

48th International Conference on Education



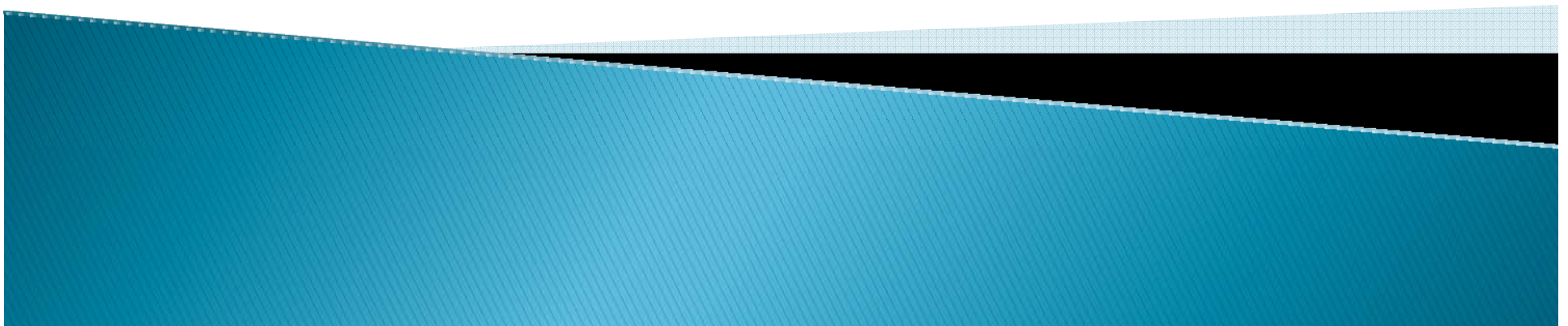
WORKSHOP 1

Intercultural Bilingual Education: Perspectives from Latin America

Luis Enrique López

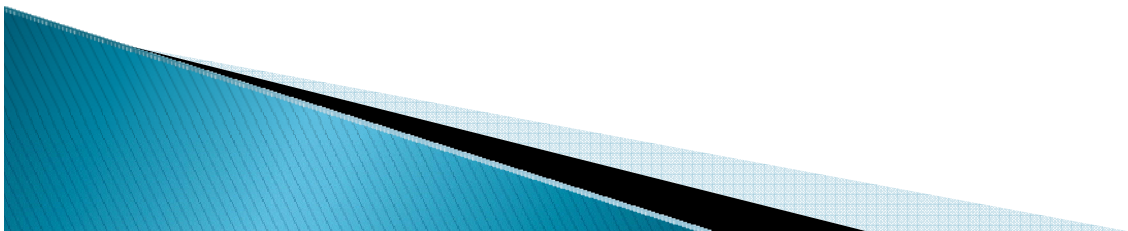
Intercultural Bilingual Education: Perspectives from Latin America

Luis Enrique López, Programa de Apoyo a la
Calidad Educativa, GTZ–Guatemala



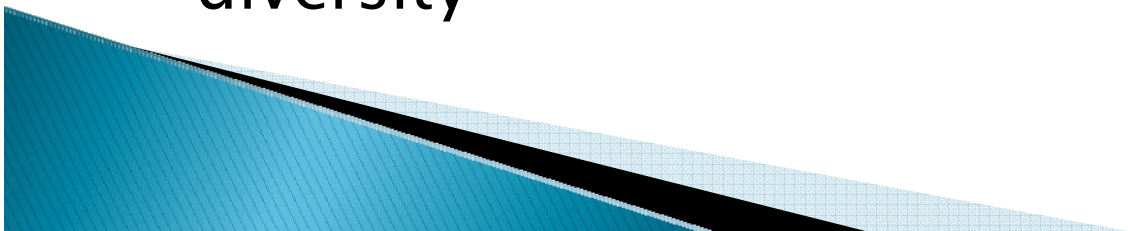
Cultural and linguistic diversity: a world trait, resource and value

- ▶ 5.000 to 6.000 different languages in the world.
- ▶ Africa as the most diverse region in terms of the number of specific different languages.
 - Over 1.000 different languages
- ▶ America as the genetically richest area in terms of the number of specific language families.
 - Over 40 different language families
 - Over 500 different languages
- ▶ Cultural diversity and biodiversity generally come together: an equation to remember.
- ▶ To be inclusive education ought to respond to the world's cultural and linguistic diversity and to regard it as a resource for new and richer learning.



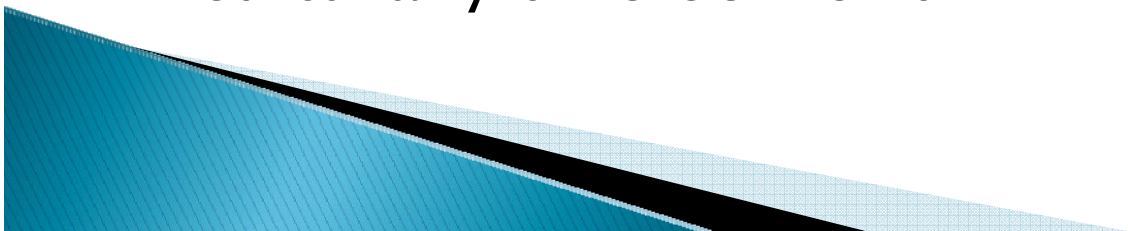
What is lost when a language dies

- ▶ Languages not only means of communication
- ▶ They reflect unique world-views and values
- ▶ A language is in itself a body a knowledge
 - It reflects the culture of its speakers
 - It is the means through which each society constructs knowledge about society and nature
- ▶ When a language is no longer used, the body of knowledge it encompasses can also be lost
 - Languages are mainly oral means of communication
 - Knowledge which has not been registered soon becomes forgotten
- ▶ Inclusive education must acknowledge and contribute to preserve language and cultural diversity



The role of languages and cultures in education: cultural responsibility

- ▶ The mother tongue as the key-stone for the child's social and cognitive development
- ▶ Second and other languages knowledge and use based on mother tongue development
- ▶ Cultures and languages and the school curriculum: pertinent and relevant competencies and contents
- ▶ Languages and cultures and different ways of learning and teaching
- ▶ Learning to live together: a challenge for inclusive education in a linguistically and culturally diverse world.



Intercultural bilingual education as an inclusive approach to education

- ▶ A contemporary approach for the education of everyone and not restricted only to those perceived as different: most generally indigenous and minority populations
- ▶ A model for the empowerment of populations neglected or at risk: indigenous and minorities
- ▶ A means for girls to equal boys in school achievement
- ▶ A strategy to enrich the curriculum towards social relevance and cultural and linguistic pertinence
- ▶ A practice of common understanding and mutual respect
- ▶ A process through which every student learns and feels as an accepted and respected member of society
- ▶ A policy to include parents in the democratic management of schools and of the school system
- ▶ The approach to overcome unilateral cultural assimilation in Latin America and to understand diversity not as a problem but as a resource.

