

Oneida Language Matters

United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples, Article 14



- Indigenous peoples have the right to establish and control their educational systems and institutions providing education in their own languages, in a manner appropriate to their cultural methods of teaching and learning.
- Indigenous individuals, particularly children, have the right to all levels and forms of education of the State without discrimination.
- States shall, in conjunction with indigenous peoples, take effective measures, in order for indigenous individuals, particularly children, including those living outside their communities, to have access, when possible, to an education in their own culture and provided in their own language.

“There is an urgent need for leadership and action to promote & protect Indigenous languages from extinction”

Res. no. 55-2010 AFN, December 2010. Assembly of First Nations



what is.. bilingualism?

bilingual |bi'li ng gwəl|

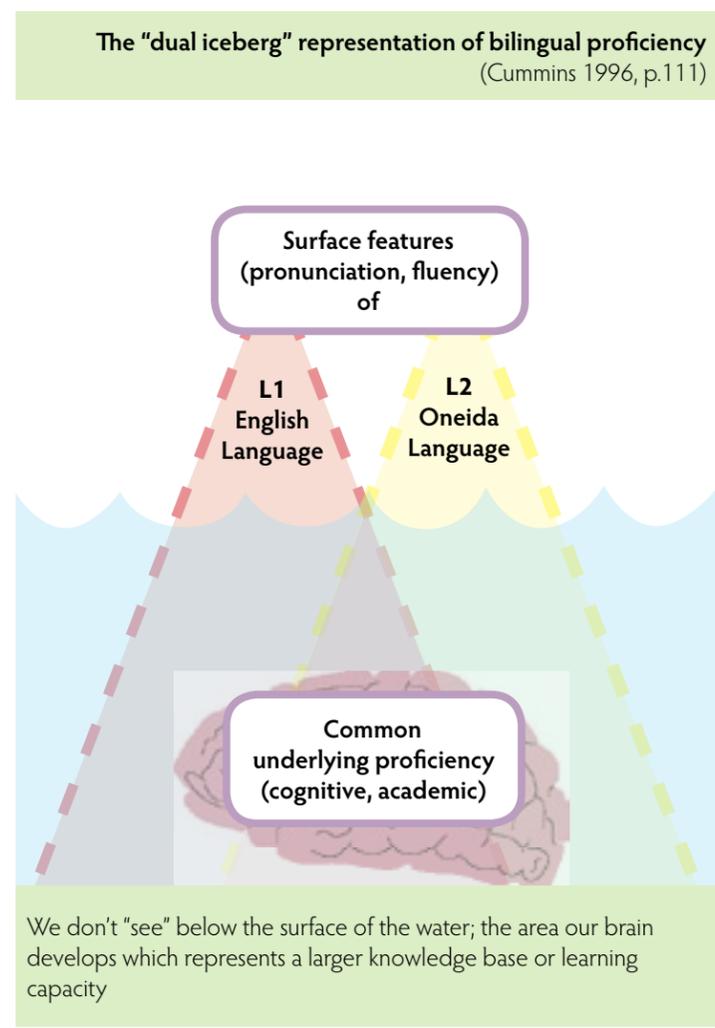
adjective-(of a person) speaking two languages fluently: a bilingual secretary.
 • (of a text or an activity) written or conducted in two languages: bilingual dictionaries | bilingual education.
 • (of a country, city, or other community) using two languages, esp. officially: the town is virtually bilingual in Dutch and German.
noun-a person fluent in two languages.
 DERIVATIVES - bilingualism |-, lizəm| noun
 ORIGIN mid 19th cent.:
 from Latin *bilinguis*, from *bi-* 'having two' + *lingua* 'tongue' + *-al*.

Definition of Bilingualism as an Educational Goal

A bilingual speaker is one who is able to function in two (or more) languages either in single or multi-lingual communities, in accordance with community expectations, at the same level as native speakers. And who is able to identify positively with both language groups and cultures or parts of them (Skutnabb Kangas 1984.)

Dr. Jim Cummins from University of Toronto, has done extensive research on bilingualism that shows without a doubt, that a person who can function in two languages has an increased intellectual capacity from being able to draw from two sets of rules and knowledge to address & resolve any problem arising. Hence bilingual students tend to score significantly higher on EQAO testing in gr.10 and beyond.

In 1996, the Ontario government established the Education Quality and Accountability Office (EQAO) to design new tests for grades 3, 6, 9, 10 in reading, writing and mathematics



Studies have shown that when an individual learns two languages at the same time this opens up more brain function areas than that of a single language learner

Oneida Language... critically endangered?

The government of Canada finally signed the United Nations Declaration on the rights of Indigenous Peoples on Nov. 2010. The Assembly of First Nations quickly followed up with a Resolution calling for the Canadian government to provide immersion schools in all First Nation communities. Our work with promoting Oneida

language is met with concern from some parents and grandparents that learning Oneida will somehow stunt or hinder their students use of English. A commonly expressed

concern is that we need a strong command of English to do well in schools, colleges and universities to gain access to the job market. This is a true fact. However research has shown that having good English does not have to be at the expense of our mother tongue Oneida. We can do both and be better off for it. This is also a true fact.

Definition of Critically Endangered Languages

The youngest speakers are in the great-grandparental generation, and the language is not used for everyday interactions. These older people often remember only part of the language but do not use it on a regular basis, since there are few people left to speak with. UNESCO

Annex A: Table 1. Names and Number of 86 Languages from 3rd edition of UNESCO Atlas Identified in ALI Database (2004-05 to 2008-09) by Province and Territory

Provincial / Territorial Location of Language Classified	55 UNESCO Languages in ALI Language Name	UNESCO Level of Endangerment	31* UNESCO Languages Not in ALI Language Name	UNESCO Level of Endangerment	Total Number of 86* UNESCO Languages
Ontario					
Ontario	Cree (Moose)	Vulnerable			
Ontario	Mohawk	Definitely endangered	Ojibwe (Central)	Definitely endangered	
Ontario			Ojibwe (Eastern)	Severely endangered	
Ontario			Ottawa	Severely endangered	
Ontario	Munsee	Critically endangered	Cayuga	Critically endangered	
Ontario	Oneida	Critically endangered	Onondaga	Critically endangered	
Ontario	Potawatomi	Critically endangered	Seneca	Critically endangered	
Ontario			Tuscarora	Critically endangered	
Ontario: Total Languages	5		7		12

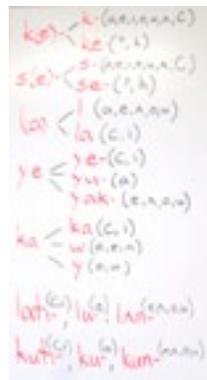
Sources: UNESCO. 2009. UNESCO's interactive atlas of the world's languages in danger: <http://www.unesco.org/culture/ich/index.php?lg=EN&pg=00139> ; Norris, M.J. 2010 a: "Canada and Greenland" in UNESCO Atlas of the world's languages in danger, ed. Chris Moseley. Paris: UNESCO Publishing; Norris, M.J. 2010 b. "Aboriginal Languages Initiative (ALI) Database Analysis of Projects, 2004-05 to 2007-08: Analytical Report". Unpublished report prepared for Aboriginal Affairs Directorate, Department of Canadian Heritage; Norris, M.J. 2009. "Linguistic Classifications of Aboriginal Languages in Canada: Implications for Assessing Language Diversity, Endangerment and Revitalization"; Canadian Diversity Journal, Vol.7:3, Fall.

Oniyota'a:ka TetwawΛnakhani

July class an ... *Amazing Success!!*

We were extremely excited to offer the opportunity to learn the “mechanics” of the Oneida Language with David Kanatawakhon. He teaches this language mechanics course in the Mohawk language at the University of Western Ontario. . .

We plan to provide a continuation class or Part 2 of the Oniyota'a:ka TetwawΛnakhani to practice using what we already learned in July; beginning on Tuesday Sept. 20, 7 - 9 p.m. Location: Oneida Training Centre; weekly on Tuesday evenings thereafter.



A big YawΛko to S.S.S. for letting us use a classroom to accommodate the 24 signed up participants. We were also glad to see another 6 who were not signed up but we made enough

room for them to join us. *We want to encourage interested people to sign up for the new intake session which will be offered in July 2012. . . .*

Basic Interpersonal Communication Skills (BICS) can be developed in about 2 years a relatively short time.

ONEIDA DAY at the WESTERN FAIR is Monday Sept. 12 - gates open at 3:00 p.m.

Agenda:

- 3:00 - 4:15 film festival - premier release of new animated shorts; Move to Canada
- 4:15 - 5:00 social & smoke dance demo
- 5:15 - 6:00 lacrosse demo
- 6:15 - 7:15 live music performance by the Rez Dawgs
- facepainting, souvenir button-making; language demo table, Oneida language bingo
- cornsoup, fry bread, strawberry drink for sale til sold out (donations of fry bread appreciated)