

The Linguistics of Language Revitalization

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This talk will focus on what is required to create a successful program of language revitalization.

I begin by explaining the importance of linguistic research to language revitalization projects. A language revitalization program is nothing more or less than an attempt to have children (and sometimes adolescents and adults too) acquire a language that they do not know. For this reason, research on language acquisition is especially vital for any plan to save an endangered language.

I will outline several key findings from the study of language acquisition in monolingual and bilingual settings that are highly relevant for the design and implementation of language revitalization programs.