

Appendix 5 : **Linguist Creed**, revised

The Linguistic Creed is an interesting document that dates back to 1987.

Linguistic Creed

Benjamin F. Elson, September, 1987

We believe that language is one of God's most important gifts to man, and of all human characteristics, language is the most distinctly human and the most basic. Without language, culture and civilization would be impossible.

We also believe that any language is capable of being a vehicle for complicated human interaction and complex thought, and can be the basis for a complex culture and civilization.

Therefore, all languages deserve respect and careful study.

As the most uniquely human characteristic a person has, a person's language is associated with his self-image. Interest in and appreciation of a person's language is tantamount to interest in and appreciation of the person himself.

All languages are worthy of preservation in written form by means of grammars, dictionaries, and written texts. This should be done as part of the heritage of the human race.

Every language group deserves to see its language in print and to have some literature written in it.

Minority language groups within a larger nation deserve the opportunity of learning to speak, read, and write the national language.

[http://www.sil.org/sil/linguistic creed.htm](http://www.sil.org/sil/linguistic%20creed.htm)

The last sentence rings very true; minority language groups deserve the opportunity of learning to speak, read, and write the national language. Perhaps an additional sentence could be added:

Minority groups and larger nations deserve the opportunity of learning to speak, read and write the current common global secondary language, English, in a logical, fun, and memorable way.