

2019 : "A language originates at a particular place and diffuses to the other locations through the migration of its speakers" Examine this statement in the context of language hot spots and endangered language hot spots.

Frame Geography of language involves linguistic regionalisation on the basis of linguistic families. Thus globally 12 linguistic regions are demarcated. This question involves three important aspects -

- language hearths → diffusion (ways involved)
- language hot spots
- endangered language hot spots (causes)

⇒ By default the answer must include the potential and mobilised ways to recover, revive and restore endangered languages.

Answer Over the millennia, some 7,000 human languages evolved around the world. To define language is a systematic means of communicating ideas or feelings by use of vocal sounds. Vocalization being the significant most aspect of language.

On the broadest scale languages belongs to language family (collection of different languages with same

origin) Language families are divided into language groups (set of languages with relatively recent common origin) - Spanish, French, Italian - Romance languages deriving from Latin.

Diversities also exist within individual language as standard language and dialects (regional variants of standard language)

As language makes heart of culture - every source region of culture makes hearth / origin of language.

⇒ World linguistic hot spots are locations of diverse, significant, unique linguistic characteristics. Notable examples include -

- a) Papua New Guinea - 800 spoken languages
- b) India - > 450 spoken languages
- c) Vanuatu - > 130 spoken languages
- d) Indonesia - > 700 spoken languages
- e) Canada - multiple indigenous languages

⇒ From multiple hot spots diffusion of languages around the world involves influence of multiple factors

- i) Colonialism & Imperialism - Making languages like English, French, Spanish and Portuguese spoken in regions far away from their origins

- ii) Trade & Commerce - as silk route facilitated linguistic exchange & diffusion as traders interacted with local people.
- iii) Migration - relocation diffusion, where people moving from one location to other, bring their languages with them.
- iv) Religion - spread of Christianity led to adoption of Latin in Europe, while spread of Islam led to diffusion of Arabic in North Africa.
- v) Modern technology - CIT - technological advancements, academic exchanges have accelerated diffusion.

⇒ Language endangerment

It is estimated that about 25 languages disappear from use annually, at this rate $> \frac{1}{2}$ of world's language will be extinct by 2100. Causes of language endangerment includes -

- i) Globalisation - inter connectedness increases dominance of major languages - English, Mandarin - marginalising smaller languages
- ii) Urbanisation - shifts communities away from their ancestral languages
- iii) Social attitude - -ve attitude towards minority language & greater social status with dominant

- iv) Language Policy - official language policy - tends to neglect minority languages
- v) Envrtal factors - languages tied to enclosed physiographic - climatic conditions - are more susceptible to endangerment.

Endangered language hot spots -

Though there are multiple endangered language hot spots, top five includes -

- a) Australia - >100 languages are @ risk of extinction here - Gugu - Yaway & Magatike
- b) Siberia - Traditional languages as Tofa is being overtaken by Russian.
- c) South America - includes Brazil and Andean countries
- d) NW Pacific - N. America - from British Columbia: Alaska to Oregon
- e) Oklahoma - USA - having highest density of indigenous languages - approx. 43.

Way forward : -

Conserving language endangered hotspots requires concerted efforts at various levels - local, national to international. Among the ways to conserve languages -

- i) Documentation and Research: through linguistic studies recording oral histories, creating dictionaries and compiling grammar guides to help preserve linguistic knowledge
- ii) Language Revitalization within communities, to facilitate intergenerational language transmission
- iii) Community empowerment promoting pride in indigenous languages, by involving inter community links and language preservation
- iv) Policy & legal support as giving recognition to minority languages, including them in education system along with legal protection against discrimination
- v) Public awareness about imp. of linguistic and cultural diversities for sustainable development

⇒ complementing these measures successful revival has been made - Hawaiian and Conversational Hebrew.