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Annotation #2

### Zambia: 'One Zambia, One Nation, Many Languages'

Marten and Kula (2007) relate Zambia's history to make sense of its current situation as a land with many languages, yet one official language – English. Beginning with Bantu languages in 300 B.C. E. and various European linguistic influences in the nineteenth century, Zambia has a long history of multilingualism. Yet, as a newly independent nation some argue that a language other than English could better unite the otherwise disparate peoples that inhabit Zambia.

Marten and Kula support their historical accounts of Zambia's development with maps and tables depicting linguistic distribution of the more than 16 language groups and dialect clusters spoken. Then they use census data to break the languages down by numbers of first and second language and dialect speakers as a percentage of the total population.

One table depicts the vast distribution of the various languages spoken while another illustrates the shift over three decades toward more speakers of English as a second language. The tables support both sides of the argument that 1) multiple majority languages other than English are spoken at higher rates as a first language and 2) more Zambian people speak English as a second language than any other language.

Marten, Lutz and Nancy C. Kula

2007 Zambia: 'One Zambia, One Nation, Many Languages' 291-313. Retrieved February 10, 2015.