

Код УГПС – 05.00.00

НАУКИ О ЗЕМЛЕ

Тема 1. Роль иностранного языка.

## The Language Situation in the Republics of Russia

According to a new study, about 100 languages are at risk of disappearing completely within the next few decades. The study by the Russian Academy of Sciences shows that the most endangered languages are those spoken in the small republics of Russia.

### 1 READING

**a. Answer the question.**

*Why do you think some languages disappear?*

**b. Read the text to check your ideas.**

Most of these languages have fewer than 1,000 speakers and are only used by older people. In the future, they will probably not be passed on to younger generations.

The reasons for this are complex, but one important factor is the increasing use of Russian as the main language of communication. Many young people prefer to speak Russian because it gives them more opportunities for work and education.

In some cases, the situation is even more serious. For example, the Chukchi language, which is spoken in the far north-east of Russia, has only about 5,000 speakers, and most of them are over 40 years old. There are very few young people learning the language, so it may die out completely within the next 50 years. However, there are also some positive signs. In some areas, local governments are working hard to protect and promote minority languages. They are setting up schools where children can learn their mother tongue, and they are producing books and newspapers in these languages. Some languages are also being taught in universities, and there are now several dictionaries and grammars available.

In addition, there are many people who are actively involved in language preservation projects. For example, in the Sakha Republic, a group of young people have started a rock band whose songs are in the Sakha language. They hope that this will help to make the language more popular with young people. Much more needs to be done to protect minority languages in Russia, but perhaps these examples show that there is still hope for the future.

- disappear – пропадать
- endangered – исчезающий
- increasing – возрастающий
- minority – меньшинство

- preservation – сохранение
- protect – защищать
- mother tongue – родной язык
- be involved – быть вовлеченным



## 2. SPEAKING

**Discuss the following questions in pairs.**

- a. Can you name some of the most widely spoken minority languages in Russia's republics?
- b. How does the language situation in Russia compare to other countries with multiple official languages?
- c. What other efforts could be made to preserve endangered languages in Russia's republics?

## 3 WRITING

*Write an email to a local government official in a Russian republic, expressing your concerns about the decreasing use of native languages and the need for preservation efforts. Use the target vocabulary to explain the impact of this issue and suggest possible solutions.*

### **Target Vocabulary:**

languages, endangered, increasing, minority, preservation, protect, against, relate, native, disappear, result