

Language Variation

Now, 7000 languages are spoken in the world. However, the half number of these languages will disappear within this century.

The number of language spoken by only 100 to 999 people is over 1000.

The number of language spoken by only 10 to 99 people is over 300.

The number of language spoken by only less than 9 people is 114.

25000 languages will disappear in the future. Especially 576 languages are in so dangerous situation. The number, 25000, include the number of language which had been already extinct. In 2010, it is said that 228 languages had been extinct.

Why language extinction is happened?

Languages which are spoken by many people in the world have advantages when you want to find a job, get a good education and so on. These languages give people opportunities. In other word, languages spoken by less people cannot give any opportunity.

As result of language extinction, the diversity of the earth is in danger of losing. Losing language means losing culture.

What is more, Japanese is the kind of language which is in dangerous situation. 8 languages – Ainu, Yajo-go, Amami-go, Kunigami-go, Okinawa-go, Miyako-go, Yaeyama-go and Yonaguni-go – are carried in UNESCO's report of languages in dangerous situation. Despite this situation of them, few the Japanese realize it.