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Increase & Downfall of Languages Spoken in the US

For over 200 years, the United States has never declared English as its official language. In 1981, the English Only legislation wanted to pass the English Language Amendment but this was never confirmed by Congress due to the constant growth of languages that are spoken in the United States.

Currently, there are 311 languages spoken in America of which 162 are indigenous (a native language of a specific region and culture) and 149 are immigrant languages such as Spanish and French.

Also, over 14 million homes in the United States speak a language other than English and 1 in 5 individuals over the age of 5 are taught to speak a language instead of English. Therefore, English is only used in 82% of homes in the United States, where Spanish is the second most popular language spoken within the homes of America, which make up 10.7%.

Such growth in foreign languages in America is due to increased immigration. For example, currently over 26% of people living in California were born in another country as well as 40% of people in this state speak more than one language. Within the nation, 1 in 5 students who enter school every year speak another language besides or other than English.

The use of foreign languages has decreased over the years due to the need for learning English in order to adapt to the American culture for success and acceptance. Usually, the use of foreign languages comes to a halt after 3 generations have lived in the US.

There are organizations in America, such as "Alliance for the Advancement of Heritage Languages" who assist in encouraging the use of native languages in order for them to prosper and remain active within such a fast growing nation. These groups educate society on ways to function successfully in both English and in native languages in order to keep their culture alive.

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