

## Joshua Fishman Formula

Here is a simple formula to determine when your language will parish in your community. L1 Speakers are folks who grew up speaking their language

### Part One:

$$\begin{array}{r} \underline{\hspace{15em}} \\ \text{Average age of your Eldest L1 Speakers} \end{array} \quad \begin{array}{l} \text{Minus} \\ \text{Subtract} \end{array} \quad \begin{array}{r} \underline{\hspace{15em}} \\ \text{Average age of your Youngest L1 Speakers} \end{array} \quad = \quad \underline{\hspace{5em}} \quad \begin{array}{l} \\ \text{Equals} \end{array}$$

### Part Two:

$$\begin{array}{r} \underline{\hspace{15em}} \\ \text{Equals (digits above)} \end{array} \quad + \quad \begin{array}{r} \underline{\hspace{15em}} \\ \text{the Current Calendar Year} \end{array} \quad = \quad \underline{\hspace{15em}} \quad \textit{Date your Community Language will/could perish!}$$

E.g. 10 Plus 2023 = 2033

***Your Language will parish in your community in 2033***

Share these findings with your: Wisdom Keepers/Elders, Children, Students, Community, Educators and your Leadership ....

**Joshua Fishman** ([Yiddish](#): פֿישמאַן שיקל — Shikl Fishman; July 18, 1926 – March 1, 2015) was an American [linguist](#) who specialized in the [sociology of language](#), [language planning](#), [bilingual education](#), and [language](#) and [ethnicity](#). When will the Language in your community die, should your community do nothing!

Name of Your First Nation Community: \_\_\_\_\_

Your Name: \_\_\_\_\_ for our Participants Draw to be drawn after Lunch.

We need to make Indigenous Language Education a ‘Bread and Butter’ issue in our community.

We need to make possessing and speaking an Indigenous Language a ***Community Social Health Determinant***.

We need to study and research: ***what are the benefits of being Bilingual ?***

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