

Catalan-language Television

The Catalan language is recognized, along with Spanish, as an official language in Catalonia and Valencia, regions within the country of Spain. In Catalan perspective, the vitality of the Catalan language is critical to the survival of the Catalan identity. Television is one such effort to maintain the language for over 12 million Catalans.

In 2003, the public Catalan Broadcasting Company (Corporació Catalana de Ràdio i Televisió) became a 24-hour news channel in Catalan. Along with TV3, Canal 33, and 3/24, these networks offered programming on Catalan culture and current events—exclusively in the Catalan language. Broadcasts of these networks were available in Catalonia and other Catalan territories, including the Balearic Islands, País Valencià, and Catalunya Nord in France. Catalan speakers in Valencia were also able to access these networks.

The government of the Valencian Autonomous Region in Spain removed the broadcasts of TV-3 the Barcelona-based Catalan language TV in 2007. This created an issue within this region where at least three languages are spoken: Spanish, Catalan, and Valencian.

For many Catalans, the Catalan-language television is key to the linguistic and cultural survival of the Catalan identity within Spain. Loss of this programming is perceived by many Catalan politicians as limiting and possibly leading to the assimilation of the Catalan identity into the Spanish identity.

Valencian perspective is similar in response to the presence the Spanish culture and use of the Spanish language as an official language. Justification for removal of Catalan-language television programs by the Valencian government is in reaction to the Spanish Court ruling that Valencian is the same language as Catalan. This is a strategy to focus on the distinction of Valencian as an Indigenous language in Spain that risks challenges from both the Spanish and Catalan languages.

Minority language television programming is a strategy in a globalizing world for both Catalan and Valencian efforts to maintain their unique languages where Spanish is the dominant language within the borders of Spain.