

“THE ENDANGERMENT OF THE YUI LANGUAGE.”

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The Yui language of the Salt Nomane area in Simbu Province, PNG has around 6000 speakers. The Yui language is dissipating fast due to the influence of English and Tok-pisin as a result of the rural-urban drift to towns and cities on a larger scale. Therefore, with the recent developments and the lure of towns and cities, the rural-urban migrant drift also escalated on a massive scale. Approximately 70 – 80% of all Yui speakers between the ages of 15 – 55 have left the villages and migrated into towns and cities of PNG. Approximately 90% of these migrants speak Tok-pisin most of the time. Their children grow up in total ignorance of the Yui language since Tok-pisin is taking over in the settlements and English the language of instruction for the migrants' children at school. In this paper I aim to discuss how the influence of Tok-pisin prevents the young Yui generation (especially children and teenagers) living in settlements from knowing and speaking Yui. I will also discuss how English has obstructed the young Yui children in schools from further knowing or even desiring or seeing the need to learn, value and speak their native tongue. This is a serious problem since Yui language is moving towards endangerment if nothing is done to document it.