

Figure 7.2.2. (a) Organizations: language use
Principal languages spoken by leading people in international organizations: 1995 and 1999

This table indicates the languages spoken by leading people in international organizations (using data collected in 1995 and 1999 for the *Who's Who in International Organizations* (UIA, 1996 and 2000 respectively). Only those languages with more than one speaker in the samples have been listed.

Language	1995		1999		Change 1995 to 1999	Language	1995		1999		Change 1995 to 1999 *
	People	Percent- age	People	Percent- age			People	Percent- age	People	Percent- age	
English	2494	96.8%	1507	97.6%	0.9%	Croatian	6	0.2%	3	0.2%	-16.5%
French	1729	67.1%	1069	69.2%	3.2%	Ukrainian	6	0.2%	3	0.2%	-16.5%
German	1007	39.1%	623	40.3%	3.3%	Sanskrit	5	0.2%	3	0.2%	0.1%
Spanish	639	24.8%	427	27.7%	11.5%	Slovenian	5	0.2%	3	0.2%	0.1%
Italian	407	15.8%	267	17.3%	9.5%	Luxemburgisch	4	0.2%	3	0.2%	25.2%
Dutch	345	13.4%	255	16.5%	23.4%	Sesotho	3	0.1%	3	0.2%	66.9%
Portuguese	142	5.5%	94	6.1%	10.5%	Welsh	3	0.1%	3	0.2%	66.9%
Russian	132	5.1%	87	5.6%	10.0%	Maltese	2	0.1%	3	0.2%	150.4%
Swedish	124	4.8%	74	4.8%	-0.4%	Hausa	5	0.2%	2	0.1%	-33.2%
Arabic	100	3.9%	72	4.7%	20.2%	Marathi	5	0.2%	2	0.1%	-33.2%
Danish	74	2.9%	52	3.4%	17.3%	Castilian	4	0.2%	2	0.1%	-16.5%
Norwegian	57	2.2%	37	2.4%	8.3%	Icelandic	4	0.2%	2	0.1%	-16.5%
Greek	49	1.9%	35	2.3%	19.2%	Bambara	3	0.1%	2	0.1%	11.3%
Latin	47	1.8%	35	2.3%	24.3%	Nyanja (Cinyanja, Chinyanja)	3	0.1%	2	0.1%	11.3%
Hebrew	37	1.4%	27	1.7%	21.8%	Shona	3	0.1%	2	0.1%	11.3%
Hindi	47	1.8%	25	1.6%	-11.2%	Zulu	3	0.1%	2	0.1%	11.3%
Japanese	48	1.9%	24	1.6%	-16.5%	Braille	2	0.1%	2	0.1%	66.9%
Polish	36	1.4%	22	1.4%	2.0%	Malagasy	2	0.1%	2	0.1%	66.9%
Chinese (Mandarin Chinese)	48	1.9%	19	1.2%	-33.9%	Ndebele	2	0.1%	2	0.1%	66.9%
Hungarian	32	1.2%	18	1.2%	-6.1%	Nepalese	2	0.1%	2	0.1%	66.9%
Finnish	36	1.4%	17	1.1%	-21.2%	Telugu	2	0.1%	2	0.1%	66.9%
Esperanto	22	0.9%	17	1.1%	29.0%	Tibetan	2	0.1%	2	0.1%	66.9%
Tagalog (Filipino)	25	1.0%	15	1.0%	0.1%	Pulaar	1	0.0%	2	0.1%	233.8%
Swahili	22	0.9%	13	0.8%	-1.4%	Slovakian	0	0.0%	2	0.1%	100.0%
Tamil	15	0.6%	13	0.8%	44.7%	Krio (Creole)	6	0.2%	1	0.1%	-72.2%
Kiswahili	15	0.6%	11	0.7%	22.4%	Irish	5	0.2%	1	0.1%	-66.6%
Bahasa Malaysia (Malay)	17	0.7%	10	0.6%	-1.8%	Malayalam	5	0.2%	1	0.1%	-66.6%
Yoruba	13	0.5%	10	0.6%	28.4%	Cantonese	4	0.2%	1	0.1%	-58.3%
Punjabi	12	0.5%	10	0.6%	39.1%	Estonian	4	0.2%	1	0.1%	-58.3%
Urdu	21	0.8%	9	0.6%	-28.5%	Akan	3	0.1%	1	0.1%	-44.4%
Catalan	13	0.5%	9	0.6%	15.5%	Bangla	3	0.1%	1	0.1%	-44.4%
Romanian	15	0.6%	8	0.5%	-11.0%	Ewe	3	0.1%	1	0.1%	-44.4%
Czech	14	0.5%	8	0.5%	-4.6%	Kikongo	3	0.1%	1	0.1%	-44.4%
Sinhalese	9	0.3%	8	0.5%	48.4%	Chichewa	2	0.1%	1	0.1%	-16.5%
Turkish	16	0.6%	7	0.5%	-27.0%	Flemish	2	0.1%	1	0.1%	-16.5%
Persian	12	0.5%	7	0.5%	-2.6%	Ganda	2	0.1%	1	0.1%	-16.5%
Serbo-Croatian	10	0.4%	7	0.5%	16.8%	Hokkien	2	0.1%	1	0.1%	-16.5%
Ancient Greek	7	0.3%	7	0.5%	66.9%	Kannada	2	0.1%	1	0.1%	-16.5%
Bengali	7	0.3%	7	0.5%	66.9%	Kikuyu	2	0.1%	1	0.1%	-16.5%
Afrikaans	12	0.5%	6	0.4%	-16.5%	Lithuanian	2	0.1%	1	0.1%	-16.5%
Bulgarian	9	0.3%	5	0.3%	-7.3%	Sindhi	2	0.1%	1	0.1%	-16.5%
Igbo (Ibo)	4	0.2%	5	0.3%	108.6%	Sotho	2	0.1%	1	0.1%	-16.5%
Thai	15	0.6%	4	0.3%	-55.5%	Taiwanese	2	0.1%	1	0.1%	-16.5%
Korean	10	0.4%	4	0.3%	-33.2%	Tongan	2	0.1%	1	0.1%	-16.5%
Yiddish	9	0.3%	4	0.3%	-25.8%						
Amharic	8	0.3%	4	0.3%	-16.5%						
Gujarati	7	0.3%	4	0.3%	-4.6%						
Wolof (Ouolof)	5	0.2%	4	0.3%	33.5%						
Lingala	8	0.3%	3	0.2%	-37.4%						

* adjusted according to sample size

1995: 2577 biographees whose language skills are known spoke a total of 104 languages; average languages per person = 3.2
1999: 1544 biographees whose language skills are known spoke a total of 79 languages; average languages per person = 3.3