



Social Aspects of Language Contact



India is one of the largest growing countries in the world. It contains 15% of the world's population. Nearly 800 million people live there, many of them speaking different languages.

India's diverse culture and languages contain much for sociolinguistic interest. What will happen to these people as their population continues to grow? There are multitudes of complexities in the country, its people and their culture.



Bilingual Education is a becoming more and more of an issue in political concern these days. 1998's **Proposition 227**, voted on in California and Arizona, advocates English only in the public school teaching. There are positive attributes to this, such as integration of the many languages in that area for a closer community.

There are several that oppose **Proposition 227**. Some feel that it does more harm than good, that the bilingual students would suffer academically from such a program.



Health Care for Minority becomes a problem when language barriers occur. The patient/doctor relationship is greatly affected when there is a conflict in language. Minorities have difficulty receiving proper health care when they cannot communicate with their care givers. Improvement of access to health care for minorities is proposed by breaking down the language barriers.

*A Sociolinguistics Project by Michelanne Calhoun, Derek Schmiedeknecht, LarryJack Burns, Javier Ojeda and Matt Sato