The Importance of the Native Language in a Globalized World

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(Chairs: Dr Margaret Lo and Mr Rubén Antonio Sánchez Hernández)

Abstract:
The mother tongue is the bond that unites and keeps human beings together in a society, group or nation. When a human being migrates the mother tongue tends to disappear, mainly because the person wants to fit in the new society, wants to be part of the new community as fast as possible even when this means losing the mother tongue. A mother tongue is more than words, more than just a language: it implies the whole inner being, the baggage that shapes and makes each of us different from one another. It involves beliefs, heritage, habits, food, traditions, thoughts, ideas, it is what makes each of us unique. Therefore when a human being is forced to give up their mother tongue and learn another language to substitute their own, part of themselves is lost too. Their identity is eroded and the feeling of belonging to the new society or group does not create the same sentiment as did their mother tongue.

About the speaker:
María de Lourdes Domínguez Gálvez, Doctor in Pedagogy, is a full time professor in the Faculty of Philosophy and Letters, Schools of Modern Languages and Letters at the National Autonomous University of Mexico (UNAM). She specialises in didactics for the teaching of a foreign or second language and its literature, and the teaching and learning of native Mexican languages and Spanish. Her most recent project involves the translation of writings in Nahuatl, one of Mexico’s native languages, to Braille. She teaches in the Graduate Program of Pedagogy and the Bachelor programme in Modern Languages and Letters. She has been a teacher of English as a foreign language for over forty years to all levels of language and ages and didactics for over fifteen years.

~ All are welcome ~
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