


## 3. LANGUAGES OF THE WORLD

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Some details on categorization and statistics of languages:

- International Partners in Language Development ([SIL](#)) counts 7,000 different languages (see [Grimes, 2002](#))
- Languages are grouped into **families / phyla**
- Ca. 100 families and phyla
- More than 75% of the known languages belong to 10% of the families
- 2/3 of the world population speak languages belonging to only 2 families: Indo-European and Sino-Tibetan
- For toponymy, numbers of speakers are not the sole criterium of 'importance'.

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