

Language Revival / Language Revitalisation



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Overview

- 1.) Language Revival in General
- 2.) Revival of the Hebrew Language
- 3.) Gaelic Revival

1.) Language Revival in General



1.) Language Revival

- “Language revitalization, language revival or reversing language shift is the attempt by interested parties, including individuals, cultural or community groups, governments, or political authorities, to reverse the decline of a language.”

(http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Language_revitalization)

1.) Language Revival

- Examples

- Hebrew
- Irish/Gaelic
- Welsh
- Cornish
- Galician
- Basque
- Catalan
- ...

Possible Reasons for Language Revival?

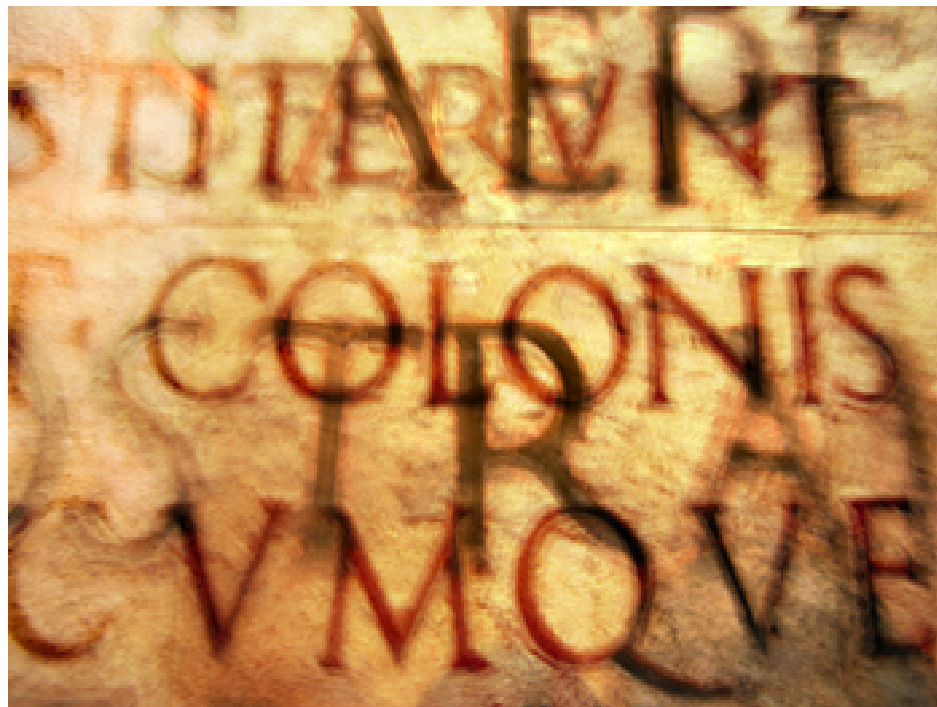
1) Language Revival

- To preserve a language / prevent its extinction
 - To preserve the “richness” of having many different languages
- In countries with a colonial history: to restore the language of the colonised instead of speaking the language of the colonisers
- To strengthen a cultural / ethnic identity by reviving the language of that culture/ ethnic group
- Language as a heritage which shouldn't be lost
 - Roots of an identity in a language
- To unify an ethnic group under one language and give them their identity
- To unify many cultural groups under one language

1) Language Revival

- David Crystal (UK linguist, academic, author)
 - 6 factors which help endangered languages to progress
 - The language will progress if the speakers of that language...
 1. increase their prestige within the dominant community
 2. increase their wealth
 3. increase their legitimate power in the eyes of the dominant community
 4. have a strong presence in the education system
 5. can write down the language
 6. can make use of electronic technology
- > Is language all about power and prestige?

What are possible strategies for language revival?



1) Language Revival

Joshua Fishman's model for reviving threatened or dead languages (8 steps) :

1. Acquisition of the language by adults, who in effect act as language apprentices (recommended where most of the remaining speakers of the language are elderly and socially isolated from other speakers of the language).

2. Create a socially integrated population of active speakers (or users) of the language (at this stage it is usually best to concentrate mainly on the spoken language rather than the written language).



1) Language Revival

3. In localities where there are a reasonable number of people habitually using the language, encourage the informal use of the language among people of all age groups and within families and bolster its daily use through the establishment of local neighbourhood institutions in which the language is encouraged, protected and (in certain contexts at least) used exclusively.

4. In areas where oral competence in the language has been achieved in all age groups encourage literacy in the language but in a way that does not depend upon assistance from (or goodwill of) the state education system.

5. Where the state permits it, and where numbers warrant, encourage the use of the language in compulsory state education.

6. Where the above stages have been achieved and consolidated, encourage the use of the language in the workplace (lower worksphere).

7. Where the above stages have been achieved and consolidated encourage the use of the language in local government services and mass media.

8. Where the above stages have been achieved and consolidated encourage use of the language in higher education, government etc.

1) Language Revival

Get the young people interested!

- Teach the language in schools
- Offer them:
 - music,
 - radio programs,
 - tv-programs,
 - websites,
 - books etc. in the language

2) Revival of the Hebrew Language

									
Yod (Y)	Tet (T)	Chet (Ch)	Zayin (Z)	Vav (V)	He (H)	Dalet (D)	Gimel (G)	Bet (B/V)	Alef (silent)
									
Ayin (silent)	Samech (S)	Nun (N)	Nun (N)	Mem (M)	Mem (M)	Lamed (L)	Khaf (Kh)	Kaf (K/Kh)	
									
Tav (T)	Shin (Sh/S)	Resh (R)	Qof (Q)	Tsadeh (Ts)	Tsadeh (Ts)	Feh (F)	Peh (P/F)		

2) Revival of the Hebrew language

- From about the 7th century onwards Hebrew became more and more a written language, used only in religious contexts
- End of the 19th / beginning of the 20th century a revival of the Hebrew language took place
 - Establishment of the state of Israel in 1948 with Hebrew as the official language
 - Hebrew as a language to unify Jews from all over the world

2) Revival of the Hebrew language

- 1st Aliyah – 1880s
Jews from Eastern
Europe & Yemen
migrated to Palestine

- First Hebrew schools
established in their
settlements



- 2nd Aliyah early 1904 -
1914 century Jews
from mainly Russia &
Poland migrated to
Palestine

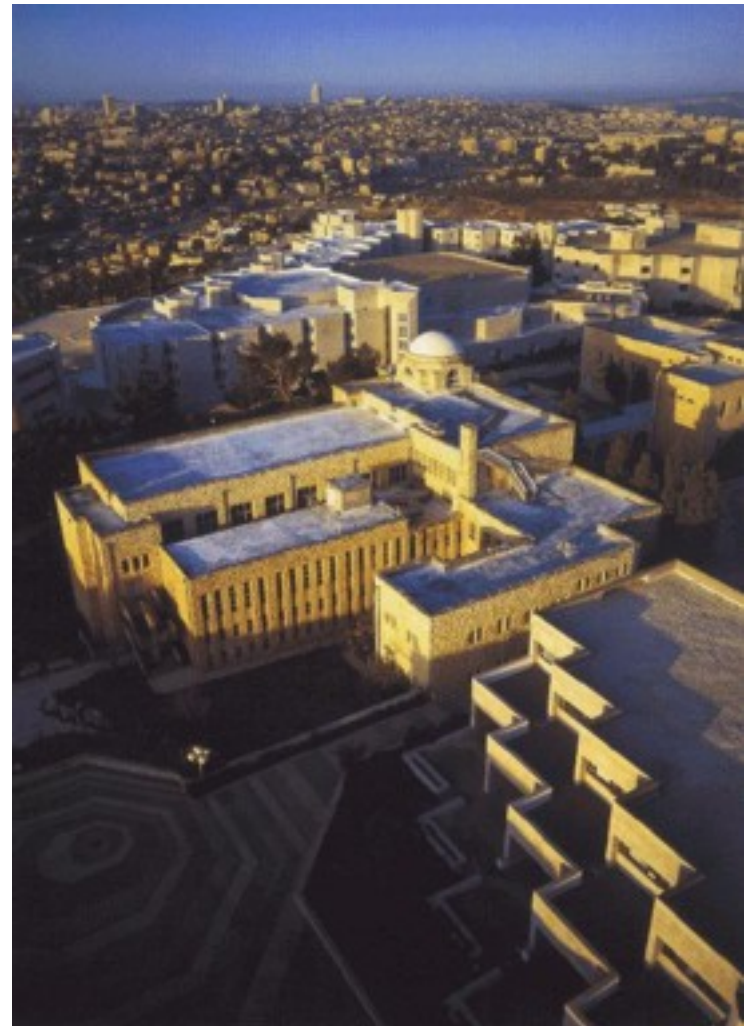
- Kibbutz movement
- First Kibbutz founded
in 1909 (Degania Alef)

2) Revival of the Hebrew Language

- 3 stages
- 1st stage: Hebrew school in the settlements (1st Aliyah)
- 2nd stage: Hebrew used in assembly meetings and public activities (2nd Aliyah)
- 3rd stage: Hebrew was the language used by the Jewish population during the British Mandate Period.

2) Revival of the Hebrew Language

- This resulted in the establishment of:
 - Hebrew high schools
 - The Hebrew University of Jerusalem
 - The Jewish Legion
 - Tel Aviv as the first Hebrew City



3) Gaelic Revival

Dún do shúile a ghrá mo chroí
Téigh a chodladh is lig do scith
Dún do shúile, dún iad a ghrá
Teigh a chodladh go dtiocfaidh an lá

Close your eyes my darling one
Go to sleep and take your rest
Close your eyes, close them, my dear
Sleep until the daylight is here

*Special thanks to
&
translated by
Ms. Deheney*

3) Gaelic Revival

- Gaelic had been pushed aside by English, leaving only a few speakers in isolated rural areas
- Late 19th century interest in ancient Irish folklore, songs & art also lead to interest in the Gaelic language
- Gaelic was introduced in pre-school, primary and secondary education
- Some classes are offered in Gaelic at universities throughout Ireland

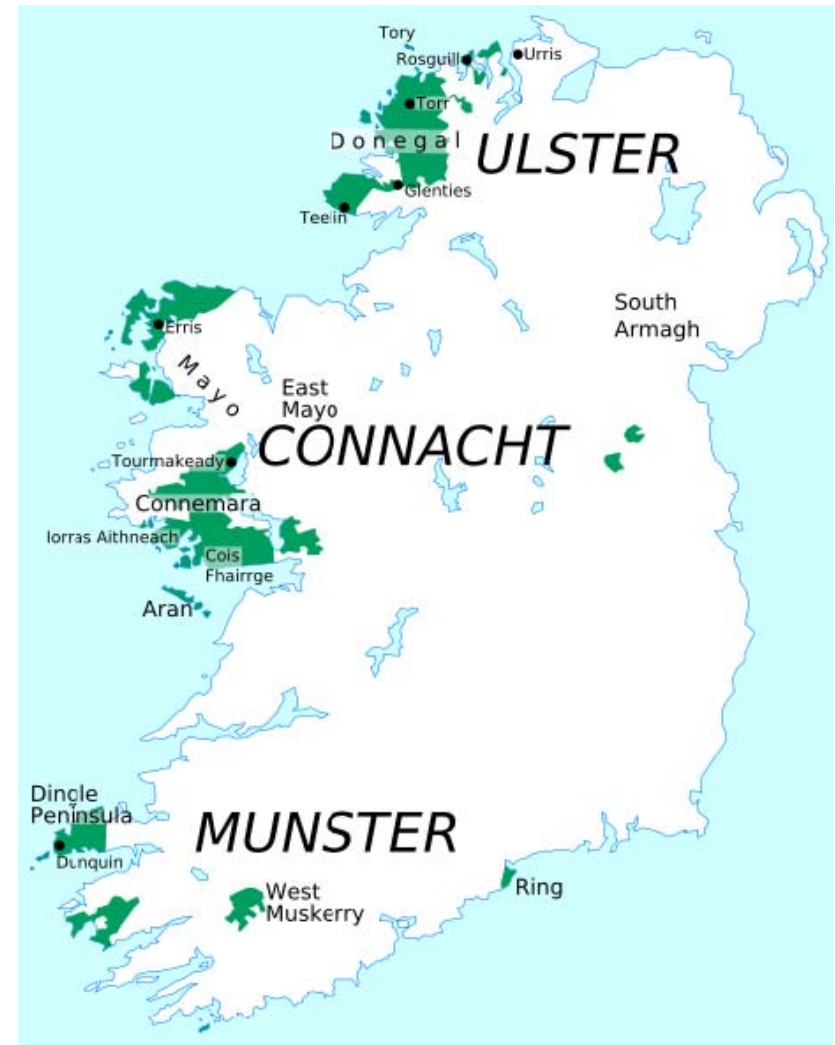


3)Gaelic Revival

- 1,656,790 (41.9% of the total population aged three years and over) regard themselves as competent Irish speakers.
- Of these, 538,283 (32.5%) speak Irish on a daily basis, 97,089 (5.9%) weekly, 581,574 (35.1%) less often, and 412,846 (24.9%) never
- 3% of the population have Gaelic as their home-language

3)Gaelic Revival

- The Gaeltacht: Area in which the government recognises that Irish is the predominant language
- In these areas: 70.8% aged three and over speak Irish
 - approximately 60% speak Irish on a daily basis.



3)Gaelic Revival

- In Northern Ireland: 10.4% of the population understand Irish to some extent
- In 2005 Irish was to be made an official language of the European Union
- Irish was first used at an EU meeting in 2007 (after the decision was official)



Thank you for your attention! :-)