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Vitality of the current Galician language

Abstract: Never in the field of human history has the dying out of languages been as intense as it is in the present day. The goal of this paper is to assess the vitality of the one of the co-official languages in Spain, the Galician language. After an indispensable definition of the social-historical context, a deep, qualitative and quantitative analysis of nine factors is performed: inter-generational language transmission, education, the absolute and relative number of speakers, trends in existing language domains and media, governmental and institutional language attitudes, and, above all, the attitudes of Galician citizens toward their languages. In the final chapter, a summary of the results of these individual factors, as well as an assessment of their influence on the vitality of the Galician language, is provided.

Key words: endangered languages, assessment of language vitality, Galician, language attitudes, minority languages, diglossia, languages in contact, national identity, speaker's attitudes.