

I^a Isolated, Extinct, and Revival Languages

A. Isolated languages

1. Defined as languages without a language family
2. Ex: Basque - only surviving language from the period before the arrival of European speakers

3. Undergoing a revival, due to many factors

a) Want to maintain their distinctive culture

Ex: Elders teaching young people, Cornish in England

b) Devolution: transferring power from a higher level to lower level of gov. or separatist (regional autonomy)

Ex: Gov allows a minority language to be used: Welsh

Ex: Separatist promote the local language as a way to resist central gov or pop culture

c) Unity in a multicultural state

Ex: Adopting two or more languages (official) to reduce the threat of secession.

d) Nationalism

Ex: Some newly independent states re-establish the indigenous language as a statement of political or cultural independence

- Israel = Hebrew

e) Modern Electronic Communication

• allows small groups of people to stay in touch and re-inforce the minority language

Ex: Internet, T.V, Magazines

A Tourism

Ex: Wanting to see an authentic experience: Welsh, Irish