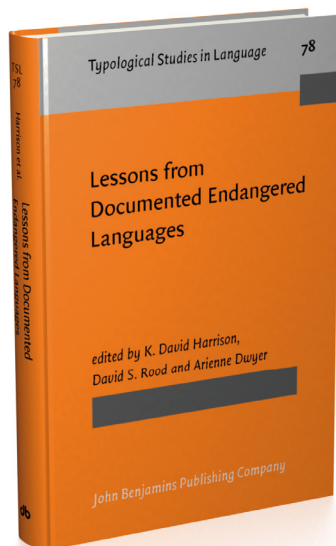


NEW BOOK INFORMATION



Linguistics

Lessons from Documented Endangered Languages

Edited by K. David Harrison, David S. Rood and Arienne Dwyer

Swarthmore College / University of Colorado / University of Kansas

This volume represents part of an unprecedented and still growing effort to advance, coordinate and disseminate the scientific documentation of endangered languages. As the pace of language extinction increases, linguists and native communities are accelerating their efforts to speak, remember, record, analyze and archive as much as possible of our common human heritage that is linguistic diversity. The window of opportunity for documentation is narrower than the actual lifetime of a language, and is now rapidly closing for many languages represented in this volume. The authors of these papers unveil newly collected data from previously poorly known and endangered languages. They organize highly complex linguistic facts - paradigms, affixes, vowel patterns - while pointing out the theoretically challenging aspects of these. Beyond this, they reflect on the social and human dimensions, discussing particular problems of nostalgia and modernity, memory and forgetting, and obsolescence and ethics, while viewing language as not merely data on a page but as a living creation in the minds and mouths of its speakers.

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Table of contents

A world of many voices: Editors' introduction

K. David Harrison, David S. Rood and Arienne Dwyer

Sri Lanka Malay revisited: Genesis and classification

Umberto Ansaldi

Working Together: The interface between researchers and the native people - The Trumai case

Aurore Monod Becquelin, Emmanuel de Vienne and Raquel Guirardello-Damian

Tense, Aspect and Mood in Awetí verb-paradigms: Analytic and synthetic forms.

Sebastian Drude

Tonogenesis in Southeastern Monguor.

Arienne Dwyer

Language, ritual and historical reconstruction: Towards a linguistic, ethnographical and archaeological account of Upper Xingu Society

Carlos Fausto, Bruna Franchetto and Michael Heckenberger

Endangered Caucasian languages in Georgia:

Linguistic parameters of language endangerment
Jost Gippert

Contact, attrition and shift in two Chaco languages: The cases of Tapiete and Vilela
Lucía A. Golluscio and Hebe González

Tofa language change and terminal generation speakers
K. David Harrison and Gregory D.S. Anderson

Hocank's challenge to morphological theory
Johannes Helmbrecht and Christian Lehmann

A Preliminary study of same-turn self-repair initiation in Wichita conversation
Armik Mirzayan

Multimedia analysis in documentation projects: Kinship, interrogatives and reciprocals in Akhoe Hai om

Thomas Widlok, Christian Rapold and Gertie Hoymann

Index

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