

Port Language Revitalization Project

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In this session, we will highlight three different aspects of our language revitalization project. The project team consists of linguists, designers, illustrators, and language community members. The project mainly focuses on, but is not limited to, creating language materials for the children and their parents. We aim at motivating them to get interested in the local language and further in (re)learning it.

I will first go over the features of the project. Then Fumi Yamamoto will present a designer/illustrator's perspective focusing on the visual communication aspect of the language materials that the project has produced so far. Akiko Yokoyama will situate the project in a framework of action research. Finally, Yukie Matsumura will share her experience as a native speaker consultant and as one of the language community members who have been actively involved in the project.

In our project, the linguists consolidate the linguistic data for language documentation. The designers/illustrators give it a shape such as a picture book package so that the language community can actually use it for revitalization. During this process, the language community members collaborate with the linguists to produce further linguistic data and narrative text data to facilitate the documentation, while giving feedbacks to the design of the language materials. The whole process is understood as an action research project that provides a case study of language revitalization. We will report a series of projects carried out in Okinoerabu island in this session.