



## Linguistic Diversity of Mexico

Mexico is a multilingual nation where, in addition to the Spanish as the national language, more than 300 indigenous languages are spoken throughout its territory. This indisputable linguistic wealth places Mexico among the fifth nations with most linguistic diversity in the world, after New Guinea, Indonesia, Nigeria and India. The overall indigenous population is about 7 millions of people that speak one of those historic languages. Most of the Mexican languages is concentrated in Southeast area, corresponding to the ancient Mesoamerican settlements. From the linguistic point of view, languages are not only structured systems, behind linguistic structures lies a complex cultural life.

The starting point of this course will be a brief historical overview, from the Spanish conquest up to the present days, through which the students will know the different stages of linguistic diversity. Special attention will be paid to Mesoamerica, highlighting its importance as a linguistic and cultural area. We will also explore the linguistic methods for the classification of languages into linguistic families. The distribution of languages across the national territory, as well as their principal linguistic characteristics will be addressed in great detail and discussed. Also of interest will be to examine the relationship between language and culture.

This course will consist of presentations by the instructor and the discussion of selected readings by the group of participants.