Language News across the World 2025

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Africa

According to new data from Ethnologue compiled by Visual Capitalist, Nigerian Pidgin has become the most spoken language in Africa in 2025, with 121 million speakers. This makes it rank 14th globally ahead of Egyptian Arabic, Hausa, and Swahili. The report highlights the widespread usage of Nigerian Pidgin within the country and among foreigners, emphasizing its unifying role in communication (*The Guardian Nigeria News,* 5 September 2025).

Africa, home to over a quarter of the world's languages (over 2,000), faces significant underrepresentation in Artificial Intelligence (AI) development due to limited investment and scarce textual data. Most AI tools predominantly rely on English, other European, and Chinese languages, excluding many African languages primarily transmitted orally. For instance, ChatGPT recognizes only 10–20% of Hausa sentences. Initiatives like the African Next Voices project aim to record speech in various African languages to improve AI applications. Experts emphasize the importance of linguistic inclusion to prevent marginalization and loss of cultural heritage (*Nature & Africanews*).

Asia

The world's first BA program in Magar Studies has started at Nepal Open University. The Magars are an indigenous ethnic group of some 2 million people in Nepal with their own language (of the Sino-Tibetan family). Some 145 students expressed interest in this course. The Magar language activists are now working to establish a MA program in the same field.

The 2nd International Conference on Geolinguistics Trends: Language Contact, Conflict, Policy and Pedagogical Practices took place in Kathmandu, Nepal, on August 29–30. The conference topics focused on new approaches to understanding geolinguistics as a discipline dealing with the implementation of language policy in specific spatial and temporal conditions and on the challenges of preserving and developing the indigenous languages of Nepal and other countries. The conference adopted a memorandum with a new definition of geolinguistics, a statement about the possibility of "peaceful coexistence" of local, national and international languages, and some recommendations for further geolinguistic research around the world.

An international group of researchers used computer-assisted statistical analysis to study the authorship of Old Testament biblical texts. Measuring differences in word frequencies, the authors came to the conclusion that the oldest part of Deuteronomy and Deuteronomistic History (Joshua to Kings) are more closely related to each other than to Priestly writings, thus mathematically confirming the consensus of biblical scholars (*PLOS One,* vol. 20. no. 6).

Archaeologists and AI experts have unearthed a 3,000-year-old Babylonian hymn, offering unprecedented insights into ancient Mesopotamian society. The discovery reveals details about daily life, gender roles, and cultural practices in Babylon. The international team reconstructed fragments of clay tablets using artificial intelligence, reassembling a complete text that was thought lost forever. The hymn, consisting of approximately 250 lines, describes the city's architecture, agricultural abundance, and religious rituals, highlighting the significance of women as priestesses and protectors of justice. Its poetic depiction of nature and society contributes significantly to our understanding of ancient Mesopotamia, demonstrating the potential of modern technology in revitalizing forgotten heritage (*Iraq & Archeology News*).

Australia

Australia's linguistic diversity is set to play a pivotal role in shaping the country's identity and policies in 2025. With over 76% of residents speaking English at home, the remaining population speaks a variety of non-English languages, reflecting the nation's multicultural society. Efforts to revitalize indigenous languages and accommodate migrants contribute to this dynamic landscape. Engaging effectively with multilingual audiences is also crucial for businesses aiming to thrive in this diverse environment. Additionally, ongoing discussions focus on integrating linguistic diversity into national strategies, ensuring equal opportunities for all citizens regardless of their primary language (*TransLinguist,* 24 February 2025).

North America

People effortlessly utter countless words daily but beneath this apparent ease lies a complex neurological process. New findings obtained by a team of American researchers highlight the critical role of the middle precentral gyrus (mPrCG) in orchestrating speech fluency. Located within the frontal lobe, this region meticulously prepares and coordinates muscle movements needed for speech production, ensuring syllables emerge smoothly and sequentially. Disruptions here lead to hesitations, mispronunciations, and errors, especially in complex phrases. Moreover, the mPrCG's proximity to areas linked to reading and writing implies a broader role in organizing all forms of communication. Understanding these mechanisms may open doors to improved therapies for speech impairments and underscores the importance of deliberate practice for maintaining speech fluidity (*Nature Human Behaviour & Psychology Today*).

UN supports the ongoing efforts to promote linguistic diversity in artificial intelligence technologies. The dominance of English in AI systems presents challenges for non-English speakers, who experience limited and inaccurate responses. Advocacy groups, particularly La Francophonie, have pushed for inclusivity in AI policies, resulting in the adoption of the UN Global Digital Compact (a framework for AI regulation). Despite progress, issues persist, including algorithm biases favoring English content and inadequate representation of minority languages. Technological companies like Google have committed to expanding language coverage, but substantial obstacles remain in achieving true linguistic equality in AI applications (*UN News,* 23 March 2025).

Russia

A round table discussion on polyglottery research was held as part of the 21st International Symposium on Psycholinguistics and Communication Theory on June 6. The topics included the historical dynamics of multilingual education in Russia, from 18th-19th century aristocratic families to Soviet-period polyglots (Dina Nikulicheva), motivational foundations of polyglottery by reference to the self-determination theory (Grigory Kazakov), and experimental use of AI-based tutors for achieving conversational competence in German (Alan Bigulov). The participants also discussed methods to measure language acquisition, bilingual education of children, and contemporary relevance of polyglottery.

South America

Discontent with the limitations of ChatGPT in handling Latin America's linguistic and cultural nuances has prompted the creation of Latam-GPT, an open-source AI model developed collaboratively across the region. Led by Chile's National Center for Artificial Intelligence (CENIA), Latam-GPT aims to provide accurate responses in local languages, including Indigenous tongues like Nahuatl and Quechua. Despite challenges such as insufficient data and regulatory inconsistencies, proponents believe Latam-GPT will empower local communities and promote equity in AI adoption (*Rest of World,* 15 July 2025).

Western Europe

A study conducted at the Leibniz Institute for the German Language investigated the relationship between language complexity and communication efficiency. Using computational language models trained on a massive multilingual dataset, the researchers revealed that more complex languages tend to achieve greater efficiency in encoding information. Despite requiring additional cognitive effort to process, these languages utilize fewer symbols to convey equivalent meanings. Furthermore, the research indicates that larger language communities typically adopt more complex but efficient forms of communication. This aligns with the hypothesis that institutionalized education enables greater linguistic complexity, while practical demands drive the optimization of expression length (*PLOS Complex Systems,* vol. 2, no. 2).

Black people adapt their accents and dialects depending on the context to navigate societal pressures and biases. Accents evolve from diverse influences such as media, education, and cultural interactions, leading to complex linguistic identities. The practice of code-switching serves both as a strategy for inclusion and exclusion, reflecting broader issues of race, class, and power dynamics. Shifting accents can also have an emotional impact, from feelings of discomfort to moments of validation. Thus, code-switching is a necessary adaptation for many Black individuals who live in predominantly white societies (*The Guardian,* 3 September 2025).