

PETER K. AUSTIN, Ed. *One thousand languages: Living, endangered, and lost*. Berkeley, Los Angeles: University of California Press. 2008. Pp. 288.

This compendium of information provides an excellent picture of the distribution of the world's languages, geographically and by population, in a handy reference volume. We encounter, for example, figures showing that eight languages are spoken by 40% of the world's population, while more than one quarter of languages in the world are spoken by fewer than 1,000 speakers, along with the distribution of languages by region, by number, and by population.

The eleven chapters into which the book is divided, based on geographical distribution, with separate chapters for endangered and extinct languages, are supplemented with a two page glossary of language terms, an index of languages, and 24 pages of color-coded maps. Chapters include:

1. World Languages	NICHOLAS OSTER
2. European Languages	GLANVILLE PRICE
3. North and West African Languages	FRIEDERIKE LÜPKE AND PHILLIP J. JAGGER
4. Central, East, and Southern African Languages	NANCY KULA AND LUTZ MARTEN
5. South Asian Languages	ANJU SAXENA
6. Central, Western, and Northern Asian Languages	KRAGAN ATIK
7. East and Southeast Asian Languages	DAVID BRADLEY
8. Australia-Pacific Languages	NICHOLAS THIEBERGER AND DR. RACHEL NORDINGER
9. Languages of the Americas	NICHOLAS OSTLER AND JOSÉ ANTONIO FLORES FARFÁN
10. Endangered Languages	LENORE GRENOBLE
11. Extinct Languages	NICHOLAS OSTLER

Language entries, fortified by graphic images, which range in scope from two pages for some of the major languages (Chinese, French, etc..) to four per page for minority languages, offer encyclopedic information about geographical distribution, speaker population, history,

taxonomic affiliation, orthography, and basic features, along with, for many entries, a table for the numeral system, one to ten.

This breadth of information about such a wide variety of languages is available nowhere else, outside of language encyclopedias, which typically limit their content to taxonomy and basic features, and which are mainly available in libraries and on the bookshelves of specialists. The material provided is useful to linguists seeking reference outside their normal fields, cultural anthropologists, and other students outside the language disciplines whose interests carry them into the territory of language, to whom it is also accessible. The geographical organization of the languages presented here makes this reference all the more useful and enhances the experience of using it. Indeed the preparation of this review was delayed on numerous occasions by the writer's digressions, scanning from one page to the next, reviewing the familiar and lingering over the fresh and the new.

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