

Hotspots of vanishing languages identified

Every two weeks a language dies. By the turn of the next century, more than half of around 7,000 languages spoken on this planet – many never recorded – are likely to disappear, taking with them a wealth of knowledge about history, culture, and how we communicate and store information

NORTH AMERICA

Around 54 indigenous languages losing out to English in British Columbia in Canada and U.S. states of Washington and Oregon. *Only one person now speaks **Siletz Dee-ni** – last of 27 languages once spoken in Oregon*

SOUTHWESTERN U.S.

Oklahoma, Texas and New Mexico have 40 languages. *Only five elders speak **Yuchi** – believed to be unrelated to any other language*

CENTRAL, EASTERN

SIBERIA: Government policies have forced speakers of 23 minority languages to use dominant languages. *Fewer than 30 people speak **Tofa**, which packs high density of meaning into single word*

SOUTH AMERICA

113 languages endangered in Andes Mountains and Amazon basin. ***Kallawayá** maintain secret language full of information about medicinal plants, some previously unknown to science. Fewer than 100 speakers remain*

NORTHERN AUSTRALIA:

Queensland, Northern Territory and Western Australia are home to 153 languages. *There are just three known speakers each of **Magati Ke** and **Yawuru** languages*

