The Venda language is widely used in education in contemporary South Africa, in the public media in both Zimbabwe and South Africa, and in the local communities. Radio broadcasts from Venda stations such as Phalapha FM in South Africa and National FM in Zimbabwe demonstrate the growth and vitality of the language.

WHO SPEAKS VENDA? PEOPLE AND CULTURE

The majority of Venda speakers live in South Africa, but considerable numbers of speakers reside in Zimbabwe. Before South Africa became a democracy, the baronets of Venda were up by the apartheid regime. Today, South Africa prides itself on its unity in diversity as epitomized by its eleven official languages, one of which is Venda.

In South Africa, well over a million people are native Venda speakers who speak several hundred thousand Venda in the Limpopo Province, home to the majority of the Venda people in South Africa, is also a key tourist destination because of its rich cultural heritage, such as the mythical Lake 9 undada, the historical city of Thohoyandou, the picturesque town of Louis Trichardt and its numerous game reserves. Located in the Vendapeak community, the cultural richness of these places and sites is worth exploiting.

Additionally, the Matunguwa Cultural Landscape has been declared a World Heritage Site due to its biodiversity, historic significance, cultural importance to both the Venda people and South Africans in general. Scholars interested in Venda faces of past and present apartheid South Africa, will also find knowledge of that major language richly rewarding. Historians will be fascinated by the major town that Matunguwa - place of the stone of wisdom - was South Africa’s first kingdom, which developed into the subcontinent’s largest kingdom. For 500 years before it was abandoned in the 14th century. At their kingdom’s peak, the Venda people traded gold and ivory with China, India and Egypt.

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WHY STUDY VENDA?

Venda, also known as Tshivenda or Lovenge by its native speakers, is a Bantu language. It is one of the 11 official languages of South Africa and is a regional language in Zimbabwe. Venda is a language of public communication in both countries. Spoken comprehensively in Venda’s open gateways to contemporary discourses in all areas of human interaction Furthermore, the ability to speak Venda makes the historic contributions of south-western Zimbabwe and northern South Africa, the site of the ancient kingdom of Matunguwa - a huge cultural and tourist attraction – more accessible and enjoyable.

The Limpopo Province, home to the majority of the Venda people in South Africa, also has a Venda language-rich environment, such as the historical city of Thohoyandou, the picturesque town of Louis Trichardt and its numerous game reserves. Located in the Venda peak community, the cultural richness of these places and sites is worth exploring.

Additionally, the Matunguwa Cultural Landscape has been declared a World Heritage Site due to its biodiversity, historic significance, cultural importance to both the Venda people and South Africans in general. Scholars interested in Venda faces of past and present apartheid South Africa, will also find knowledge of that major language richly rewarding. Historians will be fascinated by the major town that Matunguwa - place of the stone of wisdom - was South Africa’s first kingdom, which developed into the subcontinent’s largest kingdom. For 500 years before it was abandoned in the 14th century. At their kingdom’s peak, the Venda people traded gold and ivory with China, India and Egypt.

STUDYING NUER IN THE U.S.

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