

ENDANGERED LANGUAGES

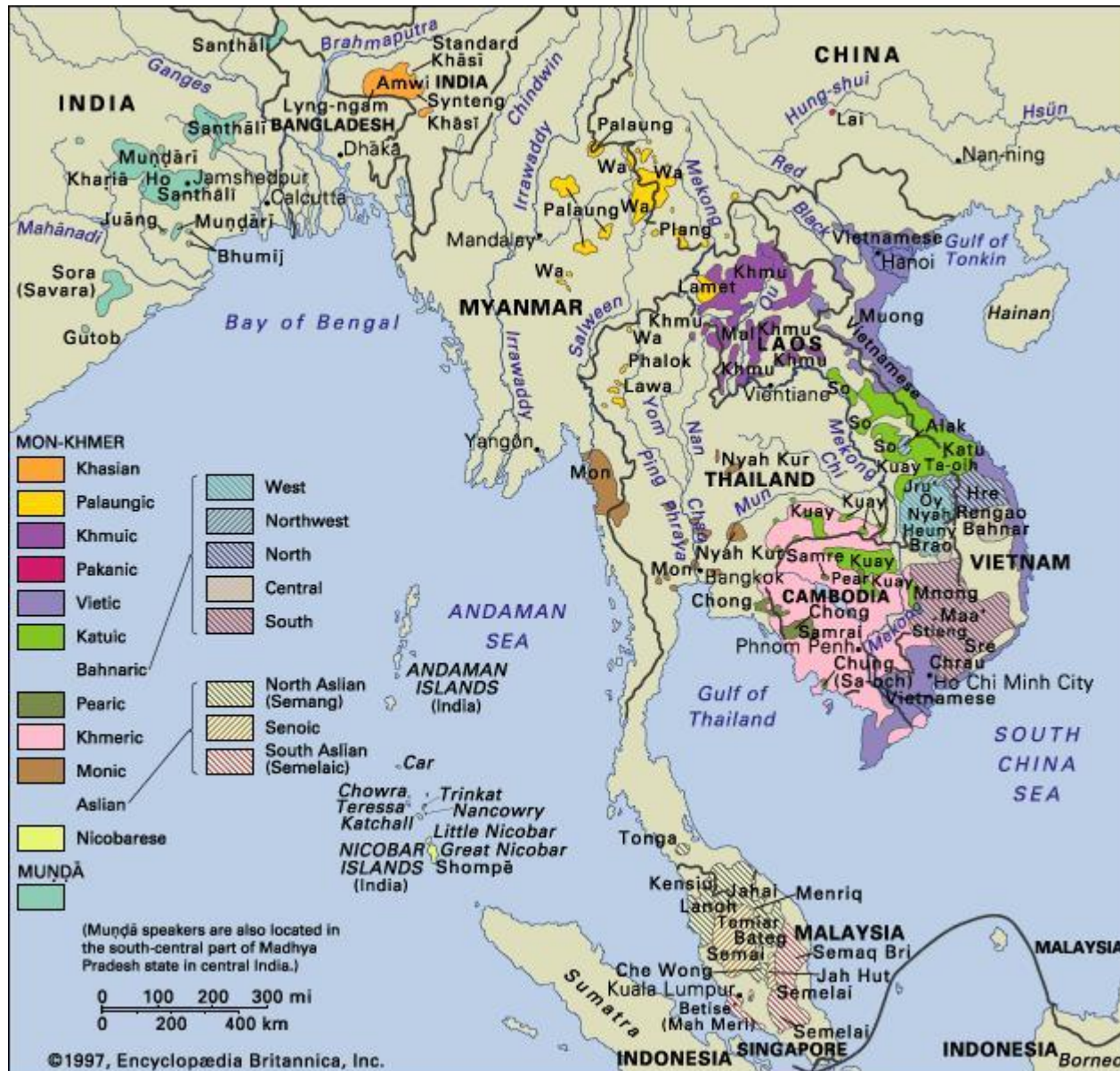
PROF. NICOLE NAU, UAM 2017

Sixth lecture
(27/03/2017)

QUESTIONS OF THE DAY

Case studies: Why did these languages become endangered?
What is done to keep them alive?





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

CASE STUDY: MLABRI IN THAILAND/LAOS

Until recently hunter-gatherers

«A group of about 150 speakers, disrupted by conflict along the Thai/Lao border where they lived. Some have now settled down; and are assimilating into nearby Hmong/Meo and Thai/Lao groups. Only about 100 still speak the language, with two lexically-distinct dialects, one much more endangered than the other, and some extinct dialects. Endangered.» (Bradley 2007: 414)

MLABRI IN ETHNOLOGUE: 6A VIGOROUS

Use: All ages. Many also use Thai [\[tha\]](#). Also use Hmong Daw [\[mww\]](#), Northern Thai [\[nod\]](#).

Literacy rate in L1: 10%. Literacy rate in L2: 40% in Thai



Film: The importance of being Mlabri, info and trailer at:

http://pro169.org/html/en/theme_identification.html

http://mlabri-hammock.jp/src/sc160/main_mlabri2.jpg

MLABRI: RISKS FACTORS

- ❖ Change of traditional lifestyle
- ❖ Increased contact with «Outsiders»
- ❖ Education in Thai
- ❖ Small number of speakers, difficult to find a partner with the same mothertongue

CASE STUDIES: SORBIAN AND MOHAWK

- What made the languages become endangered in the past?
- What are risk factors today?
- What is done to keep the languages alive?
- What do Sorbian and Mohawk have in common?

MOST IMPORTANT TO KEEP A LANGUAGE ALIVE: LET CHILDREN ACQUIRE IT NATURALLY

Day-care for children in Sorbian: Villa Kunterbunt Cottbus

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=_QvhFx-9GII

Grandmother talking Lower Sorbian to a child

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=_uSq2xmun8I

Children's animated film in Sorbian

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=GOtdmOq_rCQ

Children's song in Sorbian – karaoke

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=6LEpWJ-r0-w>

About the Lakota language nest

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=52jReWuyvv8>

Ojibwe language nest

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=R-llnX2H3aQ>

OTHER INITIATIVES

Mohawk community center

<http://www.mohawkcommunity.com/>

Mohawk language learning app

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=4p-Am7iWpvk>

SORBIAN AND MOHAWK IN POPULAR CULTURE

Sorbian: TV serial «Spreewaldkrimi» – Sorbian culture and language as exotic, mysterious elements

Mohaw: Game «Assassin's Creed»

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