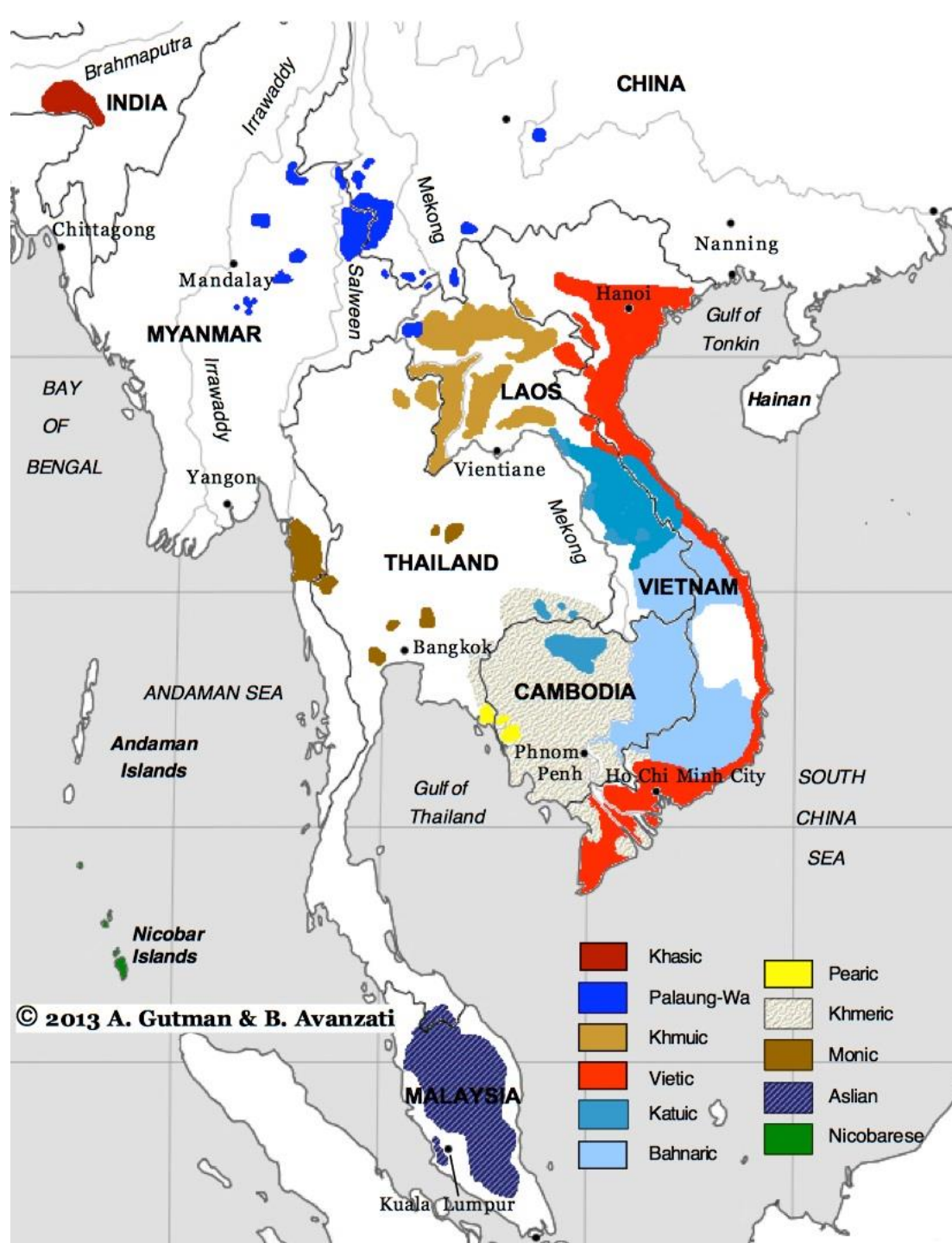
«All but three MK languages are at least potentially endangered.»

(Bradley 2007)



<https://media1.britannica.com/eb-media/31/2031-004-47AD0C57.jpg>

[http://www.languagesgulper.com/eng/Austromap\\_files/Austroasitic%20recortado.jpg](http://www.languagesgulper.com/eng/Austromap_files/Austroasitic%20recortado.jpg)



# CASE STUDY: MON IN MYANMAR

**Ethnologue: 5 developing**

Speakers of Mon in Myanmar:

1983: about 835 000

2004: about 743 000

Ethnic population: 1,000,000.

# USE OF MON (FROM ETHNOLOGUE)

Vigorous in some rural areas and in Three Pagodas border area. Low or no usage in urban centers; some language shift to Burmese. Many domains in some communities; only among the elderly, in the monastery, or not at all in other communities. All ages. Positive attitudes. Many also use Burmese [\[mya\]](#).

Literacy rate in L1: Some literacy among the older generation; very low literacy rates among those under 40. Taught in some Buddhist monasteries in both Myanmar and Thailand. Some literacy efforts made on Thailand-Myanmar border. Literature. Dictionary. Grammar.



# EXAMPLE OF MON SOUNDS AND WRITING

From a program for language learning (Radio Free Asia)

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=RDaEqmiijmQ>