

Romeyka Everlasting

Everlasting Connection

Language, Time, Society, & Technology

Zeyneb N. Kaya

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*Dedicated to the Romeyka community
Thank you.*

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Prologue

Connection is the single greatest strength of humanity. The instrument of language has enabled the passage of stories and values, of knowledge and ideas, of self and surroundings. It is as much an inventor as it is an invention, facilitating the creation of civilization, logic, and perception itself. And in this way, language becomes intertwined – inseparable – from connection as it is through time, society, and technology. These four themes will arise again and again in the discussion of connection.

Embedded with wisdom, cultural values, and historical interactions, diverse languages hold diverse perspectives and views of the world that, together, enable the creativity that is the most powerful tool to address the building problems that continue to arise. Yet it becomes apparent that man's power to create comes with a destructive nature. We face a decline of human cultures and knowledge unlike anything before in the course of history: the language crisis has arrived, with languages falling extinct around the world at a rapid pace towards an approaching dystopia. This coincides with a rapid growth in technology and the possibilities of computation. It falls in our hands to guide the direction of this power, whose impact on society is inevitable.

Protecting diversity is a multifaceted problem requiring making sense of connection in all of language, time, society, and technology. In the chapters that follow, I explore the path

that extends forward and what must be done to address inclusivity and language through paralleling journeys of my own experiences and the history of the world in a way that hasn't been told before.

In particular, I discuss Romeyka Everlasting, the non-profit organization that works towards language preservation with the core principle of taking this holistic approach to the revitalization and cherishing of diversity with connection.

It is a call to think about and to love – one another and ourselves.

Language, Time, and Society

The Language Crisis

With every word, we build. Words build stories, stories build knowledge, knowledge builds the evergoing conversation of human growth. We thus build the world we live in with these words and around these words. But there is a gap in this architecture, made accommodating for those whose words aren't heard. What happens when the building begins to crumble? Addressing the most pressing issues of the world will come down to communication, contributing to that conversation of human growth. In order to do that, the voices that aren't heard, that are silenced, are valuable to unite diverse backgrounds and perspectives. This perhaps most distinguishably human quality of language is central to every part of our life. The diversity of over 7,000 languages spoken across the world, however, is fragile. Every two weeks, with the unheard death of a lonely speaker, a language disappears, along with up to 90% of languages by the end of the century. The danger only rises, as the cultures, knowledge, and identities are lost in a deafening silence.

Preserving languages does more than documenting words—because language is much more. We express ourselves and our surroundings through language and form a reciprocal influence between who we are and what we speak. Each word's meaning is shaped by its use over time, mapping to ideas that cannot be tangibly described in any other way, reflecting our values. The ways in which a

The diversity of the world's languages is declining, and with them, the knowledge and perceptions embedded through human history.

Protecting unheard voices is rooted in connection--through and within language, time, society, and technology. In *Everlasting Connection's* exploration of the path of human culture from past through the future, these four themes become undisentangleable.

Romeyka Everlasting founder Zeyneb Kaya discusses the core values and insights of the non-profit organization towards inclusivity and holistic language preservation in parallel with the story of humanity's greatest strength: communication.