

Ethnologue: Languages of Guam

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
<i>Class</i>	Language classification
<i>dial.</i>	primary dialect name for
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
SVO	Subject-Verb-Object
<i>Type</i>	Typological information
V	Vowel in canonical syllable patterns
VSO	Verb-Subject-Object

How to Use This Digest

This *Ethnologue* country digest provides an extract of the information about the language situation in Guam 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 10) provides detailed information on the 12 languages listed in the *Ethnologue* for the country of Guam. 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. *Map*: Map page. *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.

The “Language Map” (page 14) shows the locations of the listed languages. If the location of a language is given on a map, the *Map* element of the language entry indicates the page number of the map. If the language is identified on a map by name, but that name differs from the primary name in the language entry, the name on the map is given in parentheses. If the language is represented on the map by an index number, rather than by its name, the index number is given following the page number (with a colon as separator).

Many ways of finding languages are provided. “Languages by Population” (page 15) lists the languages in order of their first-language speaker populations. “Languages by Status” (page 17) 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

Family” (page 19) lists the languages by their linguistic classifications. “Language Code Index” (page 20) 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 21) lists every name that appears in the language listings as a primary or alternate name of a language or dialect. A total of 7 unique names are associated with the 12 languages described in this digest.

Finally, a listing of all the published sources cited within this digest is found in “Bibliography” (page 22). 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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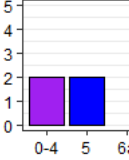
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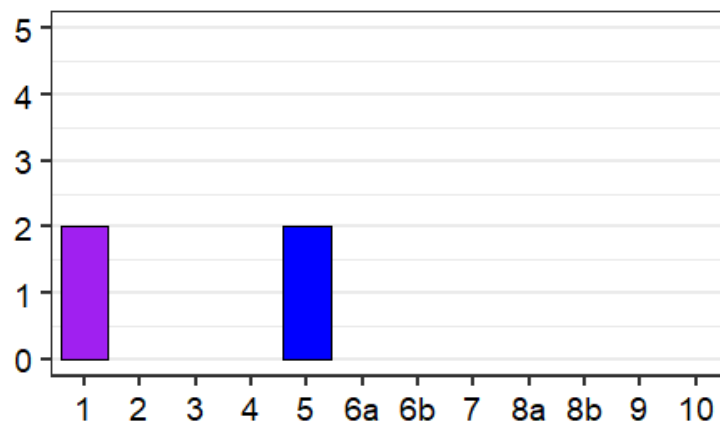
Country Overview

Name of country	Guam
Other names	Territory of Guam
Sovereignty status	An unorganized, unincorporated insular area of the United States
Population	168,000 (2020 World Bank)
Comments	Geographically the southernmost of the Mariana Islands.
Principal languages	Chamorro, English
Literacy rate	100% (Roser and Ortiz-Ospina 2018)
General references	Bender, B. 1971
Language counts	<p>The number of established languages listed for Guam is 4. All are living languages. Of these, 1 is indigenous and 3 are non-indigenous. Furthermore, 2 are institutional and 2 are developing. Also listed are 8 unestablished languages.</p> 

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 Guam 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 10) 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 17) 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 10) provides a detailed listing of all the languages of Guam. 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 Guam 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 Guam 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 15) 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 to 99,999	3	75.0	75.0%	97,800	99.84686	99.84686%
100 to 999	1	25.0	100.0%	150	0.15314	100.00000%
<i>Totals</i>	4	100.0		97,950	100.00000	

Summary by language status

Table 2 summarizes the distribution of living established languages in Guam 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 17) 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 Guam. 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				
	<i>Count</i>	<i>Percent</i>	<i>Cumulative</i>	<i>Total</i>	<i>Percent</i>	<i>Cumulative</i>	<i>Mean</i>	<i>Median</i>
1	2	50.0	50.0%	62,200	63.5018	63.5018%	31,100	31,100
5	2	50.0	100.0%	35,750	36.4982	100.0000%	17,875	17,875
<i>Totals</i>	4	100.0		97,950	100.0000			

Summary by language family

The genealogical classifications given in the language entries of the “Alphabetical Listing of Languages” (page 10) name 3 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			
	<i>Count</i>	<i>Percent</i>	<i>Total</i>	<i>Percent</i>	<i>Mean</i>	<i>Median</i>
Austronesian	2	50.0	65,500	66.9	32,750	32,750
Indo-European	1	25.0	32,300	33.0	32,300	32,300
Sign language	1	25.0	150	0.2	150	150
<i>Totals</i>	4	100.0	97,950	100.0		

Alphabetical Listing of Languages

American Sign Language [ase] (ASL). *Users:* 150 in Guam (2017 S. Kohn). Specifically, ‘45 kids and 100-plus adults who are deaf and hard of hearing’, or about 0.1% of the general population. *Location:* Scattered. *Status:* 5 (Developing). *Class:* Sign language, Deaf community sign language. *Dialects:* None known. Some differences from ASL in the United States, but there has been no careful assessment of how much difference. An indigenous variety, known as Chamoru or Guåhan Sign Language, is also reportedly used by older signers, but is being displaced by ASL. *Type:* One-handed fingerspelling system derived from French Sign Language [fsl]. SVO, topic comment structures; adjectives, numerals, genitives, question word initial or final, relative clause after noun head. *Lg Use:* All domains, except schools often use signed English. Used by all. Many also use English [eng]. *Lg Dev:* Taught in primary schools, used in the context of Total Communication and mainstream education. TV. Videos. Dictionary. Grammar. Bible: 2020. *Other:* Non-indigenous. Certificate in sign language interpreting offered at Guam Community College. *Worldwide:* Total users in all countries: 989,605 (as L1: 858,605; as L2: 131,000). Indigenous in: United States. Also established in 23 other countries and unestablished in 12 more.

Chamorro [cha] (Tjamoro). Autonym: Chamorru. *Users:* 29,900 in Guam (2020). Ethnic population: 62,700 (2020). *Status:* 1 (National). Statutory national language (1974, Guam Code Annotated, Chapter 7, Section 706, amended). *Class:* Austronesian, Malayo-Polynesian, Chamorro. *Dialects:* Chamorro, Rotanese Chamorro. *Type:* SVO, VSO. *Lg Dev:* Taught in all primary schools for compulsory classes in Chamorro language and culture, optional at the secondary level. Taught as subject in tertiary schools. Literature. Dictionary. Grammar. Texts. NT: 2007. *DLS:* Ascending (0.24). *Writing:* Latin script. *Other:* Influence from Spanish [spa]. Christian. *Map:* 14. *Worldwide:* Total users in all countries: 58,700. Also indigenous in: Northern Mariana Islands. Also established in: United States.

Chinese, Mandarin [cmn]. *Users:* 1,500 in Guam (2020), based on ethnicity. *Status:* Unestablished. *Class:* Sino-Tibetan, Chinese. *Type:* SVO; prepositions; noun head final; 6 full (concrete meaning) word classes; no articles; passives; 24 consonants, 8 vowels, 6 diphthongs; tonal (4 phonemic tones). *Lg Dev:* Fully developed. Bible: 1874–1983. *Writing:* Bopomofo script, used since 1913, revised in 1920 and 1932, mainly used in Taiwan. Braille script. Han script, Simplified variant, used since 1956, official in Mainland China (1956) and Singapore (1969), also used elsewhere. Han script, Traditional variant, used since mid-19th century, official in Taiwan, also used elsewhere. Latin script. *Other:* Non-indigenous. *Worldwide:* Total users in all countries: 1,138,222,350 (as L1: 939,237,350; as L2: 198,985,000). Global EGIDS level: 0 (International). Indigenous in: China. Also established in 17 other countries and unestablished in 60 more.

Chinese, Yue [yue]. *Users:* 1,200 in Guam (2022), based on ethnicity. *Status:* Unestablished. *Class:* Sino-Tibetan, Chinese. *Type:* SVO; prepositions; genitives, relatives, adjectives, numerals before noun heads; noun classifiers; no articles; 18 consonants, 7 vowels; tonal (6

tones: 3 level, 3 contour). *Lg Dev*: Fully developed. Bible: 1894–1981. *Writing*: Braille script, used in Hong Kong. Han script, Simplified variant. Han script, Traditional variant, official usage in Hong Kong and Macau, also used elsewhere. Latin script, used since mid-19th century. *Other*: Non-indigenous. *Worldwide*: Total users in all countries: 86,633,370 (as L1: 86,116,370; as L2: 517,000). Global EGIDS level: 2 (Provincial). Indigenous in: China, China–Hong Kong, China–Macao. Also established in 12 other countries and unestablished in 18 more.

Chuukese [chk]. Autonym: Chuuk. *Users*: 11,800 in Guam (2020), based on ethnicity. *Status*: Unestablished. *Class*: Austronesian, Malayo-Polynesian, Central-Eastern Malayo-Polynesian, Eastern Malayo-Polynesian, Oceanic, Central-Eastern Oceanic, Remote Oceanic, Micronesian, Micronesian Proper, Pohnpeic-Chuukic, Chuukic. *Lg Dev*: Dictionary. Texts. Bible: 1989–2001. *Writing*: Latin script. *Other*: Non-indigenous. *Worldwide*: Total users in all countries: 70,600. Global EGIDS level: 2 (Provincial). Indigenous in: Micronesia. Unestablished in: United States.

English [eng]. Autonym: English. *Users*: 73,300 in Guam, all users. L1 users: 32,300 in Guam (2020), based on ethnicity. L2 users: 41,000 (2020). *Status*: 1 (National). Statutory national language (1974, Guam Code Annotated, Chapter 7, Section 706, amended), dominates in administration, education and media. *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 Dev*: Taught in all primary and secondary schools. Taught in all tertiary 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. United States military and dependents. *Worldwide*: Total users in all countries: 1,456,448,320 (as L1: 379,682,200; as L2: 1076,766,120). Global EGIDS level: 0 (International). Indigenous in: Ireland, United Kingdom. Also established in 167 other countries and unestablished in 16 more.

Japanese [jpn]. *Users*: 2,500 in Guam (2020), based on ethnicity. *Status*: Unestablished. *Class*: Japonic. *Type*: SOV; postpositions; demonstrative, numeral, adjective, possessive, relative clause, proper noun precedes noun head; adverb precedes verb; sentence final question particle; no articles; passives; tense and aspect; causatives; 15 consonants, 5 vowels, 3 diphthongs; non-tonal; pitch-accentuation pattern. *Lg Dev*: Fully developed. Bible: 1883–2018. *Writing*: Braille script. Han, Hiragana, and Katakana scripts, primary usage. Latin script. *Other*: Non-indigenous. *Worldwide*: Total users in all countries: 123,445,570 (as L1: 123,285,670; as L2: 159,900). Global EGIDS level: 1 (National). Indigenous in: Japan. Also established in: Australia, China–Taiwan, United States. Unestablished in: American Samoa, Argentina, Austria, Brazil, Canada, China–Hong Kong, Denmark, Dominican Republic, Finland, Germany, Indonesia, Malaysia, Mexico, Micronesia, New Zealand, Panama, Paraguay, Philippines, Russian Federation, Singapore, Spain, Sweden, Thailand, United

Kingdom.

Korean [kor]. *Users*: 3,700 in Guam (2020), based on ethnicity. *Status*: Unestablished. *Class*: Koreanic. *Lg Dev*: Fully developed. *Bible*: 1911–1993. *Writing*: Braille script. Hangul and Han scripts, primary usage. Latin script, used for maps and signs. *Other*: Non-indigenous. *Worldwide*: Total users in all countries: 81,740,540 (as L1: 81,721,540; as L2: 19,000). Global EGIDS level: 1 (National). Indigenous in: North Korea, South Korea. Also established in: China, Japan, Russian Federation, United States, Uzbekistan. Unestablished in: Argentina, Australia, Austria, Bahrain, Belarus, Brazil, Brunei, Cambodia, Canada, China–Taiwan, Denmark, France, Germany, India, Indonesia, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Libya, Madagascar, Malaysia, Mexico, Mongolia, Mozambique, Netherlands, New Zealand, Northern Mariana Islands, Norway, Paraguay, Philippines, Saudi Arabia, Singapore, Spain, Sweden, Tajikistan, Thailand, Turkmenistan, Ukraine, United Arab Emirates, United Kingdom, Vietnam.

Palauan [pau]. Autonym: Tekoi ra Belau. *Users*: 2,700 in Guam (2020), based on ethnicity. Ethnic population: 31,600 (2020). *Status*: Unestablished. *Class*: Austronesian, Malayo-Polynesian, Palauan. *Type*: SVO. *Lg Dev*: Dictionary. Grammar. NT: 1964. *Writing*: Latin script. *Other*: Non-indigenous. *Worldwide*: Total users in all countries: 18,740. Global EGIDS level: 1 (National). Indigenous in: Palau. Unestablished in: United States.

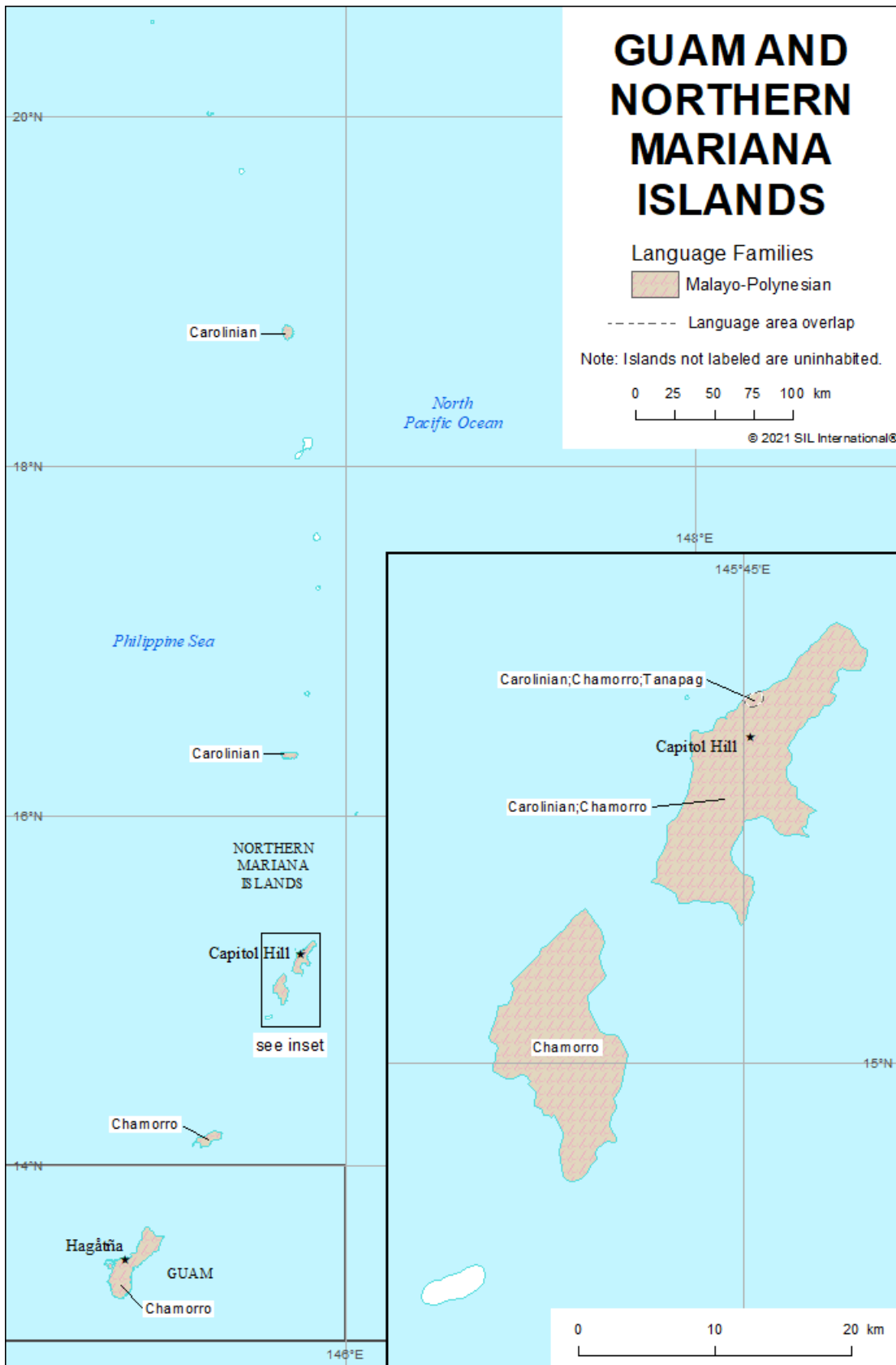
Pohnpeian [pon]. Autonym: Pohnpei. *Users*: 2,400 in Guam (2020), based on ethnicity. *Status*: Unestablished. *Class*: Austronesian, Malayo-Polynesian, Central-Eastern Malayo-Polynesian, Eastern Malayo-Polynesian, Oceanic, Central-Eastern Oceanic, Remote Oceanic, Micronesian, Micronesian Proper, Pohnpeic-Chuukic, Pohnpeic. *Lg Dev*: Dictionary. Grammar. *Bible*: 1994. *Writing*: Latin script. *Other*: Non-indigenous. *Worldwide*: Total users in all countries: 34,930. Global EGIDS level: 2 (Provincial). Indigenous in: Micronesia. Unestablished in: United States.

Spanish [spa]. Autonym: Castellano, Español. *Users*: 21,900 in Guam, all users. L1 users: 1,200 in Guam (Instituto Cervantes 2021). L2 users: 20,700 (2020). *Status*: Unestablished. *Class*: Indo-European, Italic, Romance, Italo-Western, Western, Gallo-Iberian, Ibero-Romance, West Iberian, Castilian. *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 Dev*: 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 40 other countries and unestablished in 32 more.

Tagalog [tgl]. Autonym: Tagalog. *Users*: 35,600 in Guam (2020). Ethnic population: 44,200 (2020). *Location*: Widespread. *Status*: 5* (Dispersed). *Class*: Austronesian, Malayo-Polynesian, Greater Central Philippine, Central Philippine, Tagalog. *Type*: Prepositions; no

articles; ergativity; tense and aspect; comparatives; 16 consonant and 5 vowel phonemes; non-tonal; inclusive/exclusive pronouns. *Lg Dev*: Fully developed. Bible: 1905. *Writing*: Braille script. Latin script, primary usage. Tagalog script, no longer in use. *Other*: Non-indigenous. Filipinos have been resident on the island since the 17th century. Today, the vast majority are United States citizens and permanent residents (2019 Guampedia). *Worldwide*: Total users in all countries: 83,054,910 (as L1: 28,746,910; as L2: 54,308,000). Global EGIDS level: 3 (Wider communication). Indigenous in: Philippines. Also established in: Canada, Sweden, United States. Unestablished in: American Samoa, Australia, Austria, Bahrain, Brazil, Cayman Islands, China–Hong Kong, China–Macao, China–Taiwan, Cyprus, Denmark, Finland, Germany, Greece, Indonesia, Ireland, Israel, Japan, Jordan, Kuwait, Libya, Malaysia, Netherlands, New Zealand, Nigeria, Northern Mariana Islands, Norway, Oman, Palau, Qatar, Saudi Arabia, Singapore, South Korea, Spain, United Arab Emirates, United Kingdom.

Language Map



Languages by Population

In this section the languages of Guam 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 to 99,999

Tagalog [[tgl](#)] *Users:* 35,600 in Guam (2020). Ethnic population: 44,200 (2020). *Status:* 5* (Dispersed). *Worldwide:* Total users in all countries: 83,054,910 (as L1: 28,746,910; as L2: 54,308,000).

English [[eng](#)] *Users:* 32,300 in Guam (2020), based on ethnicity. 73,300 in Guam, all users. L2 users: 41,000 (2020). *Status:* 1 (National). Statutory national language (1974, Guam Code Annotated, Chapter 7, Section 706, amended), dominates in administration, education and media. *Worldwide:* Total users in all countries: 1,456,448,320 (as L1: 379,682,200; as L2: 1,076,766,120).

Chamorro [[cha](#)] *Users:* 29,900 in Guam (2020). Ethnic population: 62,700 (2020). *Status:* 1 (National). Statutory national language (1974, Guam Code Annotated, Chapter 7, Section 706, amended). *Worldwide:* Total users in all countries: 58,700.

Chuukese [[chk](#)] *Users:* 11,800 in Guam (2020), based on ethnicity. *Status:* Unestablished. *Worldwide:* Total users in all countries: 70,600.

1,000 to 9,999

Korean [[kor](#)] *Users:* 3,700 in Guam (2020), based on ethnicity. *Status:* Unestablished. *Worldwide:* Total users in all countries: 81,740,540 (as L1: 81,721,540; as L2: 19,000).

Palauan [[pau](#)] *Users:* 2,700 in Guam (2020), based on ethnicity. Ethnic population: 31,600 (2020). *Status:* Unestablished. *Worldwide:* Total users in all countries: 18,740.

Japanese [[jpn](#)] *Users:* 2,500 in Guam (2020), based on ethnicity. *Status:* Unestablished. *Worldwide:* Total users in all countries: 123,445,570 (as L1: 123,285,670; as L2: 159,900).

Pohnpeian [[pon](#)] *Users:* 2,400 in Guam (2020), based on ethnicity. *Status:* Unestablished. *Worldwide:* Total users in all countries: 34,930.

Chinese, Mandarin [[cmn](#)] *Users:* 1,500 in Guam (2020), based on ethnicity. *Status:* Unestablished. *Worldwide:* Total users in all countries: 1,138,222,350 (as L1: 939,237,350; as L2: 198,985,000).

Chinese, Yue [[yue](#)] *Users:* 1,200 in Guam (2022), based on ethnicity. *Status:* Unestablished. *Worldwide:* Total users in all countries: 86,633,370 (as L1: 86,116,370; as L2: 517,000).

Spanish [[spa](#)] *Users:* 1,200 in Guam (Instituto Cervantes 2021). 21,900 in Guam, all users. L2

users: 20,700 (2020). *Status*: Unestablished. *Worldwide*: Total users in all countries: 559,078,890 (as L1: 485,063,960; as L2: 74,014,930).

100 to 999

American Sign Language [ase] *Users*: 150 in Guam (2017 S. Kohn). Specifically, ‘45 kids and 100-plus adults who are deaf and hard of hearing’, or about 0.1% of the general population. *Status*: 5 (Developing). *Worldwide*: Total users in all countries: 989,605 (as L1: 858,605; as L2: 131,000).

Languages by Status

In this section the languages of Guam 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)

Chamorro [[cha](#)] *Users*: 29,900 in Guam (2020). Ethnic population: 62,700 (2020). *Status*: Statutory national language (1974, Guam Code Annotated, Chapter 7, Section 706, amended). *Lg Dev*: Literature. Dictionary. Grammar. Texts. NT: 2007. *Writing*: Latin script. *Worldwide*: Total users in all countries: 58,700.

English [[eng](#)] *Users*: 73,300 in Guam, all users. L1 users: 32,300 in Guam (2020), based on ethnicity. L2 users: 41,000 (2020). *Status*: Statutory national language (1974, Guam Code Annotated, Chapter 7, Section 706, amended), dominates in administration, education and media. *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)

American Sign Language [[ase](#)] *Users*: 150 in Guam (2017 S. Kohn). Specifically, ‘45 kids and 100-plus adults who are deaf and hard of hearing’, or about 0.1% of the general population. *Lg Use*: All domains, except schools often use signed English. Used by all. Many also use English [[eng](#)]. *Worldwide*: Total users in all countries: 989,605 (as L1: 858,605; as L2: 131,000).

5 (Dispersed)

Tagalog [[tgl](#)] *Users*: 35,600 in Guam (2020). Ethnic population: 44,200 (2020). *Writing*: Braille script. Latin script, primary usage. Tagalog script, no longer in use. *Worldwide*: Total users in all countries: 83,054,910 (as L1: 28,746,910; as L2: 54,308,000).

Unestablished

Chinese, Mandarin [[cmn](#)] *Users*: 1,500 in Guam (2020), based on ethnicity. *Writing*: Bopomofo script, used since 1913, revised in 1920 and 1932, mainly used in Taiwan. Braille script. Han script, Simplified variant, used since 1956, official in Mainland China (1956) and Singapore (1969), also used elsewhere. Han script, Traditional variant, used since mid-19th century,

official in Taiwan, also used elsewhere. Latin script. *Worldwide*: Total users in all countries: 1,138,222,350 (as L1: 939,237,350; as L2: 198,985,000).

Chinese, Yue [yue] *Users*: 1,200 in Guam (2022), based on ethnicity. *Writing*: Braille script, used in Hong Kong. Han script, Simplified variant. Han script, Traditional variant, official usage in Hong Kong and Macau, also used elsewhere. Latin script, used since mid-19th century. *Worldwide*: Total users in all countries: 86,633,370 (as L1: 86,116,370; as L2: 517,000).

Chuukese [chk] *Users*: 11,800 in Guam (2020), based on ethnicity. *Writing*: Latin script. *Worldwide*: Total users in all countries: 70,600.

Japanese [jpn] *Users*: 2,500 in Guam (2020), based on ethnicity. *Writing*: Braille script. Han, Hiragana, and Katakana scripts, primary usage. Latin script. *Worldwide*: Total users in all countries: 123,445,570 (as L1: 123,285,670; as L2: 159,900).

Korean [kor] *Users*: 3,700 in Guam (2020), based on ethnicity. *Writing*: Braille script. Hangul and Han scripts, primary usage. Latin script, used for maps and signs. *Worldwide*: Total users in all countries: 81,740,540 (as L1: 81,721,540; as L2: 19,000).

Palauan [pau] *Users*: 2,700 in Guam (2020), based on ethnicity. Ethnic population: 31,600 (2020). *Writing*: Latin script. *Worldwide*: Total users in all countries: 18,740.

Pohnpeian [pon] *Users*: 2,400 in Guam (2020), based on ethnicity. *Writing*: Latin script. *Worldwide*: Total users in all countries: 34,930.

Spanish [spa] *Users*: 21,900 in Guam, all users. L1 users: 1,200 in Guam (Instituto Cervantes 2021). L2 users: 20,700 (2020). *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).

Languages by Family

This index gives an alphabetical listing of the linguistic classifications used for the established languages of Guam. 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, Chamorro

Chamorro [cha], [10](#)

Austronesian, Malayo-Polynesian, Greater Central Philippine, Central Philippine, Tagalog

Tagalog [tgl], [12](#)

Indo-European, Germanic, West, English

English [eng], [11](#)

Sign language, Deaf community sign language

American Sign Language [ase], [10](#)

Language Code Index

This index gives an alphabetical listing of all 12 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/>.

ase	American Sign Language, 10	kor	Korean, 12
cha	Chamorro, 10	pau	Palauan, 12
chk	Chuukese, 11	pon	Pohnpeian, 12
cmn	Chinese, Mandarin, 10	spa	Spanish, 12
eng	English, 11	tgl	Tagalog, 12
jpn	Japanese, 11	yue	Chinese, Yue, 10

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.

American Sign Language [ase], [10](#), [0](#)

ASL, *alt.* American Sign Language [ase], [10](#)

Chamorro [cha], [10](#), [14](#)

dial. Chamorro [cha], [10](#)

Chamorru, *alt.* Chamorro [cha], [10](#)

Mandarin Chinese, *see* Chinese, Mandarin [cmn], [10](#)

Yue Chinese, *see* Chinese, Yue [yue], [10](#)

English [eng], [11](#)

Rotanese Chamorro, *dial.* Chamorro [cha], [10](#)

Tagalog [tgl], [12](#)

Tjamoro, *alt.* Chamorro [cha], [10](#)

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