

The Design of a Community Language Documentation Skills Workshop

- Unlike language documentation in the narrowest sense, almost certainly with a great big eye towards documentation for the sake of ongoing revitalization--and so must be optimized in that direction.

- We recommend keeping range of coverage to a minimum, in fact, and instead using the time saved therein to review, to loop back over the core points. Other useful details (which we might otherwise want to cram into the baseline presentation) will emerge naturally from this process, even as the core points get reinforced.

With that in mind, here is the spare set of core topics, laid out here in explicit order of conceptual and presentational priority:

- ethics and emotions

- lifetime habits of speaking and not speaking, and what we might do with that awareness
- shame and authenticity; variation and "rightness"
- respect/politeness and patience used as avoidance strategies (both learners and documenters)
- privacy, other sensitivities [if the language is so sacred that...then it's too sacred to survive]
- finding a space, taking back territory for the language's use (doubled up below as a tool, as tech)

- tools and technology

- the bias of the written word, and orthography wars: why the oral/visual is better anyways
awareness of what alphabetic writing (even phonetic transcription) is and isn't, what it captures and doesn't (prosody), and all unconscious assumptions about it (identity, politics, "rightness"), especially from the local dominant writing system []
- psychosocial technology [discussed above, but emph that it trumps material tech every time]
 - finding a space, taking back territory for the language's use; and finding time for that
- backups, backups, no matter what
- long-term view: archival transparency and robustness: media, format, and especially, metadata

basics of audio: mike as keystone; acoustic env'mnt; lossiness; sampling rate +bit depth choices

basics of video: still-crucial role of audio; lighting; subtitling [key pedagogical tool]

basics of time-coded transcription: ELAN, or lower-overhead equivalents

basics of XML: tagging = labeling; nestedness; separating content from form (XML to HTML)

- practical application workshops/runthroughs

- lots of possibilities here, but basically recombining the above topics in guided realistic scenarios, with rich participatory discussion before and after

Next up: The Design of a Community Language Teaching Skills Workshop