Assignment – Historical Issues

Due

1. Develop the Historical Page
2. All languages have a history – and the evolution of these histories becomes written on the language through borrowings, phonological adaptations, morphology, etc.
   1. What is the most basic history of the people who speak your language? Who are they? What is their social structure like? What do they value? Is this information documented? Is so, by whom? If not, what are possible reasons why not?

Historical - Everyone

1. Historical linguistics
   1. What major historical events have impacted your language (i.e., migrations, wars, climate change, political events, conflicts, genocide, etc.)

If you make a Historical Page

1. Historical linguistics
   1. What is historical linguistics?
      * 1. How do historians use linguistics?
        2. How do linguists use histories?
2. Historical characteristics
   1. Are there any elements in your language that can be traced to another language?
      1. This may be difficult to find, but start by looking for any European language influences by searching for the name of your language & the name of any European languages spoken in the country
      2. Then search for nearby macrolanguages
   2. Grammaticalization
      1. Look at nearby macrolanguages – is there any characteristic that appears to be adopted from a macrolanguage?
         1. Adjectives
         2. Tense
3. Is your language in the fragmentation belt?
   1. What is the fragmentation belt?
   2. What side of the fragmentation belt is your language?
   3. What features of your language have been influenced by the fragmentation belt?
4. How does/did your group live? I.e., are they nomadic, farmers, inner-city kids?
   1. How has this changed the language? Where can this be seen to be written on the language?