





Basque in its glory

Jaisel Iyer, CONTRIBUTING WRITER

While most languages have evolved within a family from a common ancestor, the Basque language stands alone. Classified as a language isolate, Basque is unique due to the fact that it is unrelated to any other language. Spoken primarily in southwestern Europe, Basque has around 1,000,000 current speakers.

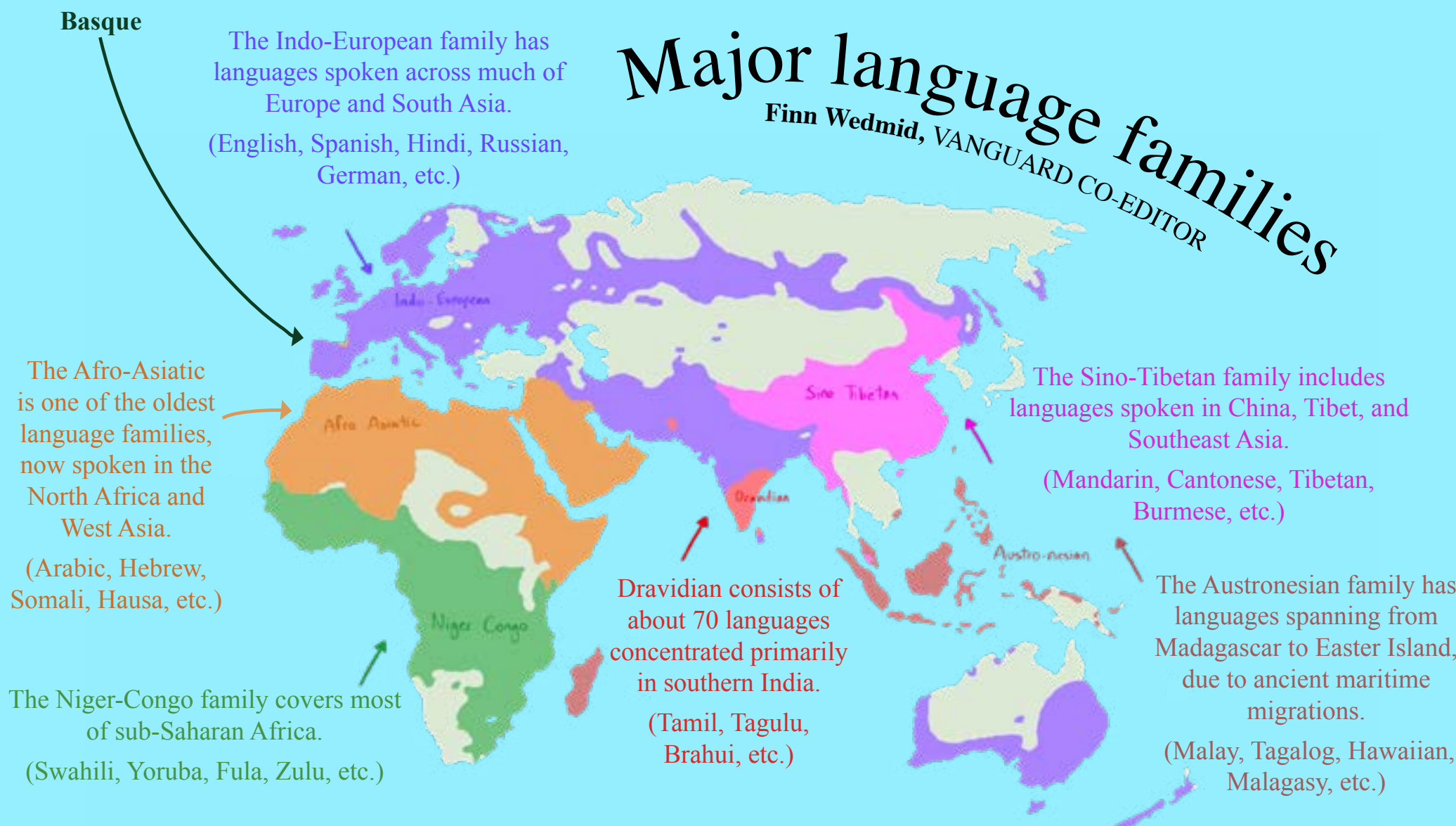
Basque first appeared in Latin texts dating from the 11th century. However, it was not until the 20th century when the rise of the Basque language occurred. In 1918, the Society of Basque held its first congress to create the Basque Language Academy in the following year. There was no conventional spelling system

in the Basque language due to the fact that it developed orally. Thus, reading and writing conventions were adopted from Spanish and French. By 1964, the Royal Basque Language Academy was able to develop a standardized spelling system, which paved the way for a unified language.



Major language families


Finn Wedmid, VANGUARD CO-EDITOR



Idioms: then vs. now

Atharva Desai, CONTRIBUTING WRITER

Language is constantly changing. The way we talk today is not the same as how people spoke 50 years ago, or even 10 years ago. One of the most interesting aspects of language is idioms. These are phrases that don't mean what is literally said. For example, if someone says "couch potato," they don't mean the literal vegetable, but instead refer to someone who watches a large amount of television rather than exercising. Over the years, most idioms have been shortened, altering their meaning. In some cases, idioms have adapted to express the opposite meaning of what was originally intended.

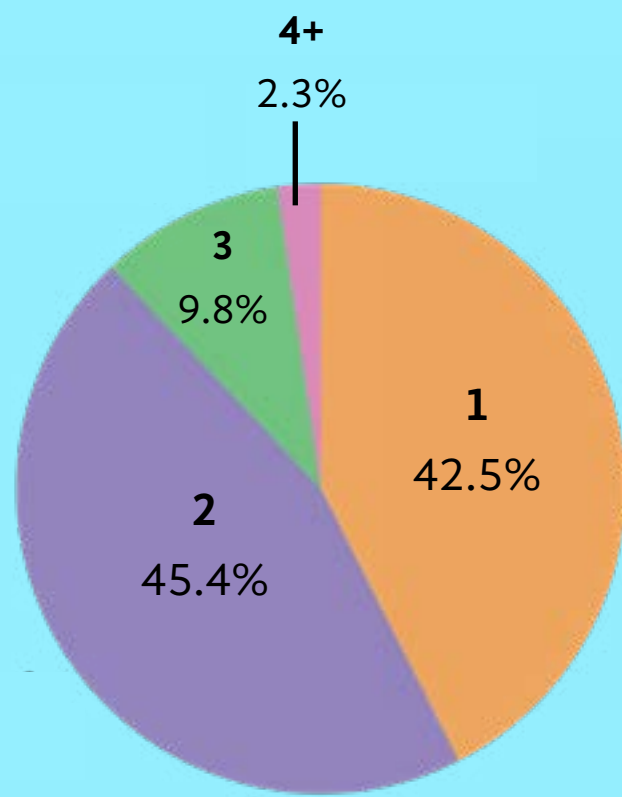
	The early bird catches the worm...	...but the second mouse gets the cheese.
	Curiosity killed the cat...	...but satisfaction brought it back.
	Jack of all trades, master of none...	...sometimes better than master of one.
	Great minds think alike...	...but only fools rarely differ.
	Birds of a feather flock together...	...until the cat comes.
	Winning isn't everything...	...it's the only thing.



A look inside PHS languages

Finn Wedmid, VANGUARD CO-EDITOR

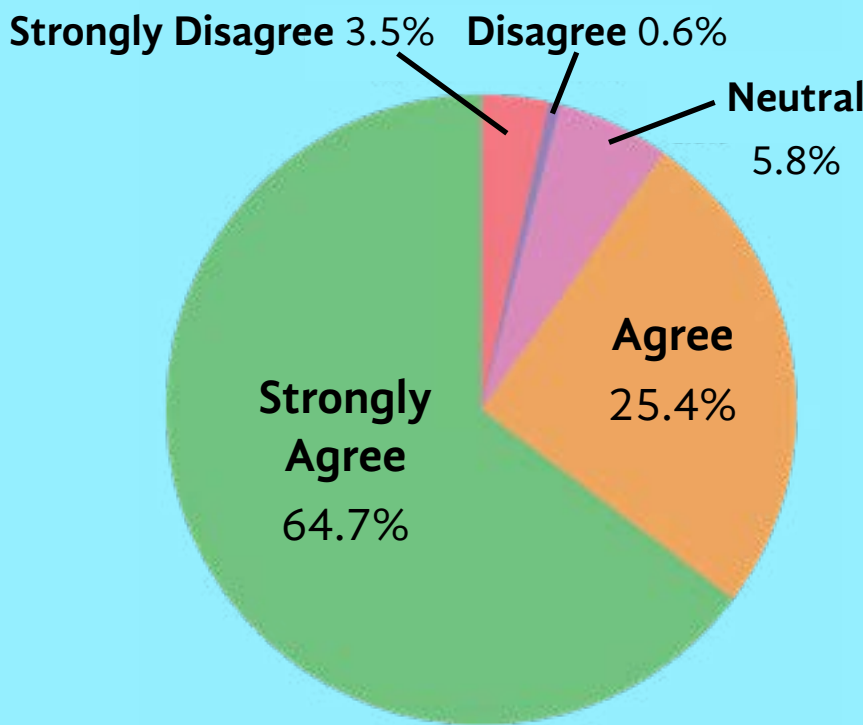
How many languages are you confident in speaking?



Rate your agreement with this statement: *My PHS language classes are helping me improve my...*



Rate your agreement with this statement: *I believe being multilingual is a valuable skill.*



22.5% of polled students believed that **German** should be offered as a school language. **Korean** was the second-most asked for new language choice at **6.6%**.

23.1% of polled students have gone on a foreign language exchange trip or will go on one this year.

This survey was administered during gym classes, in which 173 students completed the poll.

Indigenous language revival

Vanessa He, CONTRIBUTING WRITER

The Indian Civilization Act of 1819 led to forced assimilation in Indigenous boarding schools by suppressing the use of their languages and cultures. Consequently, over 300 Indigenous languages struggled to survive. Revitalizing these dying languages will open them to a new generation of speakers. Through language immersion programs, mentorships, and technology, these languages have slowly come back to daily life.

For example, the Wampanoag language had been dormant for around 150 years until 1993, when the Wampanoag Language Reclamation

Project began. Starting in Boston, where Wampanoag used to be spoken, this project involved collaboration with many universities and colleges such as Yale, Brown, and MIT. They were able to establish classes at several colleges taught by linguists.

For instance, Jessie Little Doe Baird, a member of the Mashpee Wampanoag Tribe, started working with linguist Ken Hale in analyzing historical Wampanoag documents. As a result, many graduate students were able to learn the grammar and vocabulary. This marked the first occasion where people around the world

recognized a Native American community's attempt to revitalize their dying language.

Myaamia, the language of the Miami Tribe of Oklahoma died out in 1989. However, the community worked with Miami University by using archival documents to revive and reconstruct their language. The National Breath of Life program plays an important role in these partnerships, as the program provides training and technology to help many Indigenous communities across North America. These instances of language revival emphasize the necessity of sustaining these traditions.

graphics: Katherine Chen