

Ethnolinguistic Distinctiveness: Some Social Psychological Data

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“Persons belonging to national or ethnic, religious and linguistic minorities...have the right to enjoy their own culture, to profess and practice their own religion, and to use their own language in private and in public, freely and without interference or any form of discrimination“ (Article 2:1, United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Persons Belonging to National or Ethnic, Religious and Linguistic Minorities, 1992)

This presentation will focus on the ethnolinguistic vitality of minorities. An overview of the relationship between language and identity from a social psychological perspective will be presented followed by some empirical data amongst members of South Asian minorities in diaspora.

Brief background on Itesh Sachdev:

Itesh Sachdev is Professor of Language and Communication at SOAS, University of London (UK), Director of the SOAS-UCL Centre for Excellence in 'Languages of the Wider World' and a member of the SOAS Department of Linguistics. Born in Kenya, he did his undergraduate work in Psychology at University of Bristol (UK) and his doctoral studies at McMaster University (Canada). He was a member of faculty at Birkbeck College, University of London, for almost 20 years before joining SOAS 3 years ago. He has published widely in the social psychology of inter-group relations, language learning and teaching, multilingualism and multiculturalism. He has worked with diverse ethno-linguistic groups from several parts of the world including Bolivia, Canada, France, Hong Kong, India, Taiwan, Thailand, Tunisia and the UK.