**Ch. 5 Languages**

**Key Issue 1 Where Are the World’s Languages Distributed?**

**Rubenstein, p.146-153**

1. Define **language**:
2. Why is the study of languages so important (and why does Rubenstein prioritize it first among other cultural topics)?

**I. INTRODUCING LANGUAGES**

1. Compare the amount of multi-lingual Americans with people of other parts of the world.
2. What percent of Europeans learn English?
3. The diffusion of languages is largely due to \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ diffusion.
4. The interplay between \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ helps

explain the distribution of individual languages and entire language families around the world.

1. a. *Ethnologue* estimates that the world has \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ languages.
2. Only **11** languages are spoken by at least 100 million people. Below at left, list your guesses as to the top 11 spoken languages worldwide. (Don’t google, just guess. Then, we’ll go over in class.)

- Guesses: Top 11: 1. 7.

2. 8.

3. 9.

4. 10.

5. 11.

6.

1. \_\_\_\_\_languages are spoken by at least 10 million speakers.
2. And approximately \_\_\_\_\_ languages are spoken by between 1 and 10 million people.
3. The remaining \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ languages are spoken by fewer than \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ people.
4. a. Define **institutional language**:

b. Define **official language**:

c. What is the main difference between an **institutional language** and an **official language**?

d. One would think most all citizens would know a country’s official language, but this is not always the

case? When/why?

1. Countries can have more than 1 \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_.
2. (Guess. We’ll discuss in class.) In the U.S., English is (circle) an **institutional language**/**official language**.
3. a. What is a **literary tradition**?

b. Not all languages have a literary tradition.

1. Define **developing language**:

ii. Define **vigorous language**:

\*\*Languages can also be considered to be in trouble or dying.

1. Languages are organized into families, branches, and groups. Define each. Additionally, using the following pages, identify the family, branch, and group for English.
   1. **Language family** –

English:

* 1. **Language branch** –

English:

* 1. **Language group** –

English:

**II. LANGUAGE FAMILIES**

*\*\*Familiarize yourself with Figure 5-3. While you don’t have to memorize the figure, be comfortable interpreting it.*

1. Refer to figure 5-3. What does the difference in shading between the “trunks” and “roots” signify?
2. a. Some biologists, including Quentin Atkinson, and linguists believe all languages can be traced to

\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ (region & continent).

b. They support this claim by arguing that languages in this region are the most \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

because…

1. While there are 142 language families, \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ are used by \_\_\_\_\_\_\_% of the world’s population.

**III. TWO LARGEST LANUAGE FAMILIES**

1. What are the two largest language families?
2. Compare the distribution of the two largest families:
3. Is “Chinese” a language? (Answer by taking notes on this concept.)
4. Which language family has the widest distribution worldwide?

**IV. OTHER LARGE LANUAGE FAMILIES** - *Take notes on each of the following language families as you read about them in this section (i.e. how many people speak a language of that family, where spoken, common languages, etc.).*

Southeast Asia Language Families

* Austronesian
* Austro-Asiatic
* Tai Kadai

East Asia Language Families

* Japanese
* Korean

Other Asian Language Families

* Dravidian
* Altaic
* Uralic

African Language Families

* Afro-Asiatic
* Niger-Congo
* Nilo-Saharan

America’s Other Language Family:

* Quechuan