

Answers Unit 14

1. The relevant website is www.ethnologue.com. In addition to compiling the information asked for, you may want to consider the question how it was compiled and whether it is up-to-date and reliable. To assess the question of minorities' language rights, a good starting point is to have a look whether the relevant languages have a writing system and are taught in schools.

2. Useful books for answering this question include:

Heeschen, V. & W. Schiefenhövel. 1983. *Wörterbuch der Eipo-Sprache : Eipo - Deutsch - Englisch*. Berlin: Reimer.

Heeschen, V. 1980. "Requesting, Giving, and Taking: The Relationship Between Verbal and Nonverbal Behavior in the Speech Community of the Eipo, Irian Jaya (West New Guinea)," in: Key, Mary Ritchie (ed.). *The Relationship of Verbal and Nonverbal Communication*. The Hague: Mouton. 139-165.

Heeschen, Volker. 1994. "How long are clauses and sentences in a Papuan language like Eipo?" in: Ger P. Reesink (ed.). *Topics in descriptive Papuan linguistics*. Semaian, 10. Leiden: Vakgroep Talen en Culturen van Zuidoost-Azië en Oceanië, Rijksuniversiteit te Leiden. 50-74.

Heeschen, V. 1998. *An ethnographic grammar of the Eipo language spoken in the central mountains of Irian Jaya (West New Guinea), Indonesia*, Mensch, Kultur und Umwelt im zentralen Bergland von West-Neuguinea. Beiträge zum interdisziplinären Schwerpunktprogramm der DFG. Band 23, edited by Wolfhardt Schultz.

3. To answer this question, you could search for the anglicisms and their German counterparts in a German language corpus, e.g. the corpora available at "Digitales Wörterbuch der deutschen Sprache" (www.dwds.de) or at the Institut für deutsche Sprache (www.ids-mannheim.de/kl/corpora.html). *Air-condition*, for example, is not recorded at all in the dwds-corpus, whereas *Klimaanlage* occurs 33 times.
4. The data you will find should allow a fairly straightforward answer to the formal questions raised by this particular anglicism. As for the meanings of *einkaufen* and *shoppen*, the German word tends to cover the basic sense of providing the necessities of life, whereas the English word casts the activity as part of a consumerist lifestyle, in which buying goods comes to have entertainment and status value in its own right.

5. *Things Fall Apart* is the older work and focuses on cultural contacts between Europeans and traditional African communities, in particular the Igbo. One common strategy that is used to give readers a sense of the cultural distance between the two worlds is the literal translation of Igbo idioms into English. Note that this strategy is geared to the needs of readers outside Nigeria, as Nigerians themselves usually do not need such cultural pointers. *Anthills*, which is set in modern urban Africa, additionally draws on local non-standard varieties of English, such as Nigerian Pidgin, to establish an authentic sense of the *locale*.
6. The central issue here is **prestige**. English and French equally enjoy overt prestige as Canada's official languages – at least in theory and in their standard varieties. Outside the province of Québec, however, French tends to be marginalised for demographic reasons, leading to a situation in which Francophones need to become fully bilingual while Anglophones can get by with minimal French. Arguably in this situation, the narrator would not have fared much better even if her school French had been more fluent, as the overt prestige of standard French would not have counted for much in this remote back-country region. To be accepted as an insider, she would have had to use the local French vernacular, with its covert prestige.
- Note that foreigners are not expected to be fully competent in the rules of these linguistic "games". Pretending to be an American would thus have helped in this particular instance.