

Appendix G. Mother Tongue and Home Language: Classifications from 1996, 1991 and 1986

Changes have been made in the language classification used in our publications. In this appendix, the 1996, 1991 and 1986 classifications are compared.

In 1996, languages were again grouped by language family (Romance, Germanic, and so on). Several languages were removed from residual groups and provided separately in 1996, due to the size of their population in 1991. These new language groups include: Attikamek, Oji-Cree and Algonquin (from the Algonquian languages); Gitksan (from the Tsimshian languages); Nishga and Nootka (from the Wakashan languages); Amharic, Somali and Tigringa (from the Semitic languages); Shuswap and Thompson (Ntlakapamux) (from the Salish languages); Konkani and Sindhi (from the Indo-Iranian languages); Kannada (from the Dravidian languages); and Twi (from the Niger-Congo languages).

The Tsimshian language family was added in 1996. In addition, a residual category was added to an existing language family, Salish languages, n.i.e. In 1996, an Indo-Iranian language identified in 1991, Baluchi, was included in the category "Indo-Iranian languages, n.i.e." because of its small numbers.

The individual categories used in 1996 do not always match those used in 1991 and 1986. In most cases, however, the corresponding number can be obtained by adding all members of the language family. For example, the 1991 total for "Semitic languages, n.i.e." is equivalent to the sum of the 1996 figures for "Amharic", "Somali", "Tigringa" and "Semitic languages, n.i.e.".

1996 Classification	1991 Classification	1986 Classification
English	English	English
French	French	French
Non-official languages	Non-official languages	Non-official languages
Aboriginal languages	Aboriginal languages	Aboriginal languages
Algonquian languages	Algonquian languages	Algonquian languages
Attikamek ¹	Not available	Not available
Blackfoot ²	Blackfoot	Blackfoot
Cree	Cree	Cree
Malecite ³	Malecite	Malecite
Micmac ⁴	Micmac	Micmac
Montagnais-Naskapi	Montagnais-Naskapi	Montagnais-Naskapi
Oji-Cree ⁵	Not available	Not available
Ojibway	Ojibway	Ojibway
Algonquin ⁵	Not available	Not available
Algonquian languages, n.i.e.	Algonquian languages, n.i.e.*	Algonquian languages, n.i.e.
Athapaskan languages ⁶	Athapaskan languages (Dene)	Athapaskan languages (Dene)
Carrier	Carrier	Carrier

1996 Classification	1991 Classification	1986 Classification
Chilcotin Chipewyan ⁷ Dene ⁹ Dogrib Kutchin-Gwich'in (Loucheux) North Slave (Hare) South Slave Athapaskan languages, n.i.e.	Chilcotin Chipewyan ⁸ Not available Dogrib Kutchin-Gwich'in (Loucheux) North Slave (Hare) South Slave Athapaskan languages, n.i.e.*	Chilcotin Chipewyan Not available Dogrib Kutchin (Loucheux) Hare* Slave* Athapaskan languages, n.i.e.*
Haida	Haida	Haida
Iroquoian languages Mohawk Iroquoian languages, n.i.e.	Iroquoian languages Mohawk Iroquoian languages, n.i.e.	Iroquoian languages Mohawk Iroquoian languages, n.i.e.
Kutenai	Kutenai	Kutenai
Salish languages Shuswap ¹⁰ Thompson (Ntlakapamux) ¹⁰ Salish languages, n.i.e. ¹⁰	Salish languages Not available Not available Not available	Salish languages Not available Not available Not available
Siouan languages ¹¹ Dakota/Sioux ¹²	Not available Dakota	Not available Dakota
Tlingit	Tlingit	Tlingit
Tsimshian languages ¹¹ Gitksan ¹³ Nishga ¹⁴ Tsimshian	Not available Not available Not available Tsimshian*	Not available Not available Not available Tsimshian*
Wakashan languages Nootka ¹⁴ Wakashan languages, n.i.e. ¹⁴	Wakashan languages Not available Not available	Wakashan languages Not available Not available
Inuktitut (Eskimo) ¹²	Inuktitut	Inuktitut
Aboriginal languages, n.i.e. ¹²	Amerindian languages, n.i.e.	Amerindian languages, n.i.e.

1996 Classification	1991 Classification	1986 Classification
Romance languages	Romance languages	Romance languages
Italian	Italian	Italian
Portuguese	Portuguese	Portuguese
Romanian	Romanian	Romanian
Spanish	Spanish	Spanish
Romance languages, n.i.e.	Romance languages, n.i.e.	Not available
Germanic languages	Germanic languages	Germanic languages
German	German	German
Yiddish	Yiddish	Yiddish
Germanic languages, n.i.e.	Germanic languages, n.i.e.	Not available
Netherlandic languages	Netherlandic languages	Netherlandic languages
Dutch	Dutch	Dutch
Flemish	Flemish	Flemish
Frisian	Frisian	Frisian
Scandinavian languages	Scandinavian languages	Scandinavian languages
Danish	Danish	Danish
Icelandic	Icelandic	Icelandic
Norwegian	Norwegian	Norwegian
Swedish	Swedish	Swedish
Celtic languages	Celtic languages	Celtic languages
Gaelic languages	Gaelic languages	Gaelic languages
Welsh	Welsh	Welsh
Celtic languages, n.i.e.	Celtic languages, n.i.e.	Celtic languages, n.i.e.
Slavic languages	Slavic languages	Slavic languages
Bulgarian	Bulgarian	Bulgarian
Byelorussian	Byelorussian	Byelorussian
Croatian	Croatian	Croatian
Czech	Czech	Czech
Macedonian	Macedonian	Macedonian
Polish	Polish	Polish
Russian	Russian	Russian
Serbian	Serbian	Serbian
Serbo-Croatian	Serbo-Croatian	Serbo-Croatian
Slovak	Slovak	Slovak
Slovenian	Slovenian	Slovenian
Ukrainian	Ukrainian	Ukrainian
Slavic languages, n.i.e.	Slavic languages, n.i.e.	Slavic languages, n.i.e.

1996 Classification	1991 Classification	1986 Classification
Baltic languages Latvian (Lettish) Lithuanian	Baltic languages Latvian (Lettish) Lithuanian	Baltic languages Latvian (Lettish) Lithuanian
Finno-Ugric languages Estonian Finnish Hungarian	Finno-Ugric languages Estonian Finnish Hungarian	Finno-Ugric languages Estonian Finnish Hungarian
Greek Armenian	Greek Armenian	Greek Armenian
Turkic languages Turkish Turkic languages, n.i.e.	Turkic languages Turkish Turkic languages, n.i.e.	Turkic languages* Not available Not available
Semitic languages Amharic ¹⁵ Arabic Hebrew Maltese Somali ¹⁵ Tigringa ¹⁵ Semitic languages, n.i.e.	Semitic languages Not available Arabic Hebrew Maltese Not available Not available Semitic languages, n.i.e.*	Semitic languages Not available Arabic Hebrew Maltese Not available Not available Semitic languages, n.i.e.
Indo-Iranian languages Not available ¹⁶ Bengali Gujarati Hindi Konkani ¹⁷ Kurdish Marathi Pashto Persian (Farsi) Punjabi Sindhi ¹⁷ Sinhalese Urdu Indo-Iranian languages, n.i.e.	Indo-Iranian languages Baluchi Bengali Gujarati Hindi Not available Kurdish Marathi Pashto Persian (Farsi) Punjabi Not available Sinhalese Urdu Indo-Iranian languages, n.i.e.*	Indo-Iranian languages Not available Bengali Not available Hindi Not available Not available Not available Not available Persian (Farsi) Punjabi Not available Sinhalese Urdu Indo-Iranian languages, n.i.e.
Dravidian languages Kannada ¹⁸	Dravidian languages Not available	Dravidian languages* Not available

1996 Classification	1991 Classification	1986 Classification
Malayalam Tamil Telugu Dravidian languages, n.i.e.	Malayalam Tamil Telugu Dravidian languages, n.i.e.	Malayalam Tamil Telugu Not available
Japanese Korean	Japanese Korean	Japanese Korean
Sino-Tibetan languages Chinese ¹⁹ Sino-Tibetan languages, n.i.e.	Sino-Tibetan languages Chinese Sino-Tibetan languages, n.i.e.	Not available Chinese* Not available
Tai languages Lao Thai	Tai languages Lao Thai	Not available Not available Thai*
Austro-Asiatic languages Khmer (Cambodian) Vietnamese Austro-Asiatic languages, n.i.e.	Austro-Asiatic languages Khmer (Cambodian) Vietnamese Austro-Asiatic languages, n.i.e.	Not available Khmer (Cambodian)* Vietnamese* Not available
Malayo-Polynesian languages Malay-Bahasa ¹² Tagalog (Pilipino) Malayo-Polynesian languages, n.i.e.	Malayo-Polynesian languages Indonesian (Malay) Tagalog (Pilipino) Malayo-Polynesian languages, n.i.e.	Malayo-Polynesian languages Indonesian (Malay) Tagalog (Pilipino) Malayo-Polynesian languages, n.i.e.
Asiatic languages, n.i.e.	Asiatic languages, n.i.e.	Asiatic languages, n.i.e.
Niger-Congo languages Bantu languages Swahili Bantu languages, n.i.e. Twi ²⁰ Niger-Congo languages, n.i.e.	Niger-Congo languages Bantu languages Swahili Bantu languages, n.i.e. Not available Niger-Congo languages, n.i.e.*	Niger-Congo languages Bantu languages Swahili Bantu languages, n.i.e. Not available Niger-Congo languages, n.i.e.
African languages, n.i.e.	African languages, n.i.e.	African languages, n.i.e.
Creoles	Creoles	Creoles
Other languages ²¹	Other languages	Other languages*

* Indicates a major change to the languages and/or dialects making up a specific category.

Note: n.i.e. = not included elsewhere

Endnotes

- ¹ Attikamek was included with Cree in 1991.
- ² In 1996, Blackfoot includes Blood and Piegan; in 1991, they were included with Algonquian languages, n.i.e.
- ³ In 1996, Malecite includes Passamaquoddy; in 1991, it was included with Algonquian languages, n.i.e.
- ⁴ In 1996, Micmac includes Souriquois; in 1991, it was included with Algonquian languages, n.i.e.
- ⁵ In 1991, it was included with Algonquian languages, n.i.e.
- ⁶ Change of name only; content is the same as in 1991, except as indicated.
- ⁷ This category includes Yellowknife which, in 1991, was included with Athapaskan languages, n.i.e.
- ⁸ In 1991, Chipewyan included responses of “Dene”; for comparison purposes, the addition of “Dene” and “Chipewyan” in 1996 should yield the equivalent of “Chipewyan” in 1991.
- ⁹ This category was included with “Chipewyan” in 1991.
- ¹⁰ It was included with Salish languages in 1991.
- ¹¹ New distinction of language grouping.
- ¹² Change of name only; content is the same as in 1991.
- ¹³ It was included with Tsimshian in 1991.
- ¹⁴ It was included with Wakashan languages in 1991.
- ¹⁵ It was included with Semitic languages, n.i.e. in 1991.
- ¹⁶ This category is included in Indo-Iranian languages, n.i.e. in 1996.
- ¹⁷ It was included in Indo-Iranian languages, n.i.e. in 1991.
- ¹⁸ It was included in Dravidian languages, n.i.e. in 1991.
- ¹⁹ Mandarin and Cantonese figures will be available upon request.
- ²⁰ It was included with Niger-Congo languages, n.i.e. in 1991.
- ²¹ Figures for “Non-verbal languages” will be available upon request.