Ministry Talk tidbits
By the time you finished high school, you had acquired 100,000-200,000 words. 5,500-11,000 new words per year, 15-30 new words per day (Brown 1991)
Black English Example

• “I was in my hoopty around dimday when some mad duck with a tray-eight tried to take me out of the box.”

• I was in my car around dusk when a woman with a .38 caliber gun tried to kill me.
Embracing

- Canada, Switzerland, other “legally” bilingual countries
- United Kingdom: Road signs in Scotland now in English, two types of Gaelic; Scotland permitted to have its own parliament, money, postage stamps
- China: Right to practice all languages and cultures guaranteed in the constitution; colorful cultural celebrations encouraged
- Thailand (2003): Non-Formal Education Department enthusiastic about bilingual education for “hilltribes.”
- France (1982): new laws giving more rights to Breton, Languedoc, etc.
- Cambodia: several on-going bilingual literacy projects
- United Nations: Linguistic and Cultural Rights as Human Rights
- European Union: Linguistic and Cultural Rights guaranteed by law
European Union

• “The Committee of Regions and the Bureau for Lesser Used Languages are both active in promoting regional identities, and regional and other minority languages, respectively.” (May, 238)
Wales
Catalonia (Spain)

- 5 million speakers
- Past policy of repression under Franco (since 1939)
  - “mere dialect”
  - “barking like dogs”
- 1978: Could be taught legally
- 1997: Schools have choice between Catalan and Spanish programs
  - 90% chose Catalan!
Basque (Spain)

- 1876: Lost their sovereignty
- 1930s: Under Franco “Franco’s harsh policies towards the Basque Country served to deepen sentiments of nationalism among all levels of Basque society, whereas previously they had only existed among relatively small groups of intellectuals in the urban populations.”
- “Franco…prohibited any displays of the Basque culture, outlawing any use of the Basque language, forbidding education in Euskera, even forcing the people to drop their Basque surnames. [thus] gave credence to the people’s fear of cultural annihilation.” But—they had illegal, secret schools anyway!
- Now Ikastolas teach Euskera as language and Spanish as subject – although in other schools it is only a subject. Since 75
- Still ongoing to integrate language into school
- www.cogs.susx.ac.uk/users/larryt/basque.html
Welsh (United Kingdom)

• 508,098 speakers (compare to Karen!)
• 1988: Education Reform Act
• Welsh in Schools
  – 1971: 67 Welsh-speaking kindergartens
  – 1992: 617 Welsh-speaking kindergartens
  – Some University classes available in Welsh (especially for teachers)
Irish

- 1970-1994: 80 “Naionrai” schools that teach in Irish
United Nations on Language

• 1966: International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights (ICCPR), Article 27

“In those states in which ethnic, religious or linguistic minorities exist, persons belonging to such minorities shall not be denied the right, in community with other members of their group, to enjoy their own culture, to profess and practice their own religion, or to use their own language.” (May, 187)
United Nations on Language

- 1996 Draft Universal Declaration of Linguistic Rights, Article 25
  - “It includes the right of linguistic communities to have the necessary resources at their disposal ‘to ensure that their language is present ot the extent they desire at all levels of education within their territory: properly trained teachers, appropriate teaching methods, text books, finance, building and equipment, traditional and innovative technology.’” (May, 187)
United Nations on Language

- Draft Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples (1993), Article 15 (maybe be revised—check on web!)
  “…all indigenous peoples have…the right to establish and control their educational systems and institutions provide education in their own languages, in a manner appropriate to their cultural methods of teaching and learning.”
European Union (EU)

• European Charter for Regional and Minority Languages (1992)
  – Advocates linguistic rights for minority language speakers
USA (150 Native American Languages)

- University Courses in Native American (Indian) Languages available in
  - Lane Community College (Oregon)
  - Navajo College
  - University of Arizona (Arizona)
  - University of Alaska
  - Oklahoma State University

- Bill Gates (Microsoft) provided money for computer based language instruction for Tohote Otum, Hopi, Apache, Navajo, etc.
USA

- Florida: Community Radio broadcasts in Mayan (minority language of South America) to help immigrants
- Alaska: Native language classes as electives in middle school (P5-M2), as well as summer courses and language camps
- Clear Lake, California: High school students learn Bahtsssal language using DVDs, etc.
USA

• Oklahoma: Preschool through Primary 2 taught in Cherokee language
• Websites for Cree, Dene, Dakota, Nakota, Lakota, Nakawe
• Montana High Schools offer Blackfeet
New Zealand

• Maori language taught in “language nests,” as well as via television and radio
Morocco

• September 2003: Government allowed teaching of Berber language in schools ((as opposed to French and English!))
Australia

• Virtual Library for Australian Aboriginal Languages contains 224 resources for 70 Australian languages (www.dnathan.com/VL/austLang.htm)

• 2004: Policy allowing Aboriginal children from kindergarten to M 4 study their languages in schools (with good community involvement)
  
  – “Aboriginal children themselves who’ve studied it find school more relevant and therefore their attendance rate is better…their own school achievement is improving as well—for Aboriginal students who take these language courses—on their other subjects as well.” Andrew Refshuage, Minister for Education and Aboriginal Affairs
Nepal

• 2005: Government proposes 10 mother-tongue courses to be taught at University level
Canada

• Government spent $600 million trying to “exterminate all the children’s knowledge of their native languages”
• 2005: Government apologizes to the Native Peoples, agrees to negotiate more rights
Gaelic (UK-Scotland)

- Taught in schools for 20 years now
- 1985: 20 students; now 3,000
- Problem: shortage of teachers
- (newspaper article)
- Scotsman Newspaper has some columns in Gaelic in both print and on web
Celtic (Ireland)

• In the constitution, Irish is the first official language and English the second official language

• Gaelscoileanna schools all-Irish, also radio, TV
Thailand

• Ratchapat University, Chiang Rai, Center for Ethnic Studies plans to offer courses in 16 minority languages, including Akha, Lahu, Bisu, Tai Ya, Northern Thai, Lisu, etc.
Lanna (Thailand)

- More than 60% of M4 students and 70% of parents support idea of compulsory Lanna classes
- Association of Lanna Teachers working on curriculum.
## Banning Languages (cont.)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Languedoc</th>
<th>French</th>
<th>English</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Mas perque, perque</td>
<td>Mais pourquoi, pourquoi</td>
<td>But why, why</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>M’an pas dit a l’escola</td>
<td>Ne ma’at-on pas dit a l’école</td>
<td>Did they not speak to me at school</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>La lega de mon pais?</td>
<td>La langue de mon pays?</td>
<td>The language of my country?</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Banning Languages (past)

- Australia: Aboriginal children taken from their cultures, placed in boarding schools where they were forbidden to speak their language or practice their culture.
- United States: Native American (Indian) languages forbidden in government schools; Cajun English forbidden in schools in Louisiana; Swedish children shamed.
- Korea: Japanese movies and songs banned
- Argentina: Faroese (Falkland Island native language) banned
- Russia: Ukrainian, Lithuanian, Georgian, Armenian, Azerbaijan, etc. banned by the Russian tsars.
- Thailand: 1913 the Northern Thai Lanna script banned—survived quietly in temples
- France: School children who spoke Breton forced to wear a wooden shoe around their necks; other regional languages discriminated against. French Academy also outlawed “Franglais” words (loan words from English) in advertising.