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### Reading Summary 1- Scripting The Future by Steven Fischer

Variations of writing appeared between 3500-4000 BC in Mesopotamia. Other countries nearby were influenced to make their own systems too. The three main writing systems are Logography, Pictography and Alphabet. Over time logography became old to use and was set aside for syllabic system, but alphabet is the dominating system today. The survival of language is dependent on how many people continue to speak it. An important message is the writing preserves language, so old scripts today exist today due to cultures and people being able to put their knowledge and thought on a physical medium (like clay or stone) for future generations to use. The brain compartmentalizes reading and speech differently, so thought are linked to reading and has nothing to do with saying them. Being able to speak and being able to speak and write are categorized on different levels in society giving way to Diglossia, dividing a society into those who are educate and those who are not. For example you would have to be educated to know the difference between words with one pronunciation but have different meanings to each of them. Thus classifying people in society, like knowing how to speak is not enough you are superior if you can speak and write. The English language is constantly changing, like old words are being changed in a matter of spelling or new words are being added and this is possible by people accepting the change. In 1970's countries wanted to trade with each other so they wanted a way to communicate with each other in a way everyone would understand (universal). This was possible using Pictography as it was simple symbols accepted and understood by all, but a disadvantage was they could not be precise and detailed in drawing certain things. Visual language a mix of words and pictures, today is all around us sometimes it's so simple and second nature that we process it with no effort at all, like male female washroom symbols, but we cannot use this alone to communicate or get our thought across to people as like pictography it is weak in precision. Common spoken languages, like English, are most likely to survive in the coming centuries as lot of people will use it, and not so common like within villages might not be so

fortunate. A lot of importance is given to Romanization and how it will influence the survival of various scripted languages around the world. As almost all urban households have a computer the theory is that written language might become obsolete as everything today is mostly electronic transference of information, also oral language might diminish as the progression of voice operated technology will further in helpfulness in our everyday life. But there are quite a number of people who genuinely find reading of books still an enjoyable hobby so there is hope for written language surviving. The most significant reason why written language would survive the future of a progressive society is the power it holds, writing immortalizes language, the knowledge, feelings, creativity saved for future generations to learn from and appreciate is a gift to this day. In a few words its humanities most valuable creation.