

Religious Information

MOHAWK has three major religions: Roman Catholicism and Anglican, which are members of the United Church of Canada. The Mohawk people are also members of the United Church of Canada. The Mohawk people are also members of the United Church of Canada.

Basic Information

The Mohawk people are a Native American people who live in the Mohawk Valley of New York State. They are one of the Five Civilized Tribes. The Mohawk people are also members of the United Church of Canada.

Mohawk (Kaneraketha)

Spoken in: USA, Canada

Number of Speakers:

- 3 760 (Ethnologue)
- 3 000 (UNESCO)
- 3 350 (World Oral Literature Project)

Ethnic Population: 30 000

Status: Definitely Endangered (UNESCO)

Language

The Mohawk language is a member of the Algonquian language family. It is spoken in the Mohawk Valley of New York State. The Mohawk language is also spoken in Canada.

History

The Mohawk people are one of the Five Civilized Tribes. They were one of the first Native American people to be enslaved by Europeans. The Mohawk people were also one of the first Native American people to be enslaved by Europeans.

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Ethnic Population: 30 000

Status: Definitely Endangered (UNESCO)

Description

Mohawk is a Northern Iroquoian language, originally spoken by the easternmost tribe of the Six Nations (Iroquois Confederacy) in the Mohawk River Valley of New York, between present Schenectady and Utica. There are six modern Mohawk communities, located primarily in Canada: Kahnawake and Kanehsatake in the vicinity of Montreal; Ahkwesahsne on the St. Lawrence River at the US-Canadian border; Ohsweken (Six Nations) on the Grand River in southern Ontario; they Tyendinaga Reserve on the Bay of Quinté near Kingston; and a small settlement at Gibson (Wahta) east of Georgian Bay. Mohawk is the most vigorous of the Six Nations languages, with about 3 850 fluent first-language speakers. Of these, around 600 are at Kahnawake, 100 at Oka, 3 000 at Ahkwesahsne, and perhaps a dozen on the Six Nations Reserve. A small number of children are native speakers.

Background Information

Mohawk has three major dialects: Western (*Ohswé:ken* and *Kenhté:ke*), Central (*Ahkwesáhsne*), and Eastern (*Kahnawà:ke* and *Kanehsatà:ke*); the differences between them are largely phonological.

Phonology

Syllabification

- 1. The syllable is the basic unit of phonological organization.
- 2. The syllable is a unit of organization for the phonemes of a language.
- 3. The syllable is a unit of organization for the phonemes of a language.
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Phonemes

- 1. The phoneme is the smallest unit of sound that can distinguish one word from another.
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Phonotactics

- 1. The phonotactic rules of a language govern the way in which phonemes are combined to form words.
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Grammar

Mohawk expresses a large number of pronominal distinctions: person (1st, 2nd, 3rd), number (singular, dual, plural), gender (masculine, feminine/indefinite, feminine/neuter) and inclusivity/exclusivity on the first person dual and plural. Pronominal information is encoded in prefixes on the verbs; separate pronoun words are used for emphasis. There are three main paradigms of pronominal prefixes: subjective (with dynamic verbs), objective (with stative verbs), and transitive.



Phonology

Consonants

h - like *h* in English *hay* [h]
k - like *g* in *gate*, soft *k* in *skate*, or hard *k* in *Kate* [g-k-kh]
kw - like the *gw* in *Gwen* or the *qu* in *queen* [gw-kw]
r - like *r* in *right* in some dialects, but like *l* in *light* in others [l-r]
n - like *n* in *night* [n]
s - like *s* in *sell* and like *sh* in *shell* before *y* or *i* [s-ʃ]
t - like *d* in *die*, soft *t* in *sty*, or hard *t* in *tie* [d-t-th]
ts - like *ts* in *tsunami*, and before *y* or *i* like the *j* in *jar*, and before *hy* or *hi* like the *ch* in *char* [ts-tʃ-tʃʃ]
w - like *w* in *way* [w]
wh - like the (voiceless) *wh* in *white* or like the *f* in *fair* [f-w]
y - like *y* in *yes* [j]
* - a glottal stop [ʔ]

Vowels

- **a** - like the *a* in *father* [a]
- **a:** - like the *a* in *father*, only held longer [a:]
- **e** - like the *e* in *get* or the *a* in *gate* [ɛ-e]
- **e:** - like the *a* in *gate*, only held longer [e:]
- **i** - like the *i* in *police* [i]
- **i:** - like the *i* in *police*, only held longer [i:]
- **o** - like the *o* in *note* [o]
- **o:** - like the *o* in *note*, only held longer [o:]

Nasal Vowels

en - like the *u* in *put*, only nasalized [ã]
en: - like the *u* in *put*, only nasalized and held longer [ã:]
on - like the *oo* in *boot*, only nasalized [õ]
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Status of Endangerment

The Mohawk language is considered definitely endangered according to the UNESCO Atlas of the World's Languages in danger.

Official attitudes and policies

Level 5: The Mohawk population has a large degree of autonomy in both the United States and Canada, although in the past both countries tried to assimilate the natives into the general population by introducing English taught in local schools for most subjects.

Speakers' attitude

Level 3: Since the immersion project has been put in place by the local government, speakers' attitude towards the language has been on the rise.

Intergenerational language transmission

Level 4: The language is going through a revival as the result of a new immersion programme for children. Their parents and other family members are also taking classes. The status has changed (from Level 2) since 2006, when only a few hundred mostly elderly people spoke the language.

Proportion of speakers within the overall population

Level 2: Today only about one tenth of the ethnic Mohawk population speaks the language. (approximately 3 000 out of 30 000)

Availability of written material

Level 4-5: There is an established orthography and a literacy tradition with grammar, dictionaries, text and literature. Writing in the language is used in education and to some extent in administration.

Shifts in domains of language use

Level 2: Those people who speak the language tend to do so either at home or at school within the immersion project. There is also some use in native religious ceremonies.

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Examples

References

Sources:

- <http://multitree.org/codes/moh.html>
- <http://www.native-languages.org/mohawk.htm#language>
- <http://www.ethnologue.com/language/moh>
- <http://www.omniglot.com/writing/mohawk.htm>

Additional links:

- <https://glosbe.com/en/moh/>
- <http://www.ohwejagehka.com/mohawk/>

Examples

Song lyrics in Mohawk

Chorus
The people of the land
are the people of the land
The people of the land
are the people of the land

Verse
The people of the land
are the people of the land
The people of the land
are the people of the land

Woman Sing in Mohawk



Use in popular culture



Examples

Song lyrics in Mohawk

Canoe Song

Teiohonwacka ne'ni akhonweia
Kon tateshon iohnekotatie
Wakkawehatie wakkawehatie.

The canoe is very fast. It is mine.
All day long I splash away.
I paddle along, I paddle along.

Mosquito Song

Okariata:ne tahocharatie
Tahsakohroriazne ne tsi nihotien
Ne se aonhaza thorihwakasion
Ne se aonhaza thorihwakasion

The mosquito is bringing a message
He's coming to tell us how poor he is.
The truth of the matter is, that
He is so old fashioned and brings the
same old message.

Water Song in Mohawk



Prezi

culture

Song lyrics in Mohawk

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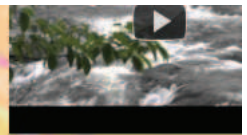
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Tahsakohroria:ne ne tsi niho:ten
Ne se aonha:a thorihwaka:ion
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Water Song in Mohawk







Use in popular culture





I will not sit here and wait for our end.

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