

Wikitongues: Preserving Language Diversity and Empowering Communities through Language Documentation

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Tochi Precious



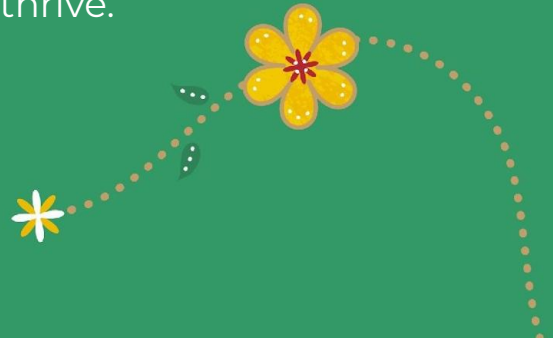
Introduction

As you know, there are over 7,000 languages spoken in the world today. But every year, an average of 1 language dies out. That's one language every two weeks.

When a language dies, it's not just the words that are lost. It's also the history, culture, and knowledge of the people who spoke it. We lose important information about the world, and we lose a way of seeing the world.

Wikitongues is working to prevent this from happening. They are using technology and Wikimedia projects to document endangered languages, so that they can be preserved for future generations. They are also working to empower communities to use their languages, so that they can thrive.

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Who/What is Wikitongues?

Wikitongues is a Wikimedia User Group and a non-profit organization whose mission is to "preserve endangered languages and empower communities through language documentation."

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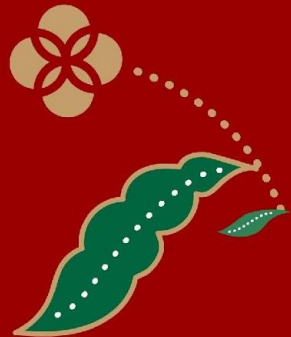
Why is language documentation important?

- ❖ **It preserves endangered languages:** When a language is documented, it is preserved for future generations. This is important because endangered languages are a valuable resource of human knowledge and culture.
- ❖ **It empowers communities:** Language documentation can empower communities by giving them a voice and by helping them to preserve their culture. When communities are able to document their own languages, they are able to control how their languages are represented and used.



Why is language documentation important?

- ❖ **It helps to prevent language loss:** Language documentation can help to prevent language loss by raising awareness of the issue and by providing resources for communities to document their own languages.





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How does Wikitongues Document Languages?

- **Technology:** Wikitongues uses technology to make language documentation more accessible and efficient. They have a crowdsourcing platform that allows anyone to contribute to language documentation efforts.
- **Community engagement:** Wikitongues works with communities to ensure that language documentation is done in a way that is respectful and beneficial to the community. They also train community members to document their own languages.



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How does Wikitongues Document Languages?

- **Language Accelerator Program:**

Wikitongues organizes a language accelerator program where participants are trained on how to document their languages and they also go ahead to develop tools which is supported by grants from Wikitongues. This year 2023, 21 language activists were selected from across 20 countries.

- **Seed Bank of Language diversity:** You can contribute videos, audio recordings, dictionaries, and other resources related to your mother tongues.

- **Global Network of Linguists:**



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How does Wikitongues Document Languages?

- **Language Sustainability Toolkit:** this toolkit can help you develop a roadmap for starting a revitalization project in your community.
- **Jewish Languages project:** which is intended for the documentation of endangered Jewish languages.

Call To Action

Now, I invite you to take action. Whether you're a linguist, a community member, or simply passionate about cultural preservation, there's a role for you. Visit the Wikitongues website, contribute to documentation efforts, and spread the word about the importance of language diversity.

JOIN THE WIKITONGUES USER GROUP

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Conclusion

In closing, let's remember that language diversity is a treasure that enriches our world.

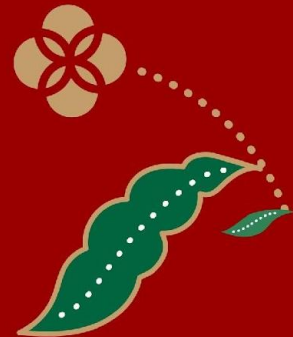
- Wikitongues' dedication to preserving languages and empowering communities is an inspiring example of what we can achieve when we work together.

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**Thank you for joining me in this
exploration!**

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Let's Connect!!!

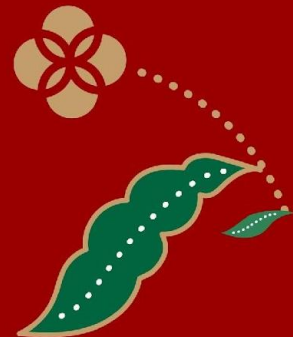
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