

Ethnologue: Languages of Chile

Twenty-sixth edition data

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List of Abbreviations

A	Agent in constituent word order
<i>alt.</i>	alternate name for
<i>alt. dial.</i>	alternate dialect name for
AOV	Agent-Object-Verb
C	Consonant in canonical syllable patterns
CDE	Convention against Discrimination in Education (1960)
<i>Class</i>	Language classification
CPPDCE	Convention on the Protection and Promotion of the Diversity of Cultural Expressions (2005)
CSICH	Convention for the Safeguarding of Intangible Cultural Heritage (2003)
<i>dial.</i>	primary dialect name for
ICCPR	International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights (1966)
ILOCITP	ILO Convention on Indigenous and Tribal People no. 169 (1989)
km	kilometer(s)
L1 / L2	first language / second (or other additional) language
<i>Lg Dev</i>	Language development
<i>Lg Use</i>	Language use
m	meter(s)
P	Patient in constituent word order
PARADISEC	Pacific And Regional Archive for Digital Sources In Endangered Cultures
<i>pej.</i>	pejorative
pl.	plural
S	Subject in constituent word order
sg.	singular
SIL	SIL International
<i>Type</i>	Typological information
UNCRPD	United Nations Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (2006)
UNDESA	United Nations Department of Economic and Social Affairs
UNDRIP	United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples (2007)
V	Vowel in canonical syllable patterns
VSO	Verb-Subject-Object
WFD	World Federation of the Deaf

How to Use This Digest

This *Ethnologue* country digest provides an extract of the information about the language situation in Chile that is published in the 26th edition of *Ethnologue: Languages of the World* (see <http://www.ethnologue.com>), including some ways of presenting the information that are not available in the online version. The digest begins with a “Country Overview” (page 6) and “Statistical Summaries” (page 8) of languages and number of speakers by language size, by language status, and by language family.

The “Alphabetical Listing of Languages” (page 11) provides detailed information on the 15 languages listed in the *Ethnologue* for the country of Chile. This includes languages that are indigenous to the country, languages that have developed well-established multigenerational speaker communities after immigrating in the past, and languages that have a significant presence in the country but are not established (that is, not being transmitted to the next generation within the country). A complete language entry has the following form and content:

Primary language name [ISO 639-3 code] (Alternate names). Autonym. *Users*: Country user population. Population stability comment. Population remarks. Monolingual population. Ethnic population. *Location*: Location. *Status*: EGIDS level. Special cases. Language function in country. *Class*: Linguistic classification. Macrolanguage membership. *Dialects*: Dialect names. Intelligibility and dialect relations. Lexical similarity. *Type*: Linguistic typology information. *Lg Use*: Remarks on use of the language. Domains of use. User age range. Language attitudes. Bilingualism remarks. Use as second language. *Lg Dev*: Literacy rates. Literacy remarks. Use in education. Publications and use in media. Revitalization efforts. Language development agencies. *DLS*: Digital support. *Writing*: Scripts used. *Other*: Non-indigenous. General remarks. Religion. *Worldwide*: Total population in all countries. Other countries where used.

See <http://www.ethnologue.com/methodology/#languagePages> for a full description of these information elements. If the autonym contains the “?” character, this indicates a complex non-Roman character that the PDF-creating software we are using is not able to render. We regret the inconvenience.

Many ways of finding languages are provided. “Languages by Population” (page 17) lists the languages in order of their first-language speaker populations. “Languages by Status” (page 19) lists the languages by their level of development or endangerment as measured on EGIDS, the Expanded Graded Intergenerational Disruption Scale (Lewis and Simons 2010). “Languages by Region” (page 22) lists the top-level administrative subdivisions of Chile and the languages located within each. “Languages by Family” (page 23) lists the languages by their linguistic classifications. “Language Code Index” (page 24) gives an alphabetical listing of all the three-letter codes from ISO 639-3 that are used in this digest to uniquely identify languages. “Language Name Index” (page 25) lists every name that appears in the language listings as a primary or alternate name of a language or dialect. A total of 70 unique names are associated with the 15

languages described in this digest.

Finally, a listing of all the published sources cited within this digest is found in “Bibliography” (page 27). The published sources are cited using standard in-text citations enclosed in parentheses, consisting of the author’s or editor’s surname followed by the year of publication. Unpublished sources including personal communications and unpublished reports are also acknowledged when specific statements or facts are attributed to them. They are identified using in-text citations enclosed in parentheses in which the year of the communication is given first, followed by the source’s first initial and surname. In such a case, there is no corresponding entry in the bibliography.

This digest is designed for use in both digital and print formats. The cross-references are thus rendered as page numbers that are hyperlinks. When using the document in printed form, simply turn to the referenced page by number. When using it in digital form, click on the blue text to jump to the cross-referenced location.

If you believe any of the information about a language in this digest is in error or if you are able to supply missing information, please send your proposed change to the editor using one of the means given below. Provide as much information as possible about the source of your information. Full bibliographic details of published sources are especially helpful.

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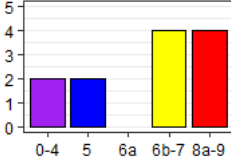
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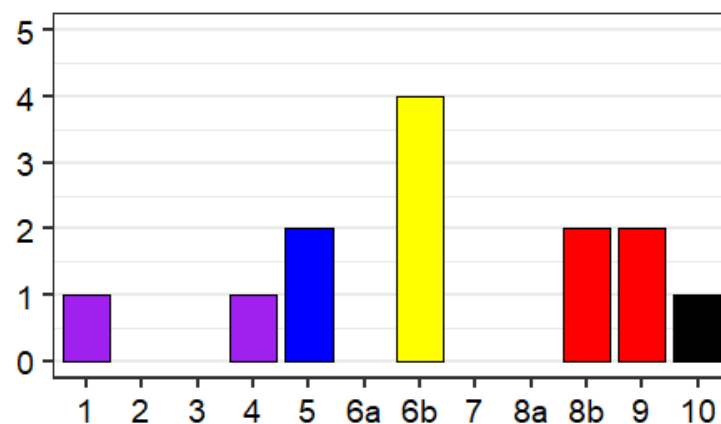
Country Overview

Name of country	Chile												
Population	19,212,000 (2021 UNDESA)												
Principal language	Spanish												
Literacy rate	98% (2015 World Factbook)												
Deaf population	66,500 (2002 census)												
International conventions	CDE (1971), CPPDCE (2007), CSICH (2008), ICCPR (1972), ILOCITP (2008), UNCRPD (2008), UNDRIP (2007)												
General references	Besnier 1992, Campbell 1997, Campbell and King 2011, Crevels 2007, Fabre 2007, Tovar 1961, Tovar 1966, Tovar and Larrucea de Tovar 1984, Wurm and Hattori 1981												
Language counts	<p>The number of established languages listed for Chile is 13. Of these, 12 are living and 1 is extinct. Of the living languages, 9 are indigenous and 3 are non-indigenous. Furthermore, 2 are institutional, 2 are developing, 4 are in trouble, and 4 are dying. Also listed are 2 unestablished languages.</p>  <table border="1"> <caption>Language Vitality Counts for Chile</caption> <thead> <tr> <th>Vitality Category</th> <th>Count</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>0-4</td> <td>2</td> </tr> <tr> <td>5</td> <td>2</td> </tr> <tr> <td>6a</td> <td>4</td> </tr> <tr> <td>6b-7</td> <td>4</td> </tr> <tr> <td>8a-9</td> <td>4</td> </tr> </tbody> </table>	Vitality Category	Count	0-4	2	5	2	6a	4	6b-7	4	8a-9	4
Vitality Category	Count												
0-4	2												
5	2												
6a	4												
6b-7	4												
8a-9	4												

See the next page for an explanation of the summary categories for language vitality used in the above counts and graph.

Language Status Profile

The following histogram gives a graphic profile of the established languages in Chile with respect to their status of language development versus language endangerment. This includes all of the languages appearing in the “Alphabetical Listing of Languages” (page 11) that report an EGIDS level after *Status*; macrolanguages and unestablished languages are not included in the profile. The horizontal axis plots the estimated level of development or endangerment as measured on the EGIDS scale (Lewis and Simons 2010). The height of each bar indicates the number of languages that are estimated to be at the given level. Consult “Languages by Status” (page 19) in order to see the specific languages for each level.



The color coding of the bars in the histogram above matches the color scheme used in the summary profile graph on the preceding page. In this scheme, the EGIDS levels are grouped as follows:

- Purple = Institutional (EGIDS 0–4) — The language has been developed to the point that it is used and sustained by institutions beyond the home and community.
- Blue = Developing (EGIDS 5) — The language is in vigorous use, with literature in a standardized form being used by some though this is not yet widespread or sustainable.
- Green = Vigorous (EGIDS 6a) — The language is in vigorous use among all generations and remains unstandardized.
- Yellow = In trouble (EGIDS 6b–7) — Intergenerational transmission is in the process of being broken, but the child-bearing generation can still use the language so it is possible that revitalization efforts could restore transmission of the language in the home.
- Red = Dying (EGIDS 8a–9) — The only fluent users (if any) are older than child-bearing age, so it is too late to restore natural intergenerational transmission through the home; a mechanism outside the home would need to be developed.
- Black = Extinct (EGIDS 10) — The language is no longer used and no one retains a sense of ethnic identity associated with the language.

Statistical Summaries

The “Alphabetical Listing of Languages” (page 11) provides a detailed listing of all the languages of Chile. This section steps back from the detail to offer a summary view of the language situation in the country. Specifically, it offers three numerical tabulations of the living established languages of Chile and their users: by language size, by language status, and by language family.

Summary by language size

Table 1 summarizes the distribution of living established languages in Chile by number of L1 speakers. The *Population range* column categorizes the sizes of the languages by order of magnitude (in terms of the number of digits in the population of first-language speakers). Consult “Languages by Population” (page 17) for a listing of the specific languages in each range category.

The *Count* column gives the number of living established languages within the specified population range. The *Percent* column gives the share of the count for that population range as a percentage of the total number of languages given at the bottom of the Count column. The *Cumulative* column gives the cumulative sum of the percentage of languages going from top to bottom in the column.

The *Total* column gives the total L1 population of all the languages in the given range category. The second *Percent* column gives the percentage of the total country population as estimated at the bottom of the Total column. Note that if the table has a row for Unknown, representing languages for which the *Ethnologue* does not have a population estimate, the calculation of population percentage is not able to take those languages into account. The final *Cumulative* column gives the cumulative sums of the population percentages going from top to bottom in the column.

Table 1: Distribution of languages by number of first-language speakers

Population range	Living languages			Number of speakers		
	Count	Percent	Cumulative	Total	Percent	Cumulative
10,000,000 to 99,999,999	1	8.3	8.3%	18,900,000	98.16901	98.16901%
100,000 to 999,999	1	8.3	16.7%	250,000	1.29853	99.46754%
10,000 to 99,999	4	33.3	50.0%	100,500	0.52201	99.98955%
1,000 to 9,999	2	16.7	66.7%	2,000	0.01039	99.99994%
10 to 99	1	8.3	75.0%	12	0.00006	100.00000%
0	2	16.7	91.7%		0.00000	100.00000%
Unknown	1	8.3	100.0%			
<i>Totals</i>	12	100.0		19,252,512	100.00000	

Summary by language status

Table 2 summarizes the distribution of living established languages in Chile by their status in terms of language development or language endangerment. The *EGIDS* column categorizes the languages by their level on the EGIDS scale. Consult “Languages by Status” (page 19) for a listing of the specific languages that have been assigned to each level. Note that the EGIDS level reported here is for the status of the language in Chile. Languages that are also used in other countries may be assigned to a different EGIDS level in those countries.

The next six columns are as in Table 1. In addition, the *Mean* column gives the average L1 population of all the languages with the given EGIDS level and the *Median* column gives the median L1 population for the languages at that level, that is, half of the languages at that level have a higher population and half have a lower population. If there are any languages with an unknown population, these are ignored in the calculation of the mean and the median.

Table 2: Distribution of languages by vitality status

EGIDS	Living languages			Number of speakers			Mean	Median
	Count	Percent	Cumulative	Total	Percent	Cumulative		
1	1	8.3	8.3%	18,900,000	98.1690	98.1690%	18,900,000	18,900,000
4	1	8.3	16.7%	15,500	0.0805	98.2495%	15,500	15,500
5	2	16.7	33.3%	66,000	0.3428	98.5923%	33,000	33,000
6b	4	33.3	66.7%	271,000	1.4076	99.9999%	67,750	10,000
8b	2	16.7	83.3%	12	0.0001	100.0000%	6	12
9	2	16.7	100.0%		0.0000	100.0000%		
<i>Totals</i>	12	100.0		19,252,512	100.0000			

Summary by language family

The genealogical classifications given in the language entries of the “Alphabetical Listing of Languages” (page 11) name 8 different top-level groups. Table 3 summarizes the distribution of living established languages and their L1 populations within these families. The columns are as for table 2, with the exception that *Cumulative* is excluded since there is no inherent ordering of the families.

Table 3: Distribution of languages by language family

Language family	Living languages		Number of speakers			
	Count	Percent	Total	Percent	Mean	Median
Austronesian	1	8.3	1,000	0.0	1,000	1,000

Language family	Living languages		Number of speakers			
	<i>Count</i>	<i>Percent</i>	<i>Total</i>	<i>Percent</i>	<i>Mean</i>	<i>Median</i>
Aymaran	1	8.3	19,000	0.1	19,000	19,000
Indo-European	3	25.0	18,960,500	98.5	6,320,167	45,000
Kaweskaran	1	8.3	12	0.0	12	12
Language isolate	2	16.7		0.0		
Mapudungu	2	16.7	250,000	1.3	125,000	250,000
Quechuan	1	8.3	1,000	0.0	1,000	1,000
Sign language	1	8.3	21,000	0.1	21,000	21,000
<i>Totals</i>	12	100.0	19,252,512	100.0		

Alphabetical Listing of Languages

Aymara, Central [ayr] (Aimara, Aymar, Aymar aru). Autonym: Aymar, Aymar aru. *Users*: 19,000 in Chile (Fabre 2007). Ethnic population: 48,500 (2002). About half have some knowledge of the language (Crevels 2007). *Location*: Antofagasta, Arica and Parinacota, and Tarapacá regions: Iquique area, extreme north mountains. *Status*: 6b* (Threatened). Recognized language (1993, Indigenous Peoples Law (No. 19.253)), Bilingual education programs in highland areas. *Class*: Aymaran, Aymara. *Type*: SOV; noun head final; case-marking (6 cases); verb affixes mark person, number; tense; comparatives; 26 consonant and 6 vowel phonemes; non-tonal; stress on penultimate syllable. *Lg Use*: Due to acculturation, the language is especially being lost at a rapid pace in coastal areas and the valleys. Fewer than one-third transmit the language to their children (Crevels 2007). Also use Spanish [spa]. *Lg Dev*: Bilingual education is being implemented in some schools in the highland. Radio. Dictionary. Grammar. Texts. Bible: 1987–2012. *Writing*: Latin script. *Other*: Only one-third of the Aymaras still live in the rural communities of their traditional homeland; most now live in the urban areas (Fabre 2007). *Map*: 16. *Worldwide*: Total users in all countries: 1,464,100. Global EGIDS level: 5 (Developing). Also indigenous in: Bolivia, Peru. Unestablished in: Argentina.

Chilean Sign Language [csg] (LENSE, LSCh, Lengua de Señas Chilena, Lenguaje Chileno de Signos, Lenguaje de Señas). *Users*: 21,000 (Parks et al 2011a). 292,700 people with some level of auditory deficiency (2005 Fondo Nacional de la Discapacidad); 66,500 people with total deafness (23,900 less than 60 years old) (2002 census); others give estimates as high as 500,000 users (2018 J. Atala). *Location*: Scattered. *Status*: 5 (Developing). Recognized language (2010, Article 26 of Law No. 20.422), recognizes sign language as the natural means of communication of the deaf community. *Class*: Sign language, Deaf community sign language. *Dialects*: None known. Variation based on region (northern, central, and southern), age, and educational background. Regional varieties are influenced by bordering countries. (Parks et al 2011a). *Lg Use*: All domains. Used by all. Positive attitudes. Favor use by both deaf and hearing people. Also use Spanish [spa], with varying degrees of bilingualism in speech and writing. Literacy for access to mainstream society and employment is valued. *Lg Dev*: First residential school for the deaf opened in 1852 in Santiago. Oralist education predominated from 1889 to the 1980s, when schools began incorporating signing, chiefly Total Communication, but sometimes a bilingual-bicultural approach. Currently, most deaf students attend mainstream schools. Almost 60% of Chilean deaf have no education beyond primary school; only 3.4% have graduated from high school (González et al 2019). 37 deaf teachers of Chilean sign language (2006 V. Castillo Martínez). Approximately 15 sign language interpreters (2008 WFD). TV. Dictionary. Texts. Agency: Asociación de Sordos de Chile (ASOCH). *DLS*: Emerging (0.01). *Other*: Interpretation and subtitling is mandated for television under Article 25 of Law No. 20.422.

English [eng] (Inglés). Autonym: English. *Users*: 1,965,500 in Chile, all users. L1 users: 15,500 in Chile (2020 Joshua Project). L2 users: 1,950,000 (2019 World Factbook). *Status*: 4

(Educational). *Class*: Indo-European, Germanic, West, English. *Type*: SVO; prepositions; genitives after noun heads; articles, adjectives, numerals before noun heads; question word initial; word order distinguishes subject, object, indirect objects, given and new information, topic and comment; active and passive; causative; comparative; consonant and vowel clusters; 24 consonants, 13 vowels, 8 diphthongs; non-tonal; free stress; phrasal verbs. *Lg Use*: Also use Spanish [spa]. *Lg Dev*: Taught as subject in many primary and secondary schools. Fully developed. Bible: 1382–2002. *Writing*: Braille script. Deseret Alphabet, developed in 1854 with limited usage until 1877. Duployan shorthand. Latin script, primary usage. Shavian (Shaw) script, no longer in use. *Other*: Non-indigenous. There is high demand for English education and policies are being pushed to make English the primary second language. *Worldwide*: Total users in all countries: 1,456,448,320 (as L1: 379,682,200; as L2: 1,076,766,120). Global EGIDS level: 0 (International). Indigenous in: Ireland, United Kingdom. Also established in 167 other countries and unestablished in 16 more.

German, Standard [deu] (Alemán, Deutsch). Autonym: Deutsch. *Users*: 45,000 in Chile (2020 Joshua Project), based on ethnicity. *Location*: Major cities. *Status*: 5* (Dispersed). *Class*: Indo-European, Germanic, West, High German, German, Middle German, East Middle German. *Type*: SVO; prepositions; noun head final; gender (masculine/feminine/neuter); definite and indefinite articles; case-marking (4 cases); verb affixes mark person, number; passives; tense; comparatives; 22 consonants, 22 vowels, 3 diphthongs; non-tonal; stress on first syllable of the root. *Lg Use*: Also use Spanish [spa]. *Lg Dev*: Fully developed. Bible: 1466–2016. *Writing*: Braille script. Latin script, primary usage. Latin script, Fraktur variant, used until 1940. Runic script, no longer in use. *Other*: Non-indigenous. *Worldwide*: Total users in all countries: 133,245,880 (as L1: 75,282,080; as L2: 57,963,800). Global EGIDS level: 1 (National). Indigenous in: Austria, Belgium, Czechia, Denmark, Germany, Italy. Also established in 39 other countries and unestablished in 23 more.

Greek [ell]. *Users*: 7,000 in Chile (2020 Joshua Project). *Status*: Unestablished. *Class*: Indo-European, Greek, Attic. *Type*: SVO; prepositions; noun head final; gender (masculine/feminine/neuter); definite and indefinite articles; case-marking (3 cases); verb affixes mark person, number; passives (active, medio-passive, passive); tense and aspect; comparatives; 18 consonant and 5 vowel phonemes; non-tonal; free stress. *Lg Dev*: Fully developed. Bible: 1840–1994. *Writing*: Braille script. Cyrillic script, used in Ukraine. Greek script, primary usage. *Other*: Non-indigenous. *Worldwide*: Total users in all countries: 13,088,220 (as L1: 12,992,220; as L2: 96,000). Global EGIDS level: 1 (National). Indigenous in: Albania, Greece. Also established in: Australia, Cyprus, Egypt, Hungary, Italy, Romania, Turkey, Ukraine. Unestablished in: Argentina, Armenia, Austria, Belgium, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Brazil, Bulgaria, Canada, Czechia, Democratic Republic of the Congo, Denmark, Djibouti, Finland, Germany, Israel, Jordan, Kazakhstan, Kuwait, Kyrgyzstan, Lebanon, Libya, Luxembourg, Malawi, Mexico, Mozambique, Netherlands, New Zealand, North Macedonia, Norway, Panama, Russian Federation, Sierra Leone, South Africa, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland, United Kingdom, United States, Uruguay, Uzbekistan, Zambia, Zimbabwe.

Huilliche [huh] (Huilche, Huiliche, Veliche, “Beliche” *pej.*). *Users*: A few elderly speakers

(Crevels 2012). Ethnic population: 2,000 (1982 SIL). *Location*: Los Lagos and Los Ríos regions: Valdivia to Chiloé south of Mapuche. *Status*: 8b (Nearly extinct). *Class*: Mapudungu. *Dialect*: Tsesungún (Chesungun). Related to Mapudungun [arn], but barely intelligible with it. *Lg Use*: Few domains. Elderly only. All shifted to Spanish [spa]. *Lg Dev*: Dictionary. Grammar. Texts. *DLS*: Still. *Writing*: Unwritten. *Map*: 16.

Italian [ita]. Autonym: Italiano. *Users*: 38,000 in Chile (2020 Joshua Project). *Status*: Unestablished. *Class*: Indo-European, Italic, Romance, Italo-Western, Italo-Dalmatian. *Type*: SVO; prepositions; gender (masculine/feminine); definite and indefinite articles; verb affixes mark person, number; passives; tense; comparatives; 23 consonant and 7 vowel phonemes; non-tonal; stress mostly on penultimate syllable. *Lg Dev*: Fully developed. Bible: 1471–1985. *Writing*: Braille script, used since 1974. Latin script, primary usage. *Other*: Non-indigenous. *Worldwide*: Total users in all countries: 67,935,480 (as L1: 64,647,380; as L2: 3,288,100). Global EGIDS level: 1 (National). Indigenous in: Croatia, Italy, San Marino, Slovenia, Switzerland. Also established in 12 other countries and unestablished in 34 more.

Kunza [kuz] (Atacameño, Likan Antai, Likanantaí, Lipe, Ulipe). *Users*: No known L1 speakers. The last speakers either died or shifted entirely to Spanish by 1978. Ethnic population: 21,000 (2002 census). *Location*: Antofagasta region: El Loa province; Caspana, Peine, and Socaire (Salar de Atacama). *Status*: 9 (Dormant). *Class*: Language isolate. *Dialects*: None known. Classified as Macro-Chibchan. *Type*: 23 consonants and 10 vowels (5 short, 5 long). *Lg Use*: Shifted to Spanish [spa] (Crevels 2007). *Lg Dev*: Dictionary. Texts. *DLS*: Still.

Mapudungun [arn] (Araucana, Mapuche, Mapudungu, Mapuzungun, “Araucano” *pej.*). Autonym: Mapudungun. *Users*: 250,000 in Chile (Crevels 2007). Ethnic population: 604,000 (2002). *Location*: Araucanía, Biobío, Los Lagos, and Los Ríos regions: Arauco, Biobío, Valdivia, Osorno. *Status*: 6b (Threatened). Recognized language (1993, Indigenous Peoples Law (No. 19.253)). *Class*: Mapudungu. *Dialects*: Moluche (Manzanero, Ngoluche), Picunche, Pehuenche. Easy intelligibility among dialects. Pehuenche and Moluche are reportedly very similar. *Type*: Free word order; prepositions; noun head final; dual number; definite and indefinite articles; verb affixes mark person, number; passives; causatives; 19 consonant and 6 vowel phonemes; non-tonal; stress on penultimate syllable (vowel-final) or final syllable (consonant-final). *Lg Use*: Some young people, all adults. Also use Spanish [spa]. *Lg Dev*: Literacy rate in L2: 21%. 85,000 are literate in Spanish [spa]. Intercultural Bilingual Education programs may contribute to the survival of Mapudungun (Crevels 2007). Radio. Dictionary. Grammar. Texts. NT: 1997–2011. *DLS*: Ascending (0.17). *Writing*: Latin script. *Other*: Traditional religion, Christian. *Map*: 16. *Worldwide*: Total users in all countries: 258,410. Also indigenous in: Argentina.

Puquina [puq] (Pukina). *Users*: No known L1 speakers in Chile. Last speaker likely died in the 1700s. *Location*: Arica and Parinacota region. *Status*: 10 (Extinct). *Class*: Language isolate. *Lg Dev*: Dictionary. Texts. *Worldwide*: Total users in all countries: none known. Also indigenous in: Bolivia, Peru.

Qawasqar [alc] (Alacalouf, Alacaluf, Alacalufe, Alaculoof, Alaculuf, Alakaluf, Alikaluf,

Alikhoolip, Alikuluf, Alilkoolif, Alokolup, Alooculoof, Alookooloop, Alucaluf, Alukoeluf, Alukulup, Halakwulup, Kaweskar, Kawesqar). *Users*: 12 (2006 O. Aguilera). 10 in Puerto Edén. Ethnic population: 100 (Crevels 2012). *Location*: Magallanes region: West Patagonia, Channel area, Isle of Wellington off south Chilean coast, 49 degrees south. Center is Puerto Edén. *Status*: 8b (Nearly extinct). *Class*: Kaweskaran. *Dialect*: Aksanás (Aksana). Dialects are generally divided into three groups, northern, central and southern, of which only the northern is still spoken (Viegas Barros 1990). *Type*: 19 consonants and 6 vowels. *Lg Use*: Most shifted to Spanish [spa]. *Lg Dev*: Dictionary. Grammar. Texts. *DLS*: Still. *Writing*: Unwritten. *Other*: Aksanás has been shown by Clairis to be a misinterpretation of old Qawasqar; it is a phantom (Campbell and Grondona 2012). *Map*: 16.

Quechua, South Bolivian [quh] (Qhichwa, Qhishwa). Autonym: Qhichwa. *Users*: 1,000 in Chile (Crevels 2012). Ethnic population: 6,180 (Crevels 2012). *Location*: Antofagasta region. *Status*: 6b (Threatened). *Class*: Quechuan, Peripheral Quechua, Chinchay, Southern Chinchay. *Type*: SOV; 25 consonants and 3 vowels. *Lg Use*: Some of all ages. Also use Spanish [spa]. *Lg Dev*: Dictionary. Bible: 1986–2015. *Writing*: Latin script. *Worldwide*: Total users in all countries: 1,616,120. Global EGIDS level: 5 (Developing). Also indigenous in: Argentina, Bolivia.

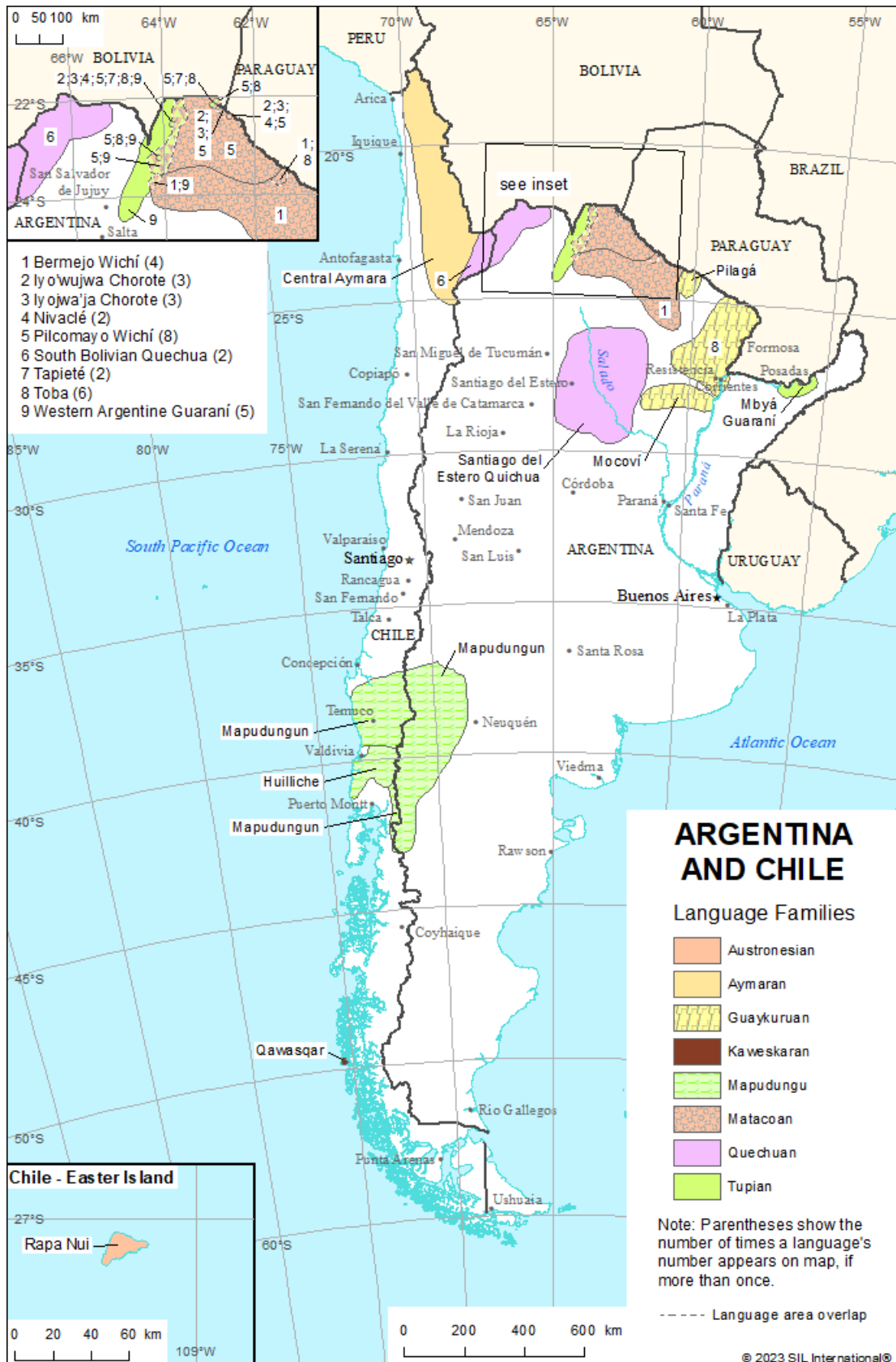
Rapa Nui [rap] (Easter Island, Pascuense, Rapanui). Autonym: Rapa Nui. *Users*: 1,000 (2016 R. Weber). Ethnic population: 5,000 (Kieviet 2016). Approximately 3,600 on Easter Island. *Location*: Valparaíso region: Easter Island, 3,800 km from Chile, 4,000 km from Tahiti. *Status*: 6b (Threatened). Recognized language (1993, Indigenous Peoples Law (No. 19.253)). *Class*: Austronesian, Malayo-Polynesian, Central-Eastern Malayo-Polynesian, Eastern Malayo-Polynesian, Oceanic, Central-Eastern Oceanic, Remote Oceanic, Central Pacific, East Fijian-Polynesian, Polynesian, Nuclear, East, Rapanui. *Dialects*: None known. Lexical similarity: 64% with Hawaiian [haw], Mangareva [mrv], and Rarotongan [rar]; 63% with Marquesan [mrq]; 62% with Tahitian [tah] and Tuamotuan [pmt]. *Type*: VSO; prepositions; noun head final; common and proper nouns; dual number; article; isolating language; aspect markers; 10 consonants and 10 vowels (5 short, 5 long); non-tonal; stress on penultimate syllable; inclusive/exclusive pronouns; verb serialization. *Lg Use*: Was vigorous, but now declining. Young generation losing interest in the language. Revival efforts are in progress (Wurm 2007). Home, education. Some young people, all adults. All also use Spanish [spa]. *Lg Dev*: Literacy rate in L1: 50%–75%. Literacy rate in L2: 80%–90% in Spanish [spa]. Literature. Radio. Dictionary. Grammar. NT: 2018. Agency: Academia de la Lengua Rapa Nui. *DLS*: Emerging (0.11). *Writing*: Latin script. *Map*: 16.

Spanish [spa] (Castellano, Español). Autonym: Castellano, Español. *Users*: 19,707,000 in Chile, all users. L1 users: 18,900,000 in Chile (Instituto Cervantes 2021). L2 users: 807,000 (Instituto Cervantes 2021). *Status*: 1 (National). De facto national language. *Class*: Indo-European, Italic, Romance, Italo-Western, Western, Gallo-Iberian, Ibero-Romance, West Iberian, Castilian. *Dialects*: Andean Spanish (Español andino), Chilean Spanish (Español chileno). Andean Spanish is spoken in northern Chile. *Type*: SVO; prepositions; genitives, relatives after noun heads; articles, numerals before noun heads; adjectives before or after noun heads

depending on whether it is evaluative or descriptive; question word initial; gender (masculine/feminine); definite and indefinite articles; verb affixes mark number, person; passives; tense; comparatives; 20 consonants, 5 vowels, 5 diphthongs; non-tonal; stress on penultimate syllable. Silbo Gomero whistled variety of Spanish used in Canary Islands. *Lg Use*: All domains. Used by all. *Lg Dev*: Taught in all primary and secondary schools. Taught in tertiary schools. Fully developed. Bible: 1553–2012. *Writing*: Braille script. Latin script, primary usage. *Other*: Non-indigenous. *Worldwide*: Total users in all countries: 559,078,890 (as L1: 485,063,960; as L2: 74,014,930). Global EGIDS level: 0 (International). Indigenous in: Andorra, Gibraltar, Spain. Also established in 39 other countries and unestablished in 33 more.

Yámana [yag] (Tequenica, Yaghan, Yagán, Yahgan). Autonym: Háusi Kúta. *Users*: No known L1 speakers in Chile (Reuters). Last fluent speaker, Cristina Calderón, died in 2019. Ethnic population: 70 (Crevels 2012). *Location*: Magallanes region: Patagonia area, Navarino island, Puerto Williams, Ukika hamlet. *Status*: 9 (Dormant). *Class*: Language isolate. *Type*: 15 consonants and 6 vowels. *Lg Dev*: Dictionary. Grammar. Bible portions: 1881–1886. There are irregular language workshops (2013 Y. Meroz). *DLS*: Still. *Writing*: Latin script. *Worldwide*: Total users in all countries: none known. Also indigenous in: Argentina.

Language Map



Languages by Population

In this section the languages of Chile are listed in order of their population of first-language speakers within the country, from highest to lowest. The entries report just the population and status elements.

10,000,000 to 99,999,999

Spanish [[spa](#)] *Users*: 18,900,000 in Chile (Instituto Cervantes 2021). 19,707,000 in Chile, all users. L2 users: 807,000 (Instituto Cervantes 2021). *Status*: 1 (National). De facto national language. *Worldwide*: Total users in all countries: 559,078,890 (as L1: 485,063,960; as L2: 74,014,930).

100,000 to 999,999

Mapudungun [[arn](#)] *Users*: 250,000 in Chile (Crevels 2007). Ethnic population: 604,000 (2002). *Status*: 6b (Threatened). Recognized language (1993, Indigenous Peoples Law (No. 19.253)). *Worldwide*: Total users in all countries: 258,410.

10,000 to 99,999

German, Standard [[deu](#)] *Users*: 45,000 in Chile (2020 Joshua Project), based on ethnicity. *Status*: 5* (Dispersed). *Worldwide*: Total users in all countries: 133,245,880 (as L1: 75,282,080; as L2: 57,963,800).

Italian [[ita](#)] *Users*: 38,000 in Chile (2020 Joshua Project). *Status*: Unestablished. *Worldwide*: Total users in all countries: 67,935,480 (as L1: 64,647,380; as L2: 3,288,100).

Chilean Sign Language [[csg](#)] *Users*: 21,000 (Parks et al 2011a). 292,700 people with some level of auditory deficiency (2005 Fondo Nacional de la Discapacidad); 66,500 people with total deafness (23,900 less than 60 years old) (2002 census); others give estimates as high as 500,000 users (2018 J. Atala). *Status*: 5 (Developing). Recognized language (2010, Article 26 of Law No. 20.422), recognizes sign language as the natural means of communication of the deaf community.

Aymara, Central [[ayr](#)] *Users*: 19,000 in Chile (Fabre 2007). Ethnic population: 48,500 (2002). About half have some knowledge of the language (Crevels 2007). *Status*: 6b* (Threatened). Recognized language (1993, Indigenous Peoples Law (No. 19.253)), Bilingual education programs in highland areas. *Worldwide*: Total users in all countries: 1,464,100.

English [[eng](#)] *Users*: 15,500 in Chile (2020 Joshua Project). 1,965,500 in Chile, all users. L2 users: 1,950,000 (2019 World Factbook). *Status*: 4 (Educational). *Worldwide*: Total users in all countries: 1,456,448,320 (as L1: 379,682,200; as L2: 1076,766,120).

1,000 to 9,999

Greek [ell] *Users:* 7,000 in Chile (2020 Joshua Project). *Status:* Unestablished. *Worldwide:* Total users in all countries: 13,088,220 (as L1: 12,992,220; as L2: 96,000).

Quechua, South Bolivian [quh] *Users:* 1,000 in Chile (Crevels 2012). Ethnic population: 6,180 (Crevels 2012). *Status:* 6b (Threatened). *Worldwide:* Total users in all countries: 1,616,120.

Rapa Nui [rap] *Users:* 1,000 (2016 R. Weber). Ethnic population: 5,000 (Kieviet 2016). Approximately 3,600 on Easter Island. *Status:* 6b (Threatened). Recognized language (1993, Indigenous Peoples Law (No. 19.253)).

10 to 99

Qawasqar [alc] *Users:* 12 (2006 O. Aguilera). 10 in Puerto Edén. Ethnic population: 100 (Crevels 2012). *Status:* 8b (Nearly extinct).

0

Kunza [kuz] *Users:* No known L1 speakers. The last speakers either died or shifted entirely to Spanish by 1978. Ethnic population: 21,000 (2002 census). *Status:* 9 (Dormant).

Puquina [puq] *Users:* No known L1 speakers in Chile. Last speaker likely died in the 1700s. *Status:* 10 (Extinct). *Worldwide:* Total users in all countries: none known.

Yámana [yag] *Users:* No known L1 speakers in Chile (Reuters). Last fluent speaker, Cristina Calderón, died in 2019. Ethnic population: 70 (Crevels 2012). *Status:* 9 (Dormant). *Worldwide:* Total users in all countries: none known.

Unknown

Huilliche [huh] *Users:* A few elderly speakers (Crevels 2012). Ethnic population: 2,000 (1982 SIL). *Status:* 8b (Nearly extinct).

Languages by Status

In this section the languages of Chile are listed in order of their status within the country as represented by their level on the EGIDs scale (Lewis and Simons 2010). The language entries are reduced to just the information elements that are relevant to assessing the EGIDS level: population, status, language use, language development, and writing.

1 (National)

Spanish [[spa](#)] *Users*: 19,707,000 in Chile, all users. L1 users: 18,900,000 in Chile (Instituto Cervantes 2021). L2 users: 807,000 (Instituto Cervantes 2021). *Status*: De facto national language. *Lg Use*: All domains. Used by all. *Writing*: Braille script. Latin script, primary usage. *Worldwide*: Total users in all countries: 559,078,890 (as L1: 485,063,960; as L2: 74,014,930).

4 (Educational)

English [[eng](#)] *Users*: 1,965,500 in Chile, all users. L1 users: 15,500 in Chile (2020 Joshua Project). L2 users: 1,950,000 (2019 World Factbook). *Lg Use*: Also use Spanish [[spa](#)]. *Writing*: Braille script. Deseret Alphabet, developed in 1854 with limited usage until 1877. Duployan shorthand. Latin script, primary usage. Shavian (Shaw) script, no longer in use. *Worldwide*: Total users in all countries: 1,456,448,320 (as L1: 379,682,200; as L2: 1076,766,120).

5 (Developing)

Chilean Sign Language [[csg](#)] *Users*: 21,000 (Parks et al 2011a). 292,700 people with some level of auditory deficiency (2005 Fondo Nacional de la Discapacidad); 66,500 people with total deafness (23,900 less than 60 years old) (2002 census); others give estimates as high as 500,000 users (2018 J. Atala). *Status*: Recognized language (2010, Article 26 of Law No. 20.422), recognizes sign language as the natural means of communication of the deaf community. *Lg Use*: All domains. Used by all. Positive attitudes. Favor use by both deaf and hearing people. Also use Spanish [[spa](#)], with varying degrees of bilingualism in speech and writing. Literacy for access to mainstream society and employment is valued. *Lg Dev*: TV. Dictionary. Texts.

5 (Dispersed)

German, Standard [[deu](#)] *Users*: 45,000 in Chile (2020 Joshua Project), based on ethnicity. *Lg Use*: Also use Spanish [[spa](#)]. *Writing*: Braille script. Latin script, primary usage. Latin script, Fraktur variant, used until 1940. Runic script, no longer in use. *Worldwide*: Total users in all countries: 133,245,880 (as L1: 75,282,080; as L2: 57,963,800).

6b (Threatened)

Aymara, Central [ayr] *Users:* 19,000 in Chile (Fabre 2007). Ethnic population: 48,500 (2002). About half have some knowledge of the language (Crevels 2007). *Status:* Recognized language (1993, Indigenous Peoples Law (No. 19.253)), Bilingual education programs in highland areas. *Lg Use:* Due to acculturation, the language is especially being lost at a rapid pace in coastal areas and the valleys. Fewer than one-third transmit the language to their children (Crevels 2007). Also use Spanish [spa]. *Writing:* Latin script. *Worldwide:* Total users in all countries: 1,464,100.

Mapudungun [arn] *Users:* 250,000 in Chile (Crevels 2007). Ethnic population: 604,000 (2002). *Status:* Recognized language (1993, Indigenous Peoples Law (No. 19.253)). *Lg Use:* Some young people, all adults. Also use Spanish [spa]. *Lg Dev:* Radio. Dictionary. Grammar. Texts. NT: 1997–2011. *Writing:* Latin script. *Worldwide:* Total users in all countries: 258,410.

Quechua, South Bolivian [quh] *Users:* 1,000 in Chile (Crevels 2012). Ethnic population: 6,180 (Crevels 2012). *Lg Use:* Some of all ages. Also use Spanish [spa]. *Writing:* Latin script. *Worldwide:* Total users in all countries: 1,616,120.

Rapa Nui [rap] *Users:* 1,000 (2016 R. Weber). Ethnic population: 5,000 (Kieviet 2016). Approximately 3,600 on Easter Island. *Status:* Recognized language (1993, Indigenous Peoples Law (No. 19.253)). *Lg Use:* Was vigorous, but now declining. Young generation losing interest in the language. Revival efforts are in progress (Wurm 2007). Home, education. Some young people, all adults. All also use Spanish [spa]. *Lg Dev:* Literature. Radio. Dictionary. Grammar. NT: 2018. *Writing:* Latin script.

8b (Nearly extinct)

Huilliche [huh] *Users:* A few elderly speakers (Crevels 2012). Ethnic population: 2,000 (1982 SIL). *Lg Use:* Few domains. Elderly only. All shifted to Spanish [spa]. *Lg Dev:* Dictionary. Grammar. Texts. *Writing:* Unwritten.

Qawasqar [alc] *Users:* 12 (2006 O. Aguilera). 10 in Puerto Edén. Ethnic population: 100 (Crevels 2012). *Lg Use:* Most shifted to Spanish [spa]. *Lg Dev:* Dictionary. Grammar. Texts. *Writing:* Unwritten.

9 (Dormant)

Kunza [kuz] *Users:* No known L1 speakers. The last speakers either died or shifted entirely to Spanish by 1978. Ethnic population: 21,000 (2002 census). *Lg Use:* Shifted to Spanish [spa] (Crevels 2007). *Lg Dev:* Dictionary. Texts.

Yámana [yag] *Users:* No known L1 speakers in Chile (Reuters). Last fluent speaker, Cristina Calderón, died in 2019. Ethnic population: 70 (Crevels 2012). *Lg Dev:* Dictionary. Grammar. Bible portions: 1881–1886. *Writing:* Latin script. *Worldwide:* Total users in all countries: none

known.

10 (Extinct)

Puquina [puq] *Users:* No known L1 speakers in Chile. Last speaker likely died in the 1700s.

Worldwide: Total users in all countries: none known.

Unestablished

Greek [ell] *Users:* 7,000 in Chile (2020 Joshua Project). *Writing:* Braille script. Cyrillic script, used in Ukraine. Greek script, primary usage. *Worldwide:* Total users in all countries: 13,088,220 (as L1: 12,992,220; as L2: 96,000).

Italian [ita] *Users:* 38,000 in Chile (2020 Joshua Project). *Writing:* Braille script, used since 1974. Latin script, primary usage. *Worldwide:* Total users in all countries: 67,935,480 (as L1: 64,647,380; as L2: 3,288,100).

Languages by Region

This index gives an alphabetical listing of the top-level administrative subdivisions within Chile. Under the name of each region is a list of the language communities that are located within its area.

Antofagasta

- Aymara, Central [ayr], [11](#)
- Kunza [kuz], [13](#)
- Quechua, South Bolivian [quh], [14](#)

Araucanía

- Mapudungun [arn], [13](#)

Arica and Parinacota

- Aymara, Central [ayr], [11](#)
- Puquina [puq], [13](#)

Bíobío

- Mapudungun [arn], [13](#)

Los Lagos

- Huilliche [huh], [12](#)

- Mapudungun [arn], [13](#)

Los Ríos

- Huilliche [huh], [12](#)
- Mapudungun [arn], [13](#)

Magallanes

- Qawasqar [alc], [13](#)
- Yámana [yag], [15](#)

Tarapacá

- Aymara, Central [ayr], [11](#)

Valparaíso

- Rapa Nui [rap], [14](#)

Languages by Family

This index gives an alphabetical listing of the linguistic classifications used for the established languages of Chile. The entries in this index represent the full path in the linguistic family tree from the highest level grouping down to the lowest. All the languages listed in the same entry are members of the same lowest-level subgroup. The referenced page contains the main entry that describes the language.

Austronesian, Malayo-Polynesian, Central-Eastern Malayo-Polynesian, Eastern Malayo-Polynesian, Oceanic, Central-Eastern Oceanic, Remote Oceanic, Central Pacific, East Fijian-Polynesian, Polynesian, Nuclear, East, Rapanui

Rapa Nui [rap], [14](#)

Aymaran, Aymara

Aymara, Central [ayr], [11](#)

Indo-European, Germanic, West, English

English [eng], [11](#)

Indo-European, Germanic, West, High German, German, Middle German, East Middle German

German, Standard [deu], [12](#)

Indo-European, Italic, Romance, Italo-Western, Western, Gallo-Iberian, Ibero-Romance, West Iberian, Castilian

Spanish [spa], [14](#)

Kaweskaran

Qawasqar [alc], [13](#)

Language isolate

Kunza [kuz], [13](#)

Puquina [puq], [13](#)

Yámana [yag], [15](#)

Mapudungu

Huilliche [huh], [12](#)

Mapudungun [arn], [13](#)

Quechuan, Peripheral Quechua, Chinchay, Southern Chinchay

Quechua, South Bolivian [quh], [14](#)

Sign language, Deaf community sign language

Chilean Sign Language [csg], [11](#)

Language Code Index

This index gives an alphabetical listing of all 15 three-letter codes that are used in this work to uniquely identify languages. The referenced page contains the main entry that describes the language. All codes listed are part of the ISO 639-3 standard; see <http://www.sil.org/iso639-3/>.

alc	Qawasqar, 13	ita	Italian, 13
arn	Mapudungun, 13	kuz	Kunza, 13
ayr	Aymara, Central, 11	puq	Puquina, 13
csg	Chilean Sign Language, 11	quh	Quechua, South Bolivian, 14
deu	German, Standard, 12	rap	Rapa Nui, 14
ell	Greek, 12	spa	Spanish, 14
eng	English, 11	yag	Yámana, 15
huh	Huilliche, 12		

Language Name Index

This index lists every name that appears in the language listings as a primary or alternate name of a language or dialect. The following abbreviations are used in the index entries: *alt.* ‘alternate name for’; *alt. dial.* ‘alternate name for a dialect of’; *dial.* ‘primary name for a dialect of’; *pej. alt.* ‘pejorative alternate name for’; and *pej. alt. dial.* ‘pejorative alternate name for a dialect of’. Each index entry resolves to the primary name for the language with which the indexed name is associated, followed by square brackets containing the unique three-letter language code from ISO 639-3. The referenced page contains the main entry that describes the language. If the language appears on a map, the entry for the primary name also lists page numbers for the maps on which the language occurs.

- Aimara**, *alt.* Aymara, Central [ayr], 11
- Aksana**, *alt. dial.* Qawasqar [alc], 13
- Aksanás**, *dial.* Qawasqar [alc], 13
- Alacalouf**, *alt.* Qawasqar [alc], 13
- Alacaluf**, *alt.* Qawasqar [alc], 13
- Alacalufe**, *alt.* Qawasqar [alc], 13
- Alaculoof**, *alt.* Qawasqar [alc], 13
- Alaculuf**, *alt.* Qawasqar [alc], 13
- Alakaluf**, *alt.* Qawasqar [alc], 13
- Alemán**, *alt.* German, Standard [deu], 12
- Alikaluf**, *alt.* Qawasqar [alc], 13
- Alikhoolip**, *alt.* Qawasqar [alc], 13
- Alikuluf**, *alt.* Qawasqar [alc], 13
- Aliilkoolif**, *alt.* Qawasqar [alc], 13
- Alokolup**, *alt.* Qawasqar [alc], 13
- Alooculoof**, *alt.* Qawasqar [alc], 13
- Alookooloop**, *alt.* Qawasqar [alc], 13
- Alucaluf**, *alt.* Qawasqar [alc], 13
- Alukoeluf**, *alt.* Qawasqar [alc], 13
- Alukulup**, *alt.* Qawasqar [alc], 13
- Andean Spanish**, *dial.* Spanish [spa], 14
- Araucana**, *alt.* Mapudungun [arn], 13
- Araucano**, *pej. alt.* Mapudungun [arn], 13
- Atacameño**, *alt.* Kunza [kuz], 13
- Aymar**, *alt.* Aymara, Central [ayr], 11
- Aymar aru**, *alt.* Aymara, Central [ayr], 11
- Aymara, Central** [ayr], 11, 16
see Aymara, Central [ayr], 11
- Beliche**, *pej. alt.* Huilliche [huh], 12
- Castellano**, *alt.* Spanish [spa], 14
- Chesungun**, *alt. dial.* Huilliche [huh], 12
- Chilean Sign Language** [csg], 11, 0
- Chilean Spanish**, *dial.* Spanish [spa], 14
- Deutsch**, *alt.* German, Standard [deu], 12
- Easter Island**, *alt.* Rapa Nui [rap], 14
- English** [eng], 11
- Español**, *alt.* Spanish [spa], 14
- Español andino**, *alt. dial.* Spanish [spa], 14
- Español chileno**, *alt. dial.* Spanish [spa], 14
- German, Standard** [deu], 12
see German, Standard [deu], 12
- Halakwulup**, *alt.* Qawasqar [alc], 13
- Háusi Kúta**, *alt.* Yámana [yag], 15
- Huilche**, *alt.* Huilliche [huh], 12
- Huilliche**, *alt.* Huilliche [huh], 12
- Huilliche** [huh], 12, 16
- Inglés**, *alt.* English [eng], 11
- Kaweskar**, *alt.* Qawasqar [alc], 13
- Kawasqar**, *alt.* Qawasqar [alc], 13
- Kunza** [kuz], 13
- Lengua de Señas Chilena**, *alt.* Chilean Sign Language [csg], 11

- Lenguaje Chileno de Signos**, *alt.* Chilean Sign Language [csg], 11
- Lenguaje de Señas**, *alt.* Chilean Sign Language [csg], 11
- LENSE**, *alt.* Chilean Sign Language [csg], 11
- Likan Antai**, *alt.* Kunza [kuz], 13
- Likanantái**, *alt.* Kunza [kuz], 13
- Lipe**, *alt.* Kunza [kuz], 13
- LSCh**, *alt.* Chilean Sign Language [csg], 11
- Manzanero**, *alt. dial.* Mapudungun [arn], 13
- Mapuche**, *alt.* Mapudungun [arn], 13
- Mapudungu**, *alt.* Mapudungun [arn], 13
- Mapudungun** [arn], 13, 16
- Mapuzungun**, *alt.* Mapudungun [arn], 13
- Moluche**, *dial.* Mapudungun [arn], 13
- Ngoluche**, *alt. dial.* Mapudungun [arn], 13
- Pascuense**, *alt.* Rapa Nui [rap], 14
- Pehuenche**, *dial.* Mapudungun [arn], 13
- Picunche**, *dial.* Mapudungun [arn], 13
- Pukina**, *alt.* Puquina [puq], 13
- Puquina** [puq], 13
- Qawasqar** [alc], 13, 16
- Qhichwa**, *alt.* Quechua, South Bolivian [quh], 14
- Qhishwa**, *alt.* Quechua, South Bolivian [quh], 14
- Quechua, South Bolivian** [quh], 14
see Quechua, South Bolivian [quh], 14
- Rapa Nui** [rap], 14, 16
- Rapanui**, *alt.* Rapa Nui [rap], 14
- Spanish** [spa], 14
- Tequenica**, *alt.* Yámana [yag], 15
- Tsesungún**, *dial.* Huilliche [huh], 12
- Ulipe**, *alt.* Kunza [kuz], 13
- Veliche**, *alt.* Huilliche [huh], 12
- Yagán**, *alt.* Yámana [yag], 15
- Yaghan**, *alt.* Yámana [yag], 15
- Yahgan**, *alt.* Yámana [yag], 15
- Yámana** [yag], 15

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