

From imperial to minoritized language: the case of Nahuatl

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In this contribution I will briefly review the history of Nahuatl (or Mexicano) with a focus in understanding the passage from the most widely used language in prehispanic and colonial times in Mesoamerica to an endangered tongue in contemporary Mexico. For this aim, I will compare the status of Nahuatl across the ages from different angles: ideological, political and of course linguistic. Such survey will hopefully allow a characterization of the different phases or stages that pinpoint to varying degrees of endangerment in terms of the dilemma between Nahuatl retention and shift.
