

[Discussion notes]

A glimpse of the scope of linguistic human rights

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Abstract: When I am confronted with almost 100% of my entire village children ages between 4 – 5 years old speaking Tok Pisin as their first language or mother tongue, I am seriously uncomfortable! What is happening to their local vernaculars? Why aren't their parents speaking the local vernaculars to them? Someone, somewhere, at sometime, denied such a vulnerable speaking population, like the children alluded to above, their rights to acquire or learn their local vernaculars. This paper is from the perspective of a professional classroom teacher, discussing an issue of significant importance. Linguistic Human Rights (LHR) must be talked about constantly and proactive steps must be taken to address the concerns raised. Are there abuses of LHR's in PNG? What are the up-dated figures of extinct PNG languages? The professionals out in the field need to come to such forums and provide the up-dated data.