

Prova de Língua Inglesa

Read **Text 1** below and answer **in English** the questions which follow.

Text 1

# Language deaths 'bad for us all'

Kurt Kleiner

LANGUAGES around the world are dying off at a tremendous rate. Linguists estimate that between 20 per cent and 50 per cent of the 6000 languages now spoken are no longer being taught to children, and will become extinct in the next century. According to linguists at the AAAS, the loss of language is bad not only for linguists but for all humanity.

“The world would be less beautiful and less interesting without linguistic diversity,” said Michael Krauss of the University of Alaska, Fairbanks, “I challenge anyone to prove to me are better off without linguistic diversity.”

Languages are dying as improved transport and telecommunications bring different peoples into closer contact, and speakers of minority tongues abandon them for the languages of more dominant cultures. Sometimes the switch is voluntary, but often it is forced. Earlier this century, for example, American Indian schoolchildren were punished for speaking their native tongue.



Errington/Hutchison

Cultural riches: traditional storytelling keeps the Dinka language alive

The most basic reason why linguistic diversity should be preserved is that language helps people to retain their culture. But speakers cited several other good reasons too. “As linguists we need linguistic diversity,” said Kenneth Hale of the Massachusetts Institute of Technology. “We wouldn’t even know what questions to ask with only one language.”

NEW SCIENTIST, 4 March, 1995

**1<sup>st</sup> Question:** (2,0 marks)

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According to the text, what is the main advantage of language diversity?

Resposta:

“The most basic reason why linguistic diversity should be preserved is that language helps people to retain their culture.”

## PROAC/COSEAC - Gabarito

**2<sup>nd</sup> Question:** (2,0 marks)

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What, in Kurt Kleiner's view, contributes to the death of world languages?

Resposta:

"Languages are dying as improved transport and telecommunications bring different peoples into closer contact, and speakers of minority tongues abandon them for the languages of more dominant cultures."

**3<sup>rd</sup> Question:** (2,0 marks)

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In which way would language death affect the situation portrayed in the picture?

Resposta:

A minority language like Dinka would be doomed to extinction/threatened and could not perpetuate the culture it represents.

**4<sup>th</sup> Question:** (2,0 marks)

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**Ellipsis** is a rhetorical device used by writers to shorten the sentence provided that there is no ambiguity in the discourse. In the sentence "*According to linguists at the AAAS, the loss of language is bad not only for linguists but for all humanity.*" (lines 7-9), there is a case of **ellipsis**. What is it? Justify.

Resposta:

The word **bad** is implicit in the clause "but (bad) for all humanity".

## PROAC/COSEAC - Gabarito

### 5<sup>th</sup> Question: (2,0 marks)

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Compare the views expressed in **Text 1** with those in the text below.

Cada língua cria modos de pensar e modos de sentir que não eram efetivamente conhecidos antes de se manifestarem nos seus falantes, naqueles que os dizem de maneira singular. Os tradutores conhecem bem o problema, porque enfrentam exatamente o desafio insuperável: como verter para outro idioma algo que está dito de modo especialíssimo no idioma original? Como recriar em outra língua a dimensão subjetiva das alusões feitas no texto?

(Extract from KONDER, L. "A morte das línguas", O GLOBO, 08/01/2001, p.7)

Resposta:

Both writers call the readers' attention to the fact that language diversity preserves above all cultural richness.