

Language management of Nahuatl in Mexico

This thesis describes the current status of Nahuatl language, and discuss its functioning and position within the institutional structures of Mexican society, as well as language community in the municipality of Chicontepec in northeastern Mexico. Nahuatl is one of the best-known indigenous languages with wider distribution across the Mexico and according to the latest census, there are one and half million speakers of the language.

The aim of this paper is to present the key moments of the relationship between Spanish and Nahuatl. The paper analyzes how to manage the problems associated with the language problems associated with Nahuatl and other indigenous languages from the second half of the twenty century to the present.

On the basis of empirical data describes in detail the use of Nahuatl and the transmission within the selected families and communities in the bilingual Chicontepec. In four communities discussed the linguistic behavior of the population with emphasis on intergenerational language transmission. The Nahua community have experienced over the past 30 years, the linguistic dynamic changes that result in different language skills in different generations, genders and social groups.

One of the main conclusions is that the administration of Nahuatl thematically goes backward in the past. The Spanish administration is focused on the younger generation and future oriented , which reflects the language needs for life in the city and not the needs of local communities.