

# NIERIKA SOCIAL NETWORK FOR INDIGENOUS LANGUAGES

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<https://vaniushar.github.io/nierika/>

## WHAT IS NIERIKA?

NIERIKA is a niche social network on development, which is founded on the objective to collaborate with and support the preservation of all the Mexican indigenous languages. This unique platform enables users to present and create their publications which contains original indigenous linguistic data and it's closest translation into modern day Spanish that does justice to the original meaning, this in turn promotes the idea of gathering linguistic data for investigative and research purposes. Nierika intends to create a digital community for members who want to share, learn, study and preserve the long lost linguistic treasures of Mexico.



Nierika Social Network Logo

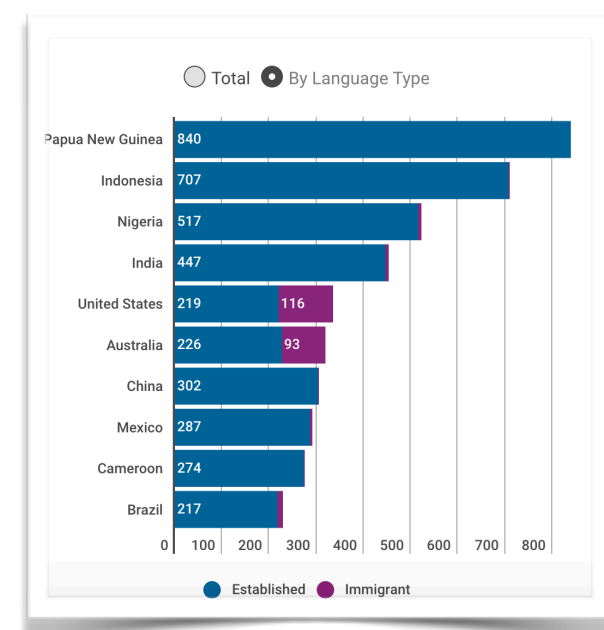
Nierika is a word from the language of Wixárika. There is not a single word in either Spanish or English that can be used to convey it's meaning, we can only explain it through the phrase "a mirror in which the past and the present merge". The project uses modern methodologies & digital technology in the journey of recovering, at the same time preserving the linguistic past and present of our cultures.

Mexico is listed as 8th among the top 10 countries with the greatest linguistic diversity in the world. It has around 287-292 registered and immigrant languages in it's territory.

## DISAPPOINTING PRESENT DAY SITUATION

Even though Mexico has a vast linguistic & cultural diversity, it has not been able to escape the global emergency crisis of the indigenous languages. Based on the report (E/C.19/2016/10) as discussed in United Nations Headquarters in New York majority of the languages that are under threat today, are the indigenous languages. It is estimated that one indigenous language dies in every two weeks. It has been reported by the Institute of Indigenous Languages that, in Mexico since 2007 at least 107 indigenous languages have been lost. In spite of the initiatives to preserve indigenous languages, with each passing day fewer people want to use them. Even the families who want to pass on the inherited languages to their next generations are not able to, due to the economic and social pressures in Mexico and the world.

In this scenario, the burning question is, "are we, as a global community doing enough for this cause?". Sadly the numbers say otherwise. We need to collaborate to establish more impactful strategies, initiatives and practices that are more inclusive and encourage the users of the indigenous languages to keep their linguistic culture alive. This can only be done if the global community and economies join hands towards this thought. Nierika is just a small brick contributing to the foundation of this cause.



Graphic of "Countries with the most languages" from *Ethnologue: Languages of the World*.



Map of Mexico appointed with the endangered level of the languages from Moseley, Christopher (ed.). 2010. *Atlas of the World's Languages in Danger*, 3rd ed. Paris, UNESCO Publishing.



Nierika Social Network Login

## HOW NIERIKA COULD HELP TO SUPPORT THE PRESERVATION OF MEXICAN LANGUAGES?

This Social network allows the users to login and add optional information for their own profile, encourage the users to post in their original language with their own translation and add an optional image from their own source. Allows also to interact between making comments and ranking the validation of the translation of the post. Nierika let access to open repository of indigenous languages that allows everyone to know them, affirming as our cultural treasure through social media.

In the future there will be an option available to upload an audio of the language speaking, to request the transcription by other user, keep encouraging people to use their indigenous languages in digital platform. Allow more interaction between the users and to be appropriate by the users.

Nierika Social Network try to be the mirror through which all indigenous cultures can be rediscovered and proudly appropriated by all in the present.



Raquel reading Nierika post written by her mother.

## A RAY OF HOPE!

INICIO // ESTATAL // HABLANTES DE LENGUAS INDÍGENAS, VÍCTIMAS DE CONSTAN

### Hablantes de lenguas indígenas, víctimas de constante discriminación

La responsabilidad sobre la discriminación que enfrentan quienes hablan alguna lengua indígena recae en el Estado Mexicano



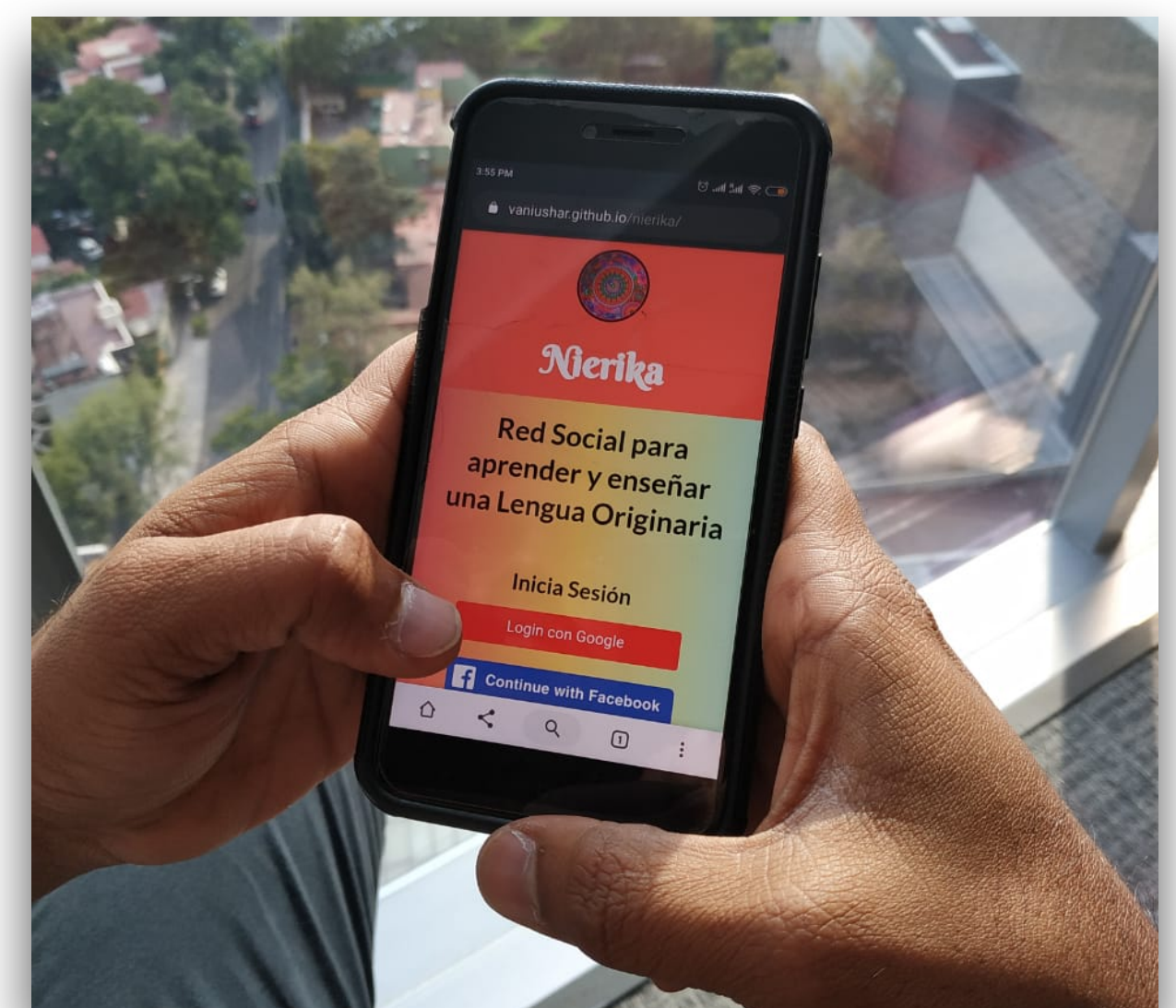
Foto: Edwin Hernández / EL UNIVERSAL

Christian Jiménez (Oaxaca de Juárez, Oaxaca) A / 18/02/2019 | 03:25

La investigadora oaxaqueña Yasnaya Aguilar realizó un ejercicio en el que se evidenció que las personas que hablan alguna lengua indígena, son víctimas constantes de discriminación. La evidencia surgió a partir de una dinámica en redes sociales a partir del hashtag #AsiVivimosElRacismo.

Article from El Univesal on 18th of February 2019.

The youth, coming from the lineage of these indigenous linguistic cultures are realizing the importance and revaluing their language and culture. Providing them with a digital platform to express themselves could take us in a way in the journey of supporting this cause: "Young indigenous people living in cities play a fundamental role in the process of revaluing the language, customs and traditions of their home communities through the use of the internet and social networks", said the academic of the University Center of Social Sciences and Humanities, teacher Fortino Domínguez Rueda. (UNAM GLOBAL, "Jóvenes indígenas, revaloran su lengua y cultura a través de redes sociales", January 2018) however users of open social networks face discrimination and lack of empathy when they try to overcome and express themselves in their own languages.



User about to login in Nierika