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Notice of The Cambridge Handbook of Endangered Languages

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The Cambridge Handbook of Endangered Languages. Ed. by PETER K. AUSTIN and JULIA SALLABANK. (Cambridge Handbooks in Language and Linguistics.) Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 2011. Pp. xii, 567. ISBN 9780521882156. Hardback $150.

Reviewed by NATALIE OPERSTEIN, *California State University Fullerton*

The issue of language endangerment has received increasing attention in recent years. This has found expression in the rising number of both scholarly and popular publications on the issue, and an increasing number of language documentation and revitalization initiatives together with the creation of dedicated academic programs and agencies which provide the necessary training and funding for such efforts. *The Cambridge Handbook of Endangered Languages* offers a thorough overview of language endangerment, from the perspective of both linguists and minority language communities. The book consists of twenty-two chapters divided into four thematic parts, and an introductory chapter by the editors which provides a preview of the volume's major themes.

Part 1 'Endangered languages' opens with Lenore A. Grenoble's chapter, 'Language ecology and endangerment', which surveys the causes of language shift and the mechanisms for assessing the level of endangerment. In 'Speakers and communities', Colette Grinevald and Michel Bert discuss differences among endangered language communities, from the viewpoint of both speakers and fieldworkers, and propose a dynamic model for dividing endangered language speakers into types according to several interrelated clusters of characteristics. In 'A survey of language endangerment', David Bradley outlines the current state of endangerment among the world's languages.

In 'Language contact and change in endangered languages', Carmel O'Shannessy discusses some common mechanisms and outcomes of language contact, and how contact-induced change is evaluated by minority language communities. 'Structural aspects of language endangerment', by Naomi Palosaari and Lyle Campbell, focuses on the contributions of endangered languages to linguistic theory and typology, and the structural consequences of obsolescence for the languages' phonology, morphology, and syntax. 'Language and culture', by Lev Michael, explores the interrelation of language and culture, and discusses the cultural consequences of language loss. 'Language and society', by Bernard Spolsky, looks at the social dimensions of language management.

Part 2 'Language documentation' opens with a similarly titled chapter by Anthony C. Woodbury, who critically evaluates the scholarly and community contexts of endangered language documentation and calls for a broadly inclusive coordination of academic and popular agendas in the design of documentation projects. Lise M. Dobrin and Josh Berson highlight the ethical dimensions of work with endangered languages in 'Speakers and language documentation'. In 'Data and language documentation', Jeff Good considers a range of topics related to the collection, storage, and manipulation of primary data. 'Archiving and language documentation' by Lisa Conathan and 'Digital archiving' by David Nathan outline the principles and practices for the creation, organization, management, preservation, and archiving of durable documentary corpus materials.

Part 3 'Responses' opens with Julia Sallabank's chapter 'Language policy for endangered languages', which considers language policy, planning, and management in relation to the maintenance and revitalization of endangered languages. In 'Revitalization of endangered languages', Leanne Hinton discusses the many forms language

revitalization can take (immersion schools, adult language classes, development of pedagogical grammars, etc.), and the role of linguistics and linguistic training in this process. In 'Orthography development', Friederike Lüpke looks at the role of orthography in language documentation, and the various practical, linguistic, religious, cultural, and identity-related factors that need to be considered when developing orthography for a previously unwritten language. In 'Lexicography in endangered language communities', Ulrike Mosel focuses on some typical problems surrounding lexicographic work in language documentation projects, such as the selection of the variety to document and the challenge of producing work which would satisfy the minority speech community without compromising the scholarly standards of the field. 'Language curriculum design and evaluation for endangered languages' by Serafin M. Coronel-Molina and Teresa L. McCarthy presents several case studies of curriculum design and evaluation informed by local language planning and policy goals. In 'The role of information technology in supporting minority and endangered languages', Gary Holton discusses the information technology's potential to support language maintenance efforts.

Part 4 'Challenges' opens with Wayne Harbert's chapter 'Endangered languages and economic development', which focuses on the economic status of endangered language communities and its implications for the status and viability of their languages. In 'Researcher training and capacity development in language documentation', Anthony Jukes discusses the range of skills needed for work in language documentation and conservation, and identifies the main types of target audiences in language documentation training courses. In 'New roles for endangered languages', Máiréad Moriarty evaluates

the benefits for language conservation of the new functions that endangered languages have begun to carve for themselves in the media, internet, and pop-culture. In 'Planning a language-documentation project', Claire Bowern discusses both the general principles and the key stages of a language documentation project, from finding sources of funding to the main project phases and to possible future outcomes.

Theoretically informed and replete with down-to-earth advice from practitioners in the field of documentary linguistics, this handbook will be of interest to a wide range of scholars and students, as well as the wider community of readers interested in language endangerment and related cultural, historical, linguistic, and sociopolitical issues.