

Languages, communities and technologies: workflow in linguistic documentation and description as a bridge

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Nowadays it is well acknowledged that the endangerment of linguistic diversity of the world is one of linguistics' greatest challenges. Both documentary and descriptive linguistics are acknowledged as a field on their own rights, but remain marginal and need to be enhanced. At the same time, nowadays language communities should be regarded as agentive participants of the documentary work on their languages, and developing technologies decreasing the distance between linguists and members of endangered language communities is helpful. In my presentation, I will propose an idealized model of a workflow in documentary and descriptive linguistics, especially stressing the points related to community involvement in data processing. It will summarize activities a linguist has to perform with an underdocumented and underdescribed language starting from the very beginning point when they come to do their fieldwork for the first time until the point when extensive documentary and descriptive resources are accomplished and available both for linguists and for the language community. On the one hand, I overview all directions of work without any bias neither to the purely descriptive, nor to the purely documentary dimension. I focus both on purely academic work and on activities addressed to the language community. On the other hand, I explain the internal connections between these directions of work in order to show what stages ordering can be most efficient.