



## HAVE STANDARD LANGUAGES BECOME OBSOLETE ?

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### ABSTRACT :

*The concept standard language is one of the key concepts in sociolinguistics. Once standard languages were highly rated forms of communication. Everyone in the social organization tried to internalize the system. In the course of time, however, the scenario has been changed. The users of language have found different channels of communication in which the practice of raising standard language has lost its social support. Standard languages have been replaced by extremely informal means of communication arising within the given languages and they have rendered the relevance of standard language almost nil. This paper attempts to focus this particular point.*

**KEYWORDS :** *standard language, social organization, codification etc*

### INTRODUCTION

The concept of standard language has been popular subject matter in Sociolinguistics. It is associated with communication of message. Language is the most comprehensive means of communicating messages, thoughts and feelings. Now the question is whether there is need of using standard language to communicate message. Once upon a time the standard languages mattered most and preferred by people as standard means of communication. Today situation has changed. The users of language state that they want only a means to communicate and they are not concerned with standard or sub-standard form. If this be the situation, one has to rethink the relevance of standard language as a means of communication.

The emergence of standard language depends upon social and political organization in a country or state. Rather, it can be said that it is the social and political will that pushes the case of establishment of standard language. The standard language is just another form of language which is based on the speech of educated people who live in an area where important offices of the government have got established. It is also observed that this form of language, which is used everywhere, is attested with standard electronic and print media. It appears in standard dictionaries and references pertaining to official and educational matters. In fact, the illustrated social organization takes a lead in this direction and convinces a large portion of the social network to establish such an inevitable means of communication and this is fully backed by the political organization in the form of actual process initiated.



A particular variety, especially ordinary variety of the given language is selected for the deliberation. In the next stage of the development, the experts, scholars in the field plan the linguistic framework of the standard language. Accent, grammar and vocabulary are considered for the variety. This is known as codification of the linguistic system of the variety. Once the codification is done, both the public and govt agencies start using the variety on wider scale. Where ever it can

be used, it is used to maximum extent. This is elaboration of the function. Finally, this variety is declared as state language status. This is both acceptance and recognition given to the language. These are the four stages through which a standard language passes and emerges as standard version of the given language to be used on important occasion and most important matters.

It is social perception that the standard language is considered to be superior and rest of the varieties inferior. However, from linguistic point of view, standard language is just another variety like others neither superior nor grammatically correct. It has selected set of linguistics items—accent, grammar and vocabulary. The establishment of standard language enforces its speaker to imitate it. Since standard form is used as a role model for communication by educated public, it becomes a rule for general public to copy it. It is observed that a large section of the society makes efforts to use it as standard form of communication.

Though it is used by educated people and govt. agencies for communication, standard language is not congenial to the growth and sustenance of the language. It is found that standard language stops the development of language since its users endeavor to use it all functions. As a result, variety is discouraged. Variation is a natural phenomenon that provides a great deal of scope for the growth of language. Unless language grows, there is no chance to survive it. Variation brings in newer linguistic items, which ultimately results in the enrichment of it. Standard language blocks the process of introducing new linguistic items through use. So it appears that standard language discourages variety and discouragement of variety is major stumbling block in its development. One of the scholars goes to the extent of saying that standard languages are dead languages.

With the emergence of science and technology and developments in the field of computer science has compelled people to invent newer languages to suit computer programs. Everyday new language is created and used. May be, that language disappears after its use. But they are created for transfer of knowledge. Moreover, people turned back to standard language. They prefer a chat language or SMS language to communicate. With arrival of mobile and tablets, people have devised their own language and they have done away with standard forms of communication. In this type of language, grammar of standard language is sacrificed for the sake of convenience. Such forms of language have really diminished the status and reduced its number of speakers. People who wish communicate something prefer most easily form of language. They don't care whether the form they are using is acceptable or standard. What they need is a just means of communication. The users of such form of communication is rising day by day. That is why, standard languages, once upon thought to be prestigious matter, have lost its craze. So it is feared that standard languages have been threatened and become obsolete.

## REFERENCES

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