

MIGRATION: NOW AND THEN

THE INFLUENCE OF MIGRATION ON LANGUAGES

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Teacher led

PRE-LESSON ACTIVITY

Answer these questions using your current knowledge on the topic:

1- Where did humans originate?

2- What do you understand by “migrant”?

3- What are the causes of XIX and XX centuries migrations?

4- Name two examples of mass migration in the XIX and XX centuries:

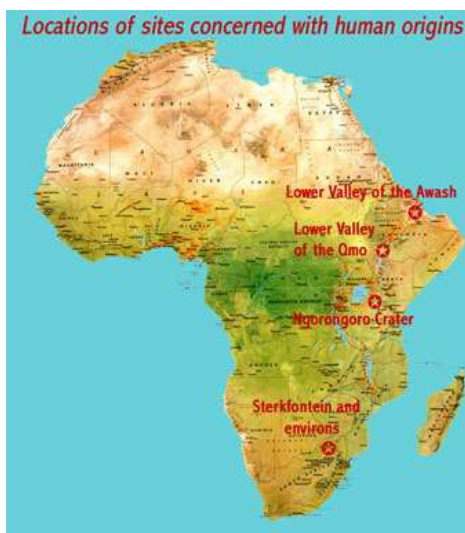
5- How do you think languages started?

6- How does migration influence on languages?

7- What do you understand by “language acquisition”?

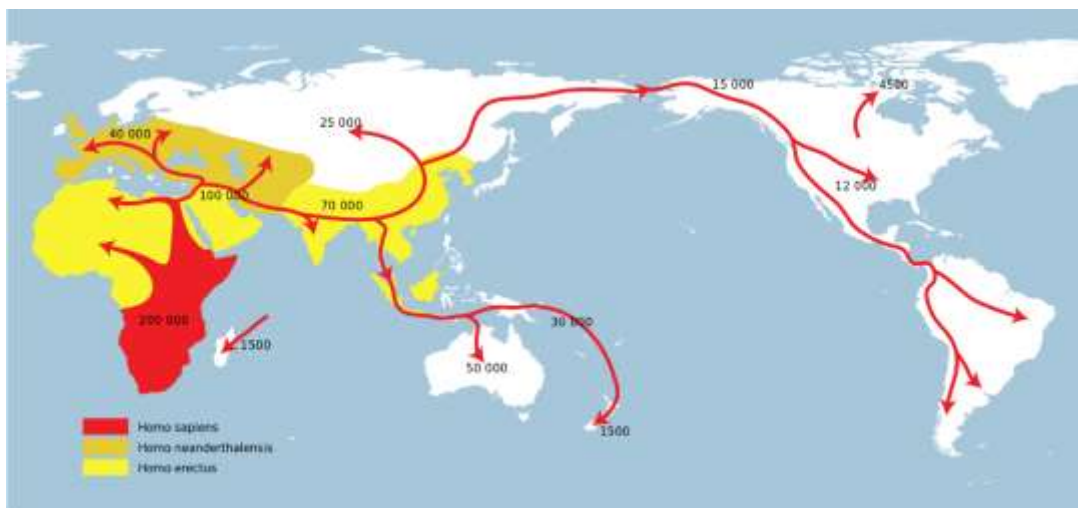
1. ORIGIN OF HUMANS

Africa is where we first evolved. The earliest fossils of recognizably modern *Homo sapiens* appear in the fossil record at Omo Kibish in Ethiopia, around 200,000 years ago.



1.1 FIRST MIGRATIONS

Prior to the advent of farming about 12,000 years ago, humans were constantly on the move. Even then, not everyone settled and someone was always pushed out and had to go and look for new livelihoods elsewhere. It is thus no exaggeration to say that mobility is part of our DNA – it is a species characteristic.



How, when and why did fellow *Homo* species and our own *Homo sapiens* start moving all over the place?

2. MODERN MASS MIGRATIONS

- ❖ **Before XIX century** Slave trade

2.1 XIX and XX CENTURIES MIGRATION

MASS MIGRATIONS:

- ❖ Slave trade
- ❖ Great Atlantic Migration
- ❖ The partition of British India into India and Pakistan
- ❖ “Italian diaspora”

EXPULSIONS:

- ❖ by Hitler Germany
- ❖ by the Soviet Union

CAUSES of migration in the 19th and 20th centuries vary.

2.2 MIGRATION NOW

At present, there is no internationally agreed definition of who a migrant is.

What are the differences between “migrants, expats, asylum seekers, refugees, IDPs (Internally Displaced People)”?

Reasons: why people move homes and countries nowadays?

2.3 CONSEQUENCES:

POSITIVE

- There is an increase of income for countries of origin due to savings sent home.
- Host countries increase workforce and the taxes
- Higher birth rate = rejuvenated population
- Cultural diversity

NEGATIVE

- Decrease in workforce in countries of origin.
- Difficulties integrating
- Xenophobia

3. THE ORIGIN OF LANGUAGE

There are two age-old beliefs regarding the origin of the world's present linguistic diversity:

- 1) The oldest belief is that there was a single, original language.
- 2) The second hypothesis holds that, as humans evolved parallel in more than one location, each group developed its own unique language.

3.1 EVOLUTION OF LANGUAGES

INDO-EUROPEAN LANGUAGES

Languages which belong to the same family: Proto-Indo-European language, which is no longer spoken.

The Indo-European languages have a large number of branches: *Anatolian, Indo-Iranian, Greek, Italic, Celtic, Germanic, Armenian, Tocharian, Balto-Slavic and Albanian.*

LANGUAGE ACQUISITION THEORY

Noam Chomsky postulated that the mechanism of the language acquisition is derived from the innate processes, he called it “Universal Grammar”.

4. THE INFLUENCE OF MIGRATION ON LANGUAGES

Or it is quite the opposite? Do migrants move taking into account the language of the countries they migrate to? Or do they migrate and then adapt to the language?

4.1 IMPERIALISM

In the Roman Empire Latin was embraced as the de official language.

The Byzantine Empire was located in what is now Eastern Europe and two languages were used: Greek and Latin.

4.2 COLONIALISM

Modern European empires of the 16th to 19th centuries tried to completely transform the colonized land into an exact replica of their homeland: that obviously included language.

Here there are some examples:

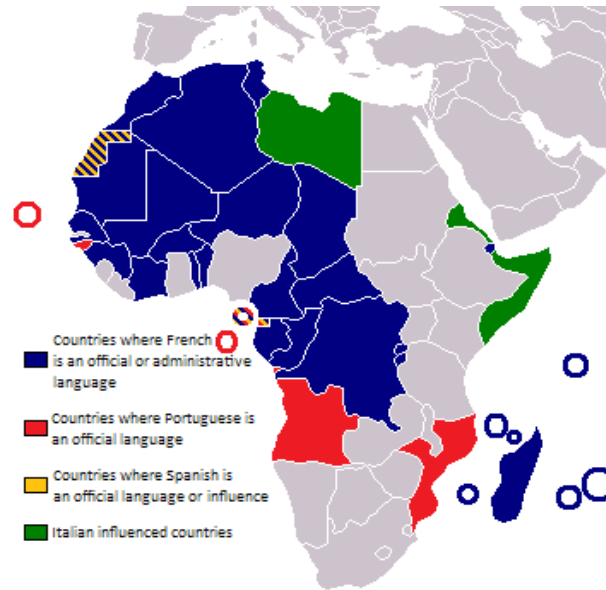
- Spain sailed across the Atlantic, so Spanish spoken in Central & South America, except for Brazil.



- English can be heard in North America, Australia, South Africa, Hong Kong or India.



-French is spoken throughout Africa, as well as parts of Polynesia and the Caribbean.



As we think about the influx of refugees and safety-seekers in Europe now, we can expect to see some significant modifications in the language repertoires of the migrants as Arabic speakers learn German, French or English, as their children may become more proficient in those second languages than they are in their mother-tongue

POST-LESSON ACTIVITY

1. Search on the Internet and answer the questions:

a) Why are there false friends? what are they? State 6 examples in total from different languages.

b) What is the original meaning of these words and what language do they come from?

- (English) Robot:
Boomerang:

- (Spanish) Siesta:
Fiesta

- (Danish) Brutal:
Uge:

- (French) Cabaret:
Toujours

- (Italian) Parola:
Immagine

- (German) Gut:
Schön

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