Languages: A Very Short Introduction
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Languages: A Very Short Introduction addresses questions such as: How many languages are there? What differentiates one language from another? Are new languages still being discovered? Why are so many languages disappearing? Considering a wide range of different languages and linguistic examples, this VSI demonstrates that, just as some places are more diverse than others in terms of plants and animal species, the same is true of the distribution of languages. Exploring the basis for linguistic classification and raising questions about how we identify a language, it examines the wider social issues of losing languages, and their impact in terms of the endangerment of cultures and peoples.