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hilary_smith@xtra.co.nz

Language and development

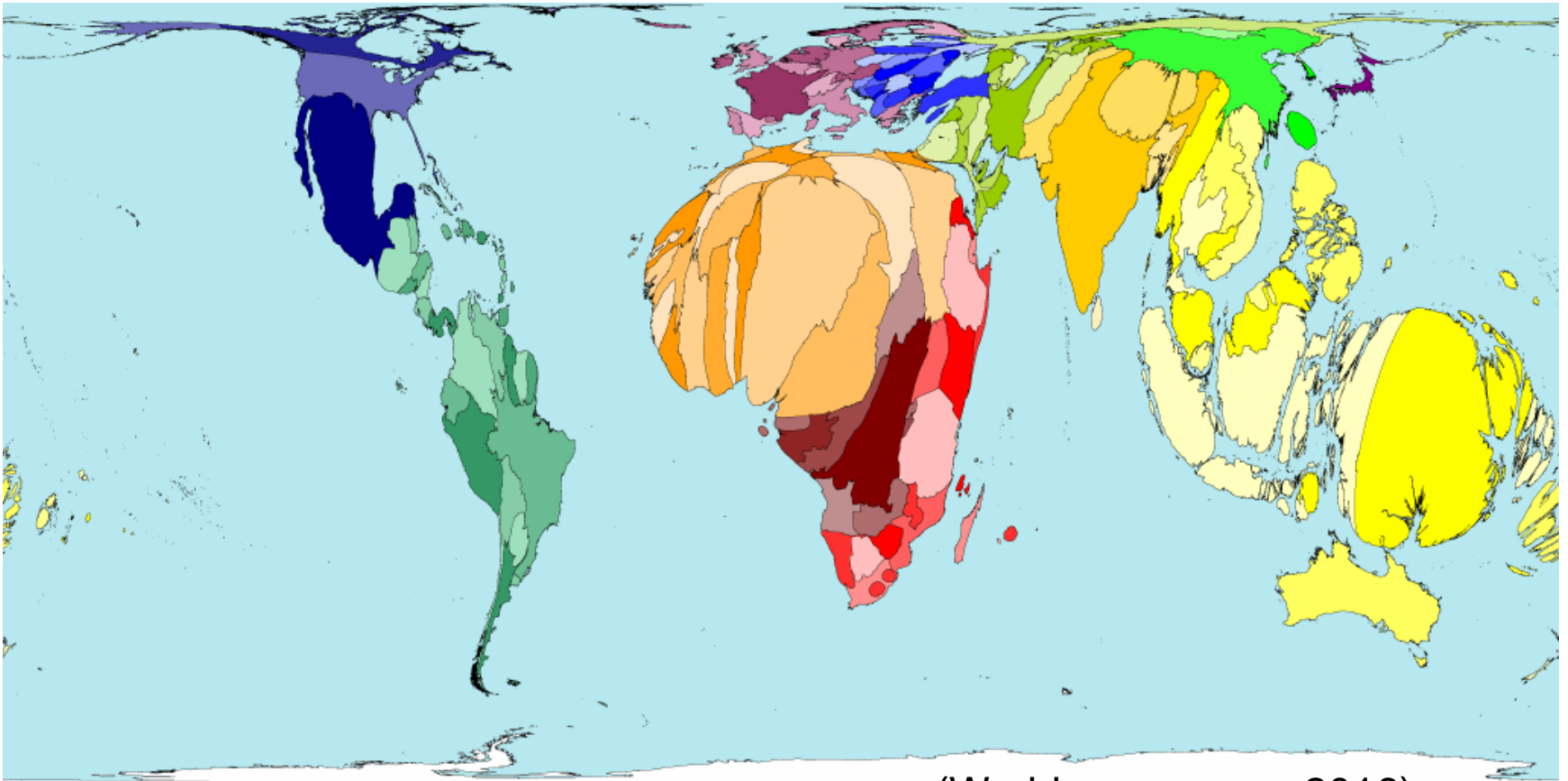
(Casey & Owen, 2014)

High ethnolinguistic diversity tends to co-occur with:

- Topographic heterogeneity
- Rapidly growing populations
- Low economic growth

... Australasian region?

Territory size shows the **proportion of the world's Indigenous living languages** that are spoken there.



(Worldmapper.org, 2016)

Linguistic dimensions of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs)

(Language and the UN, 2016):

1. Language as a **goal**
‘a substantive element of the goal itself’
2. Language as a **tool**
‘a means of communication, dialogue, response and implementation’

Language dimensions of the SDGs (examples)



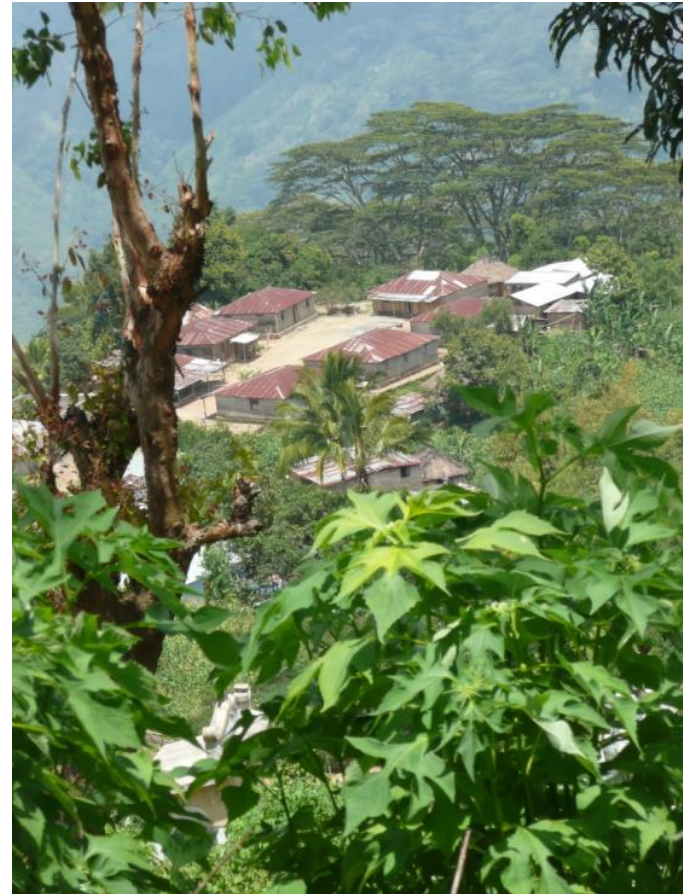
- Illiteracy/pre-literacy highly correlates with poverty



Language dimensions of the SDGs (examples)



- Marginalised/remote communities are more likely to speak minority languages → need to communicate effectively



Language dimensions of the SDGs (examples)



- Everyone needs to be able to understand health promotion materials

Language dimensions of the SDGs (examples)



- Mother-Tongue based Multi-Lingual Education (MTB-MLE) most cost-effective: cognitive, social, cultural benefits – and faster to other languages

Language dimensions of the SDGs (examples)



- Girls' education in Mother Tongue has even more benefits

Language dimensions of the SDGs (examples)



- Everyone needs a 'voice' in decision-making, e.g. for privatisation of water

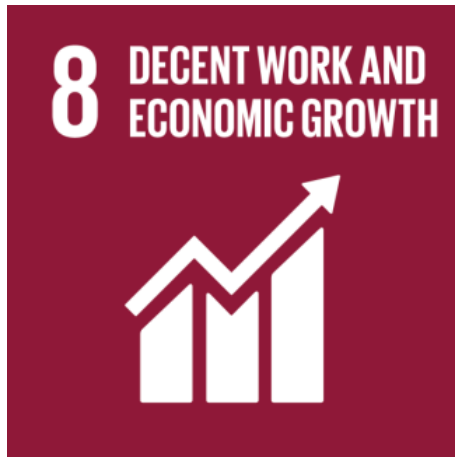


Language dimensions of the SDGs (examples)



- Dialogue with stakeholders will ensure sustainability of innovations

Language dimensions of the SDGs (examples)

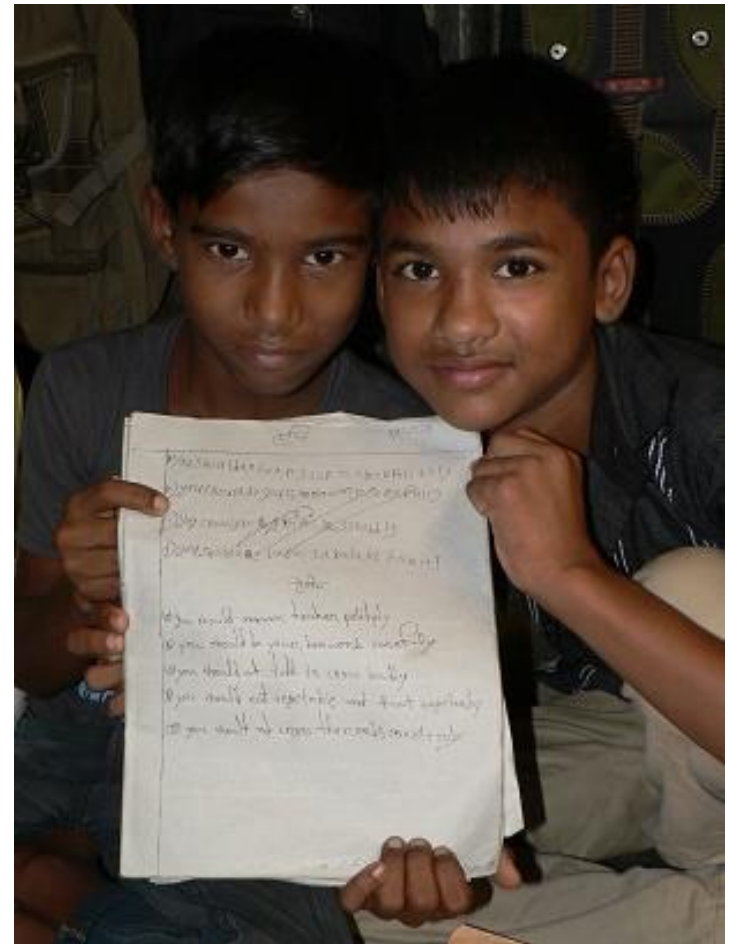


- Access to official and ‘international’ languages = opportunity for work

Language dimensions of the SDGs (examples)



- Linguistic issues underpin sustainable growth



Language dimensions of the SDGs (examples)



- Increasing power of a global Anglophone élite

Language dimensions of the SDGs (examples)



- Disaster preparedness plans need to reach all language groups

Language dimensions of the SDGs (examples)



- Traditional knowledge systems encoded in language



Language dimensions of the SDGs (examples)

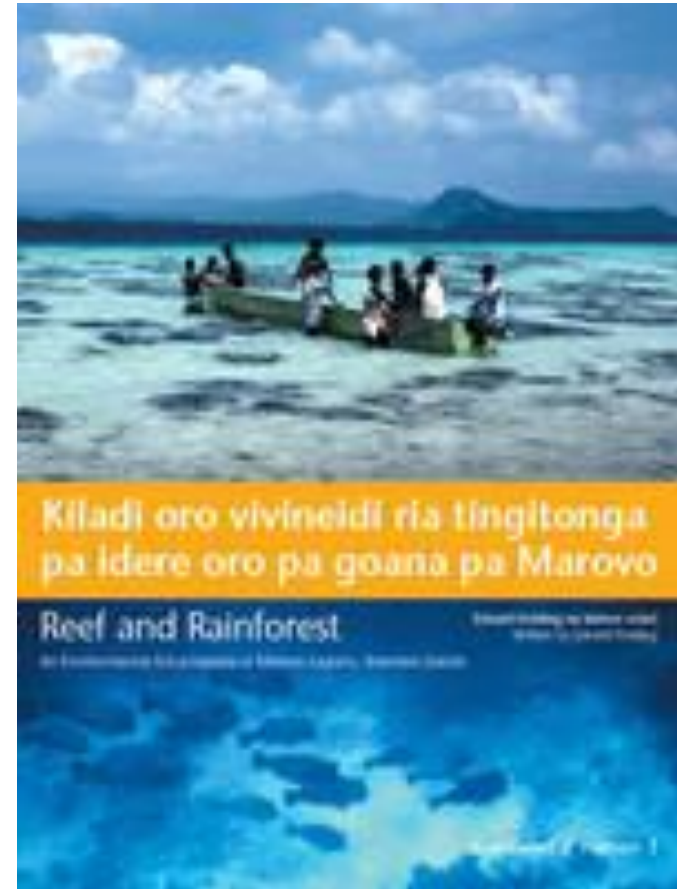


- Climate change mitigation efforts more sustainable if linked in to traditional concepts

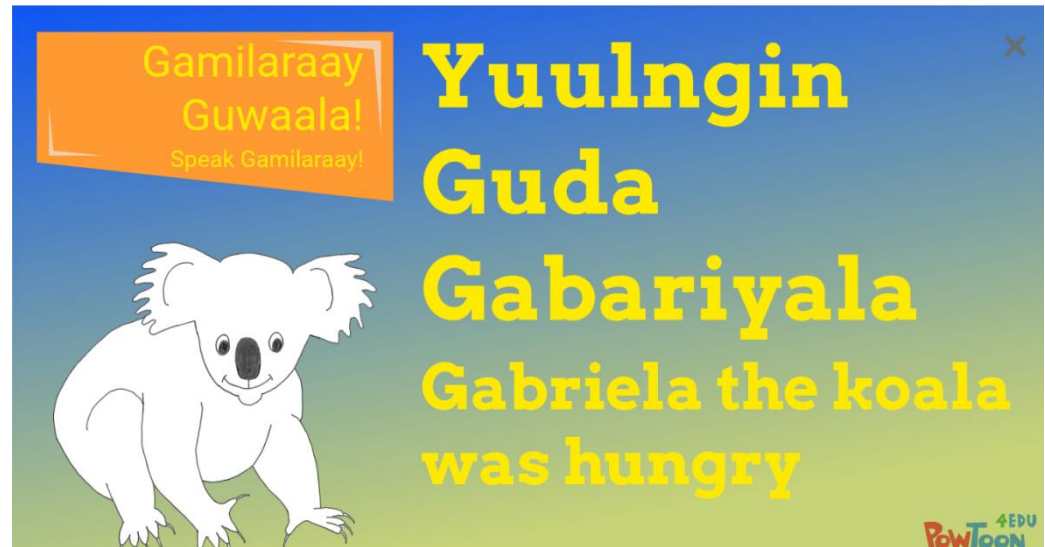
Language dimensions of the SDGs (examples)



- Local languages carry traditional knowledge about the sustainable use of marine resources



Language dimensions of the SDGs (examples)



- Ethnobotany links to linguistic knowledge of terrestrial ecosystems

Language dimensions of the SDGs (examples)



- Languages are central to cultural identity (→ justice, peace, inclusiveness)

Language dimensions of the SDGs (examples)



- Translation and interpretation will enable everyone to be included in the partnerships

Conclusion

Language and the UN (2016, p. 2):

‘[T]here is an urgent need to include language at the planning, implementation and assessment stages of each of the SDGs.’

→ aid projects and programmes



References

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