Language Extinction. (Graded - mandatory: all students do this assignment) An indigenous language is one that developed in a particular location; it was not brought to the area from “outside.” Indigenous languages are usually associated with Indigenous peoples around the world and, like those peoples, these languages are often under pressure for survival. United Nations Educational Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) notes that the vast majority of the world’s languages are spoken by a very small number of the world’s people (Foundation for Endangered Languages, 2016, para. 2). “At the other end of the scale, 10 major languages, each spoken by over 109 million people, are the mother tongues of almost half (49%) of the world’s population” (Foundation for Endangered Languages, 2016, para 4). UNESCO estimates that “in most world regions, about 90% of the languages may be replaced by dominant languages by the end of the 21st century” (UNESCO, 2003, p. 2). This pressure is due to many factors, including external economic and religious pressures, educational subjugation, or even the community’s own negative attitudes to their own language (for example, feeling that it does not help them “get ahead” economically or that it identifies them with a group subject to discrimination) (UNESCO, 2003, p. 2). In some cases, languages are endangered or have gone extinct. This occurs when no one can speak or remember the language. It is a one-way process: an extinct language cannot be revived unless it has been adequately documented. Scientists and anthropologists around the world recognize that the loss of linguistic diversity is a serious problem. With the loss of a language, we also lose the ability to communicate vital knowledge. Organizations that work to preserve the world’s indigenous languages have developed plans of action to support and sustain these languages. For example, UNESCO (2010) has developed the UNESCO Atlas of the World’s Languages in Danger, and a system to measure the degrees of endangerment of those languages, in six degrees from safe to extinct. The Foundation for Endangered Languages (2016) has developed a Manifesto that sets out its aims and objectives. It is hoped that taking various measures will prevent the loss of indigenous languages, but if nothing else, appropriate documentation can help to revitalize languages that have been lost. References Foundation for Endangered Languages. (2016). Manifesto. http://www.ogmios.org/manifesto/index.htm UNESCO. (2010). UNESCO Atlas of the World’s Languages in Danger. United Nations Educational, Scientific, and Cultural Organization. http://www.unesco.org/new/en/culture/themes/endangered-languages/atlas-of-languages-in-danger/ UNESCO Ad Hoc Expert Group on Endangered Languages. (2003). Language Vitality and Endangerment. United Nations Educational, Scientific, and Cultural Organization. https://unesdoc.unesco.org/ark:/48223/pf0000183699 In this assignment, you will identify a language that is endangered or extinct. Go to the following site: Endangered Languages (endangeredlanguages.com) You are required to choose a language that is endangered (any form) or extinct, from the website. Write a description of this language (language name, where it is found, how many speakers are left, and anything else that might be important). Make sure to note why it is extinct or endangered (this may require using additional reputable sources). Next, you will find a scholarly source that discusses why the loss of indigenous languages is considered to be a loss for humanity and summarize one specific reason why indigenous languages should be preserved. You many use the websites that are mentioned in this unit, or you may find your own reputable source (academic article, government websites, mainstream news, etc.). Remember, you must appropriately cite your information, to the page or paragraph, as well as creating a reference list formatted according to APA criteria. Finally, you will research a method that UNESCO or the Foundation for Endangered Languages recommends to prevent the endangerment or disappearance of languages. For this portion of the assignment, you will read about one of these methods at: UNESCO, “Language Vitality and Endangerment” (see particularly section 3.3) Foundation for Endangered Languages You may find additional information in the reading “Can Minority Languages be Saved” on the Course Resources List Then, summarize the method you read about in a sentence or two. To get full marks, you must apply the method to the language you used for the first part of the assignment. Think about a method that would help to preserve or revitalize your chosen study language. Instructions: Read the preceding discussion about indigenous languages. Identify an endangered or extinct language from the allowed site only. Describe it using the criteria noted above. (3 marks) Discuss why the language is extinct or endangered. (1 mark) Discuss one argument in your own words about why indigenous languages should be preserved, from the sources provided in the unit or using other reputable sources. (3 marks) Summarize a method to preserve endangered languages, and discuss how it could be used (or could have been used, if the language is extinct) to preserve your chosen indigenous language, from the information you presented. Please note that the method must come from the sources given in this assignment. (4 marks) Remember to cite your sources in your written paragraph, using the modified APA format (author, year, page/paragraph #). You must also include a reference list at the end of your work (placed after the last paragraph) that matches all the sources you used (listed alphabetically). (2 marks) Keep to a 500-word limit for your entire post, including the summary. If you significantly exceed the length parameters listed, you will lose marks. Make sure to check spelling and grammar! (1 mark) Do not use more than 1-2 quotes. Put all other information in your own words (paraphrase) and cite it.