LANGUAGE AND CULTURE QUESTIONS

1. Explain the significance of the ethnosphere as discussed by Wade Davis.

*And you might think of this cultural web of life as being an ethnosphere, and you might define the ethnosphere as being the sum total of all thoughts and dreams, myths, ideas, inspirations, intuitions brought into being by the human imagination since the dawn of consciousness. The ethnosphere is humanity's great legacy. It's the symbol of all that we are and all that we can be as an astonishingly inquisitive species.*

1. Discuss the idea of having a global language.
2. Are some languages considered superior to others? Explain with examples.
3. To what extent do changes in language relate to the power of a group of language users?
4. Explain the relationship between language and culture. Consider the following metaphors given by Wade Davis.

*A language is a flash of the human spirit. It's a vehicle through which the soul of each particular culture comes into the material world. Every language is an old-growth forest of the mind, a watershed, a thought, an ecosystem of spiritual possibilities.*

1. What kind of knowledge do we need to understand texts that are written for different audiences in different times or cultures?
2. Should minority languages be saved from extinction? Why or why not?
3. To what extent does language define identity?
4. To what extent do our beliefs influence our language use?