

The I.S.E Declaration on Multilingualism

Although,

Understanding that, English is the Lingua Franca in the I.S.E community.

Understanding that, English is the chosen language of instruction.

Understanding that, English provides means of communications for sharing knowledge.

Understanding the fundamental value of common language, which presents possibilities for mutual understanding and international cooperation. (Crystal)

Whereas, the majority of languages are vulnerable not just to decline but also to extinction. (Crystal)

However,

Whereas, there is a tendency in most educational institutions to limit cultural plurality and reduce linguistic pluralism. (UDLR 1996)

Whereas, the goal of rendering the world wide communication space compatible with equitable participation of all peoples, language, communities and individuals in educational process. (UDLR 1996)

Whereas, recognition of the inherent dignity and of the equal and inalienable rights of all members of the human family is the foundation of freedom, justice and peace in the world. (UDLR 1996)

Whereas, cultural identity including rituals, music and art is expressed through language. (Crystal)

Whereas, language is not only an element of culture itself; it is the basis for all cultural activities. (Foundation for Endangered Languages)

Whereas, in order to ensure peaceful coexistence between language communities, overall principles must be found so as to guaranty the promotion and respect of all languages and their social use in public and in private. (UDLR 1996)

Whereas, an endangered language will progress if its speakers increase their prestige within the dominant community. (Crystal)

Whereas, an endangered language will progress if its speakers have a strong presence in the educational system. (Crystal)

Whereas, an endangered language will progress if its speakers can write their language down. (Crystal)

Whereas, an endangered language will progress if its speakers can make use of electronic technology. (Crystal)

Article 1.

All languages are equal in dignity and right.

Article 2.

All persons are entitled to the freedoms and rights set forth in this Declaration, without distinction of any kind, such as, race, language, gender, and national or social origin.

Article 3.

Everyone has the freedom of expression.

Article 4.

Education shall be directed to the full development of human personality and to the strengthening and respect for human rights and fundamental freedoms. (Article 26 UDHR 1948)

Article 5.

Everyone has the right to maintain and develop ones own culture. (Article 3 UDLR 1996)

Article 6.

Everyone is entitled to increase the prestige of their language in the I.S.E community.

Works Cited

David Crystal *Language Death*

David Crystal *English as a Global Language*

Universal Declaration of Linguistic Rights (UDLR 1996)

Universal Declaration of Human Rights (UDHR 1948)

Foundation for Endangered Languages