

Re: Is language development evolutionary, or designed by the culture?

## Re: Is language development evolutionary, or designed by the culture?

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*Source:* <http://sci.tech-archive.net/Archive/sci.lang/2005-06/msg00565.html>

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- *From:* "David Wright Sr." <[dwrightsr@xxxxxxxxxx](mailto:dwrightsr@xxxxxxxxxx)>
  - *Date:* Wed, 15 Jun 2005 02:54:34 +0000 (UTC)
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Nathan Sanders <[nsanders.DIE.SPAM@xxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxx](mailto:nsanders.DIE.SPAM@xxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxx)> wrote in [news:nsanders.DIE.SPAM-5F6728.20594414062005@xxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxx](mailto:news:nsanders.DIE.SPAM-5F6728.20594414062005@xxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxx):

(snip)

- > But given a particular geographic/cultural configuration of languages
- > now, it's basically impossible to predict precisely how they will
- > change in the future, because the forces at work transcend geography
- > and culture and are largely random (within certain limitations).
- >

I agree with all of your comments, especially, that it is impossible to predict how language will change, but in response to the original question, I do maintain that it is various societal pressures that cause the changes whatever they may be.

I have always considered that immigrants in isolated language groups who experience a similar environment to that from which they came, will generally maintain the language without as much change as the parent group.

Can you think of a case where this didn't happen? Not criticising, just wondering if you have a counter-example.

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David Wright Sr.

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- *Follow-Ups:*
  - ◆ ***Re: Is language development evolutionary, or designed by the culture?***
  - ◇ *From:* Nathan Sanders

Re: Is language development evolutionary, or designed by the culture?

- **References:**

- ◆ **Is language development evolutionary, or designed by the culture?**  
◇ From: Ken Shackleton
- ◆ **Re: Is language development evolutionary, or designed by the culture?**  
◇ From: Bobby D. Bryant
- ◆ **Re: Is language development evolutionary, or designed by the culture?**  
◇ From: Ken Shackleton
- ◆ **Re: Is language development evolutionary, or designed by the culture?**  
◇ From: Neeraj Mathur
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