THE DEATH OF A LANGUAGE

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Category: Language Vitality

The Guardian has an article on the death of the last Eyak speaker in Alaska. The headline says that the loss of this language is worse than bombing the Louvre. To my mind, it may be even worse than that. The loss of a language in analogous to the loss of a biological species. Languages encode human culture and insights in individual ways. More importantly, each language has a capacity to reflect and express unique things about the nature of God and losing a language, reduces humanity's ability to explain and worship our creator.