



## NGÔN NGỮ

*Several languages are in danger of extinction because they are spoken by very small numbers of people. Some people say that governments should spend public money on saving these languages, while others believe that would be a waste of money.*

*Discuss both these views and give your opinion.*

It is true that some minority languages may disappear in the near future. Although it can be argued that governments could save money by allowing this to happen, I believe that these languages should be protected and **preserved**. There are several reasons why saving minority languages could be seen as a waste of money. Firstly, if a language is only spoken by a small number of people, expensive education programmes will be needed to make sure that more people learn it, and the state will have to pay for facilities, teachers and marketing. This money might be better spent on other public services. Secondly, it would be much cheaper and more efficient for countries to have just one language. Governments could cut all kinds of costs related to communicating with each **minority group**. Despite the above arguments, I believe that governments should try to preserve languages that are less widely spoken. A language is much more than simply a means of communication; it has a vital connection with the **cultural identity** of the people who speak it. If a language disappears, a whole way of life will disappear with it, and we will lose the rich cultural diversity that makes societies more interesting. By spending money to protect minority languages, governments can also preserve traditions, customs and behaviours that are part of a country's history.

In conclusion, it may save money in the short term if we allow minority languages to disappear, but in the long term this would have an extremely negative impact on our **cultural heritage**.

**(258 words) Band 9**



## Các cụm từ cần nhớ

- preserve(v): gìn giữ
- minority group: nhóm người thiểu số
- cultural identity: bản sắc văn hoá
- cultural heritage: di sản văn hoá

*It is very important for people to be able to speak more than one language. Therefore, children should start learning a foreign language as young as possible. Do you agree or disagree?*

Increasing globalisation has made it almost essential for many people to learn more than their native tongue so they can **converse with** people from other countries, and there are strong arguments to be made **in support of** acquiring second or even third languages as a young child, as will now be considered.

Perhaps the most persuasive reason is that children have a far better ability to learn when young compared to later on in life. Information is more readily **absorbed** and **put into practice**, and younger children are able to retain what they are taught. It has also been proven that when learning a language at a young age, a child is able to better pronounce words or sounds that may be absent in their own language. In addition, younger children also have fewer external concerns to contend with. To illustrate, a parent with a job, bills and the responsibilities of looking after their children will be less able to focus on learning a new language compared to a child who is simply attending school. The younger the better, as this also means that they are not yet **overwhelmed with** homework and other preoccupations common to students in their early and mid teens. Granted, there is an argument that attempting to learn an additional language at an early age may result in



the child **confusing the primary and secondary language**, meaning they may **not have a good a grasp** of their home language as other children. However, this can be **negated** by having specific and separate classes for each language, improving skills in both.

In conclusion, assuming the classes are well taught, then the advantages outweigh the negatives.

**(278 words)**

### **Các cụm từ cần nhớ**

- converse with: nói chuyện với
- in support of: ủng hộ
- absorb(v): hấp thụ
- put into practice: đưa vào thực tiễn
- be overwhelmed with: choáng ngợp với cái gì
- confuse the primary and secondary language: lẫn lộn giữa tiếng mẹ đẻ và ngôn ngữ thứ hai
- have a good a grasp: nắm chắc kiến thức nào đó
- negate: vô hiệu hoá