



ENDANGERED NATIVE AMERICAN LANGUAGES: THEORETICAL AND PRACTICAL APPROACHES IN MODERN LINGUISTICS

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Abstract: *This article explores the endangered languages of Native American communities, analyzing the theoretical and practical approaches of modern linguistics to preserve and revitalize them. The study highlights the historical, cultural, and social causes of language endangerment, while focusing on documentation, digital technologies, and community-based revitalization efforts. The findings emphasize the importance of linguistic diversity and the urgent need to support these languages.*

Keywords: *Endangered languages; Native American; modern linguistics; revitalization; documentation; language diversity*

INTRODUCTION.

Language endangerment is one of the most pressing issues in modern linguistics. In the context of Native American communities, hundreds of indigenous languages have disappeared since the arrival of European colonizers, while many others remain critically endangered. The loss of these languages means the loss of cultural heritage, worldview, and traditional knowledge. This paper explores the theoretical foundations and practical measures taken within modern linguistics to preserve and revitalize endangered Native American languages.

Causes of Language Endangerment

Several historical, political, and socio-economic factors have contributed to the decline of Native American languages. Colonial assimilation policies, forced displacement, and boarding schools in the 19th and 20th centuries aimed to erase native identities through language suppression. Today, globalization, urban migration, and the dominance of English in education and media further accelerate language loss.

Modern Linguistic Approaches

Modern linguistics provides both theoretical and practical tools to address the problem of language endangerment. Theoretical approaches emphasize language documentation, classification, and typological analysis. Practical approaches involve revitalization programs, the use of digital technology, and community-based initiatives. Documentation projects, such as audio and video recordings, help preserve the phonological and grammatical structures of endangered languages. Meanwhile, digital platforms provide accessible resources for language learners and teachers.

Case Studies

In North America, several revitalization initiatives have been implemented. The Cherokee and Navajo languages, for instance, have benefited from immersion schools, online courses, and dictionary projects. Although challenges remain, such initiatives demonstrate that endangered languages can be revitalized if local communities, linguists, and governments collaborate effectively.

Conclusion

The study of endangered Native American languages illustrates the crucial role of modern linguistics in preserving linguistic diversity. Both theoretical frameworks and practical revitalization strategies contribute to



maintaining cultural heritage. Future success depends on interdisciplinary cooperation, long-term commitment, and the integration of technology into language preservation.

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