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Language Contact and the Community

ABSTRACTS

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Title: Attitudes in the Burgenland Croatian community towards contact languages and varieties

Abstract:

Austria has acknowledged six autochthonous minorities, one of which is the Burgenland Croatian community. In the 16th century, a Croatian-speaking population settled in today's eastern Austria (Burgenland and Lower Austria), Slovakia, Hungary and the Czech Republic. Ever since, it has been exposed to assimilation pressure, which led, for instance, to the assimilation of the Burgenland Croatian population in Lower Austria in the 18th and 19th century (Tyran 2022). Focusing on the current situation of the Burgenland Croatian community in Austria, it is protected under the Framework Convention for the Protection of National Minorities (FCNM 1995).

In this paper, we examine reported attitudes towards Burgenland Croatian and its varieties, as well as contact language varieties such as German, Austrian dialectal varieties and English. For this purpose, we draw on survey data (n = 121) from the HORIZON Europe project "RISE UP – Revitalising Languages and Safeguarding Cultural Diversity" as well as qualitative interviews with speakers of Burgenland Croatian. Based on our findings, we aim to shed light on community members' perceptions of the relationship between these varieties and the respective language ecology.

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Endangerment within endangerment: attitudes towards the use of Hobyot in Ṣarfayt, Dhofar, Oman

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Hobyot is one of the six Semitic languages forming the Modern South Arabian subgroup. All of them are endangered to varying degrees. However, together with Bathari and Harsusi, Hobyot is severely threatened: spoken in an area that straddles the border between Oman and Yemen, Hobyot is under a twofold pressure. On the one hand, it shows the effect of contact with Arabic, the official language of both countries. On the other hand, contact with Mehri and Jibbali/Shehret, two less endangered and more prestigious Modern South Arabian languages, is clearly taking its toll not only on the structures of this language, but also on the way speakers perceive it. This field enquiry aims to present an analysis of speakers' attitudes in the border town of Ṣarfayt by investigating the domains of daily use of Hobyot and attempting to draw a clearer divide, both linguistic and sociolinguistic, between Hobyot and the aforementioned closely related languages. The results will show that despite the enormous pressure to which Hobyot is subject, its Omani speakers are entirely aware of its uniqueness and strive to keep it alive as a "niche" language.

Lexical attrition in contemporary Scottish Gaelic

Ian Clayton (University of Nevada, Reno), Fañch Bihan-Gallic (Dòrlach), Àdhamh Ó Broin (Dòrlach)

The Western Isles of Scotland are often described as a Gaelic stronghold, where the language remains relatively robust. As a matter of numbers, this is true: native Gaelic speakers are proportionally more numerous in the Outer Hebrides than elsewhere in Scotland. However, Gaelic is not insulated from language shift even here.

This paper details the results of a lexicographic study of L1 Gaelic speakers in the Scottish Highlands and Islands, with a focus on Harris, where language shift is a comparatively recent phenomenon. The study results suggest that early stages of shift in this community are lexical rather than grammatical. Even among the strongest speakers, i.e. the oldest generation brought up in near-monolingual Gaelic crofting communities, lexical attrition is significant and widespread even while command of grammatical structures remains relatively stable. Among such speakers attrition tends to be most significant within particular domains, e.g. local biodiversity. Here, the Gaelic terms are frequently supplanted by their English equivalents (*bat* for *ioltag*, *starfish* for *crosgag*, *frog* for *losgann*, etc.). Where speakers do recall a Gaelic term, it is often generic or non-local, suggesting media and school as conduits for influence from both English and higher-prestige Gaelic varieties.

Number and Definiteness in Yucatec Maya: Increasing bilingualism and language contact

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Although one of the most widely spoken indigenous languages of Mexico, Yucatec Maya is nowadays increasingly replaced by Spanish. Speakers of indigenous languages in the peninsula decrease from 30% in the group born between 1930-1935 to 6% in the group born between 2000-2005 (INEGI 2011).

Our aim is to understand whether recent developments in grammar are independent reflexes of language contact or interconnected. To this end, we examine two phenomena that are attributable to exposition to Spanish, but related within the nominal structure: Plural and Definiteness. While highly grammaticalized in Spanish, they are traditionally described as optional (Plural) and non-existent (Definiteness) in Yucatec Maya. However, presumably under influence from Spanish, younger speakers developed a definite article and make frequent use of plural marking.

In order to test if these tendencies can be confirmed, and if they can be traced back to influence from Spanish, we prepared visual stimuli and recorded contexts that trigger the use of Plural and Definiteness. 48 native speakers of different age groups are instructed to judge the appropriateness of different nominal expressions in these contexts. The speakers' degree of bilingualism is assessed by means of the Bilingual Language Profile.

INEGI 2011 = INEGI. Censo de Población y Vivienda 2010: Tabulados del Cuestionario Básico

Sound Adaptation Models of Persian-Language Borrowings in Fereydanian Georgian (on the Example of Names)

Ketevan Gigashvili and Paata Japaridze

(Iakob Gogebashvili Telavi State University, Georgia and Akaki Tsereteli Kutaisi State University, Georgia))

The paper aims to examine the cases of sound adaptation of the Persian-language borrowings in the Fereydnian Georgian, which has been in language contact with Persian for more than four centuries due to the waves of forced migrations of ethnic Georgians to Iran's Fereydan province and represents a dialect island. The study is based on the corpus dictionary of the Fereydnian dialect showing 852 loanwords from the Persian language, more than 600 words of which are nouns representing the object of the given work. The research goals are: (1) to identify dominant phonological strategies used in integrating Persian nouns, and (2) to classify these strategies according to current models of loanword phonology. Methodologically, the investigation applies a qualitative phonological approach grounded in three established models: perception-based nativization, production-based nativization, and the Optimality Theory framework. The study provides insights into the chronology of the adaptations. The research illustrates all stages of contact history, starting with early bilingualism, during which speakers of the recipient language borrowed the Persian words by adapting them to the phonological models of their language, and ending with the modern stage of bilingualism, when word borrowing occurs without phonological changes. Accordingly, the research findings reflect the dynamics of the phonological changes historically.

Stylistic variation in a fragmented community: Esperanto speakers in the United Kingdom

James Hawkey

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Speakers of Esperanto have long underscored the commonalities between their speech community and those of other minoritised varieties (see Wood 1979). The number of fluent or semi-speakers remains unknown, but estimates range from 50,000 to 2 million worldwide.

This research is grounded in variationist approaches to stylistic variation in L2 speech – these differ from Labovian work on speakers' L1, as variation is not conceptualised as distance from a presumed vernacular register. I put forward the idea of the 'fragmented community' as different to L1 speech communities for geographical, demographic and ideological reasons, and classify Esperanto speakers as a fragmented community of practice.

I will present findings from an ongoing production study focusing on mid-vowels and rhoticity in Esperanto among L1 British English speakers. I examine the role of personal pattern variation in interpreting the data from this fragmented community, and discuss how stancetaking can only be understood through an appreciation of the purist ideologies that prevail among speakers of Esperanto.

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Phonological Changes in Sanjiazi Manchu under the Influence of Northeastern Mandarin

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Endangered languages in multilingual settings often undergo structural change due to contact with dominant varieties (Lüpke 2016). This paper investigates contact-induced phonological changes in Manchu, a critically endangered Tungusic language in sustained contact with Northeastern Mandarin (NE Mandarin), a Sino-Tibetan dialect in China. I argue that both external sociolinguistic factors, such as speakers' literacy experience, and internal linguistic factors, including the resilience of phonological rules, shape the trajectory of structural change under the influence of language contact. The analysis draws on 2023 fieldwork in Sanjiazi, a village of 12 native Manchu speakers with high Manchu - NE Mandarin bilingualism.

At the segmental level, modern Sanjiazi Manchu exhibits a reduced vowel inventory and an expanded set of affricates, reflecting NE Mandarin influence. NE Mandarin features, such as retroflex-alveolar alternation among affricates, are also diffusing into Manchu. Moreover, vowel harmony, a hallmark of Tungusic languages, is now infrequent, supporting Zhao's (1989) hypothesis that Manchu is shifting from an agglutinative to a more isolating typology.

In contrast, at the suprasegmental level, Manchu retains its native metrical stress system even in Mandarin loanwords, disregarding tonal features. For example, the Mandarin word /pʰu˩ tʰau˩ / is borrowed into Manchu as /pʰuˈtʰau/, with stress assigned according to Manchu prosodic rules. This shift in prosodic prominence suggests a robust retention of metrical structure despite extensive contact.

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Contact-induced Change in Enggano, an endangered language of Indonesia

Charlotte Hemmings

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This paper presents a case study of contact-induced change in Enggano (ISO 639-3 code: eno), an Austronesian language spoken by approximately 1,600 speakers on Enggano Island, Sumatra, Indonesia. The paper outlines how we have studied contact-induced change in a traditionally oral language, by comparing a corpus of historical legacy materials collected by Hans Kähler in the 1930s (Kähler 1940, 1955-64, 1975) with contemporary materials collected as part of a language documentation project between 2018-2024 (Sangian et al 2024).

The comparison reveals that Enggano has undergone relatively largescale changes in a relatively short period of time, not only in the lexicon, but also at all levels of linguistic structure and in increased code-switching (see Nothofer 1992, Hemmings & Arka 2023). Not all changes may be directly attributable to contact. For example, the final vowel of every word is regularly lost (Yoder 2011, Smith 2020). However, it is notable that many of the changes have a direct parallel in Indonesian and could therefore be taken as convergence. This paper argues that the sociolinguistic context of endangerment and the importance of Indonesian in the linguistic repertoires of speakers (see e.g. Arka et al 2022) forms (at least part of) the explanation for such largescale changes.

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Language Contact and Language Loss in the Polish-Turkish Context: The Case of Polonezköy

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Polonezköy (Adampol), a historically important Polish settlement in Turkiye, represents a unique example of long-term language contact and cultural adaptation. Founded in 1842 by Polish political exiles, the village has witnessed increasing dominance of Turkish in everyday communication. Despite its historical isolation and strong cultural ties to Poland, the community has experienced extensive language loss due to sociopolitical integration, intermarriage, and decline of intergenerational language transmission. This study explores the linguistic transformation in Polonezköy by assessing **the role of code-switching and the integration of Turkish lexical and structural elements into Polish speech.** Using **sociolinguistic interviews and archival materials**, the research investigates the interplay between identity, language maintenance, and sociopolitical pressures. The study also contrasts Polonezköy with a newer Polish diaspora in urban centres such as Istanbul and Alanya, where Polish remains actively maintained through transnational ties and institutional support. This comparison raises questions about the **role of historical depth, community structure, and external linguistic environments in language resilience**. Situating Polonezköy within broader discussions on **language contact, shift, and death**, this study engages with **David Crystal's framework on language decline**, as well as perspectives from **Fishman's work on reversing language shift and Thomason's research on language contact.**

Gàidhlig air na meadhanan sòisealta: Translanguaging in informal educational spaces

John Knipe

(Converse University)

Translanguaging, a concept rooted in postmodern philosophy and pedagogical practice, has become mainstream in discussions of applied linguistics and second language acquisition (Kabuto, 2021; Mazak, 2017). Though there exists some research on the concept of sustainable translanguaging with endangered languages in formal educational settings (Cenoz & Gorter, 2017), and some research on the role of social media in language revitalization (e.g., Jones, 2015; Jones et al., 2022) there is a paucity of literature on translanguaging in these informal educational domains. This qualitative case study explores the language ideologies and practices of Scottish Gaelic social media content creators. Data was collected through in-person interviews with three Scottish Gaelic social media content creators and a review of their online posts over a 6-month period. The data was then analyzed using holistic and theoretical coding methods. Findings reveal differences in language ideologies and therefore practices with regard to translanguaging. The participants had varying reasons for posting sometimes in Gaelic, sometimes in English, and sometimes a combination of the two (e.g., calquing, code-mixing, code-switching). The researcher posits potential explanations for these differences. Implications for the future of Gaelic social media content production and the potential effects on the language in general are discussed.

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Does linguistic globalization pose a threat to smaller English contact varieties?

Manfred Krug

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Looking at both lexical and grammatical variation in the data of the Bamberg Survey of Language Variation and Change (which draws in its grammar part on the eWAVE features found in Kortmann et al. 2020; for details, see Krug & Sell 2013), this paper explores whether ongoing changes in contact varieties of English can be interpreted as cases of incipient language (or variety) endangerment. The focus will be on Maltese English (MaltE) and Gibraltar English (GibE).

Obviously, the use of the English language is not threatened in either Malta or Gibraltar, where many linguists would consider the use of Italian or Maltese on the one hand, and Llanito or Spanish on the other, to be more endangered. Our previous real-time and apparent-time studies, however, indicate that the language varieties of MaltE and GibE are changing through forces of globalization, Americanization, and Britishisation (Krug & Sönning 2017; Krug, Schützler & Werner 2020).

One conceivable outcome of globalization, which is potentially speeded up through the use of AI tools in language production, is homogenization. A consequence can be the loss of variety-specific features and thus the extinction of, perhaps in particular, smaller regional varieties of English. The present study finds GibE and MaltE to align overall more closely with British English in their lexical choices than in their grammatical patterns. In grammar, both varieties trend towards globalizing patterns, which also figure in EFL varieties (e.g. in Sweden, Germany or Slovenia). However, both GibE and MaltE exhibit significant apparent-time tendencies towards more globalized (and here mostly towards American English) usage patterns also in the lexical domain. For illustration, we will take a closer look at, inter alia, tag questions, double negation, and lexical variation in near or erstwhile synonyms.

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School manuals for Thulung language (eastern Nepal) and what they reveal about attitudes towards language change.

Aimée Lahaussois

(Histoire des théories linguistiques, CNRS/Université Paris Cité)

Contact between Nepali and the Kiranti languages, spoken in Eastern Nepal, is long-standing, dating back at least as far as the first Kiranti grammars, in the mid-19th c., which show evidence of lexical borrowing.

Recent work on individual Kiranti languages, of which Thulung is an example, reveals significant influence from Nepali in grammatical domains as well, such as case-marking and across a large number of syntactic constructions. This raises the question of which features of the languages can be deemed to be authentically Kiranti, a question of interest to both linguists and to the community of speakers.

Members of the Thulung community have been developing pedagogical materials for primary school classes over the past few years. These materials constitute a valuable resource for language maintenance and transmission, and include conversations, traditional stories, descriptions of cultural practices and places. They are also characterized by an effort to eradicate traces of Nepali from Thulung. The result is a series of textbooks which do not reflect the language as actually spoken.

In this talk, I will describe in detail which aspects of Thulung's grammar have undergone contact-induced change, before presenting the systemic consequences of attempts to remove these changes in developing pedagogical materials.

From Diaspora to Digital: Language Contact and Community in Online Ladino

Carlos Yebra López

(California State University Fullerton)

This presentation examines the digital revitalisation of Ladino (Judeo-Spanish), positioning online interaction as central to current language practices. Drawing on Revivalistics (Zuckermann, 2020), it argues that the Ladino-speaking community now primarily engages online, marking a new phase in Sephardic diaspora history—termed 'Sepharad 4' (Yebra López, 2024). This stage is characterised by structural innovation and community-led initiatives.

Through case studies involving YouTube archives, social media, language apps, The Oxford School of Rare Jewish Languages, and platforms like Netflix and Web 3.0, the presentation explores how virtual language contact fosters variation, hybridisation, and innovation. These changes are often driven by new speakers, whose varying levels of fluency and differing views on linguistic authenticity shape the evolving landscape of Ladino. The presentation also examines how digital platforms influence emerging linguistic norms and considers the implications for documentation and revitalisation strategies. In closing, it reflects on community attitudes toward language change, highlighting the tensions between purist and adaptive perspectives.

Overall, this presentation offers a systematic account of Ladino's online resurgence and contributes to broader discussions on contact-induced variation, methodological adaptation, and speaker agency in the context of endangered languages.

From Italian and French to Sardinian:
language endangerment and attrition analysed with a corpus-based study

Piergiorgio Mura and Simone Pisano

(University for Foreigners of Siena)

Phenomena of language attrition are often visible in the linguistic production of heritage speakers (Benmamoun *et al.*,2013; Polinsky & Scontras ,2020).

The influence of Italian and French on an endangered language such as Sardinian is studied in a group of heritage Sardinian speakers living either in the Italian mainland or in France. Linguistic features were analysed with a quantitative approach, through a corpus of almost 8 hours of (semi)spontaneously spoken Sardinian, which was manually lemmatised, and P-o-S annotated with the help of a custom-developed tagger.

While attrition is evident in lexical items and especially in discourse markers (e.g. it. *quindi* ="then", or fr. *voilà* ="there you are"), a more complex pictures emerges looking at morphosyntactic phenomena. For example, the position of possessive adjectives follows the traditional Sardinian order, showing resistance to attrition (cf.Westergaard & Anderssen,2015). Instead, srd. *puru* (="also") is placed before the modified element significantly more often by emigrants in Italy than by those in France, as this feature differs between Italian and Sardinian, whereas there is no such conflict between Sardinian and French. Interestingly, srd. *meda* (="very, much") is generally preposed, following the Italian and French model, but the frequency of this structure varies significantly depending on whether the modified element is an adjective or a noun.

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'Well, of course, practically…': Translator views of Irish as a language of the EU

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Since 2022, Irish (Gaelic) has full working status as an official language of the European Union. This is notable given the highly minoritised state of the language. This paper presents emergent findings from semi-structured interviews conducted with Irish-language workers in European Union institutions as part of the project *Pobal na nAE Istigh: Pobal na Gaeilge agus an tAontas Eorpach*[1]. 22 30-minute interviews were conducted across three institutions; six interviews from one institution are focused on here for practical reasons. Participants (two female, four male) were aged 24-61. Two had grown up in substantially or fully Irish-speaking homes outside of the *Gaeltacht*, while three had Irish-medium primary and secondary education.

Several themes have emerged so far. While all agreed that EU status for Irish was worthwhile, there was diversity around the ideological basis and political justification of this as well as its integration with more traditional revivalist nationalism (or lack thereof). None were concerned by readership statistics for translated documents/webpages, although the framing of this matter varied. All expressed positively that Irish stood as one language amongst many in the EU context, both socially and institutionally, in contrast to its markedness in Ireland. Questions of authenticity and 'richness' of variety/usage were expressed by some both in terms of their own usage and regarding some newly recruited employees, although notably this did not emerge as strongly amongst the two L1 speakers (marginally for one aged 61, not at all for the other aged 27). Ongoing analysis and broader implications will be discussed.

"Have you made choices, or is it completely natural to you?": Agency, Ideologies, and Linguistic Structure in Manx Gaelic

Erin McNulty

(University of Glasgow)

The 21st century has been a time of rapid change for endangered languages. As well as increased language shift, we also see the emergence of New Speaker communities, who learn the minority language through means other than first language transmission in the home (O'Rourke, Pujolar, and Ramallo 2015). Studies of these New Speakers have brought new ways of understanding the role of agency in language variation and change, suggesting that New Speakers might be employing linguistic structures to express certain language ideologies or aspects of identity (c.f. Rodriguez-Ordoñez, 2020).

Manx Gaelic, spoken in the Isle of Man, has undergone extreme language endangerment, with the last of its traditional native speakers passing away in 1974. However, the language now has a community of around 2200 New Speakers (Isle of Man Government, 2022), whose Manx exhibits considerable variation (McNulty, 2023).

This paper will explore the relationship between agency, language ideologies, language contact, and morphosyntactic production in a language that lacks native speakers. It asks:
1. What do Manx New Speakers think 'natural Manx' sounds like?
2. What linguistic models do Manx New Speakers value (or devalue)?
3. To what extent do these beliefs have an impact on linguistic production?

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Visually distinctive language: minority and majority writing in contact

Philippa M. Steele

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Writing is a visible manifestation of language, transforming it into a new dimension of sensory engagement. As soon as a minoritised language is written down, it not only has a visible existence, but also visual distinctiveness: no two languages look alike when written down, whether they use different spellings or diacritical marks, or an entirely different script. (Interscripts are a rare, only partial exception.)

This paper looks at types of visual distinctiveness in writing, in the domains of orthography and script. Two main case studies are chosen from areas of contact between minority and majority (particularly colonial) languages: written indigenous languages in contact with Spanish in central America, and contrasts between majority script orthographies (e.g. Latin, Ajami) and emergent distinct scripts in west and southern Africa.

The main aim is to consider whether relational visual distinctiveness positively or negatively affects minoritised languages, and how that might inform future maintenance or reclamation strategies. A further dimension to these issues involves the particular challenges of digital literacy and digital disadvantage. Finally a new resource will be introduced: *Assess Your Language's Writing Needs*, offered as a way of enabling communities to reflect on their own written language.

Nasir Abbas Rizvi Syed

(LUAWMS, Pakistan)

Nature of structural changes in Saraiki: The role of native speakers' attitudes and social conditions on language change

Saraiki, a Western Indo-Aryan language, is spoken in Punjab alongside Punjabi and Urdu, which are the dominant languages. Orientalist linguists of previous centuries classified Saraiki as an independent language(1-6). Nowadays, some researchers claim that it is a dialect of Punjabi(7). This paper examines the nature of changes occurring in Saraiki due to Urdu and correlates them with the attitudes of Saraiki native speakers. Modern, educated Saraiki has almost lost its unique features, e.g., implosive consonants, palatalisation, double pronominal suffixation with verbs, etc. This gave rise to two sociolects: the pure Saraiki spoken by the uneducated and the educated, Urduized Saraiki. The latter is closer to Urdu and Punjabi. In a survey, educated Saraiki speakers confirmed that they mostly speak Saraiki with their wives (70%) and brothers/sisters (75%) but Urdu with their children (100%). They attributed it to Urdu's status as the national language (50%), the language of the educated class (5%), a source of employment (30%), and the dominant language in society (15%). 70% of them believe their children do not speak Saraiki accurately, and 90% are certain that their grandchildren will shift to Urdu permanently. This paper explains (Figure-1) how Saraiki undergoes Punjabiization before its final shift to Urdu. **(word count: 200)**

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Bisayanisation in Mindanao: Language shift and contact-induced change in Butuanon and Zamboangueño Chavacano

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The term *bisayanisation* was coined by Yengoyan (1966) to describe the cultural assimilation of indigenous Mandaya communities into the migrant Cebuano-speaking ethnolinguistic group on the island of Mindanao, Philippines from the 19th century onwards. Though originally used to denote a change in the dominant culture, it has since been used to describe the language shift in speech communities across Mindanao from their traditional languages to *Bisaya* (Kobari, 2016), the colloquial name for the Cebuano language. Here, I extend the scope of bisayanisation to also capture the influence of Bisaya/Cebuano on the local languages themselves, i.e. cases of contact-induced structural and lexical change.

Focusing on two cases studies – Butuanon, an endangered language closely related to Cebuano, and Zamboangueño Chavacano, a stable Spanish-based creole – we shall review the ways bisayanisation has manifested in different sociolinguistic scenarios in Mindanao. We shall see how language external factors such as colonisation, migration and shared histories between ethnolinguistic groups, and language internal factors like structural affinities and differences have led to different outcomes: in Butuanon, we observe significant lexical borrowing and speaker decline, with little structural change; in Chavacano, however, we find clear *bisayanised* morphosyntactic restructuring alongside a growing speaker base.

Prototype or continuum model in the description of variation? The case of Meänkieli

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The purpose of this paper is to discuss approaches to variation in Meänkieli that are inclusive while considering language revitalisation, stakeholder and community interests, and competing ideologies. Meänkieli is an endangered language traditionally spoken in northern Sweden by 20,000 to 75,000 people. Once part of the Finnish dialect continuum, its status was initially contested. It was finally officially recognized as one of the national minority languages of Sweden in 2000. As is typical with minoritized and endangered languages, Meänkieli exhibits variation across all levels (phonetics/phonology, morpho-syntax, vocabulary). This variation is regional, situational, free, and intergenerational. Additional variables include standardisation, code-switching, the language of new speakers, and the use of older recordings to support description and revitalisation efforts. There is tension between more traditional speakers and those who incorporate more Swedish into their speech, while Finnish continues to play a prominent role in the speech community. This paper addresses the following question: What methodological and theoretical approaches are appropriate for investigating variation in endangered varieties like Meänkieli? The data comes from the corpus collected in our ongoing project funded by the Swedish Academy of Sciences to document and describe Meänkieli. Theoretically, the paper draws on the concepts of prototype (e.g. Taylor 2003) and continuum (e.g. Hinrichs & Farquharson 2011), and examines the practical and theoretical advantages and disadvantages of each in the grammatical description of Meänkieli.

Attitudes towards language mixing in the Val d'Aran

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In the Val d'Aran, in the Spanish parts of the Pyrenees, two minoritized languages, Aranese and Catalan, have co-official status in addition to Spanish (see Carrera, 2021). Aranese, a variety of Gascon Occitan, is spoken by about 6.000 of the 10.000 inhabitants of the valley (see Generalitat de Catalunya, 2019). Within the last decades, all three languages found their place in public life and are taught in school. Since a tunnel connects the valley with the rest of Spain, the economy has grown due to tourism. This caused a demographic change (see Brennan, 2024) thus influencing language usage and possibly attitudes towards language mixing.

In our online survey (2024-2025), 51 New Speakers and 73 L1 Speakers gave us insights into their language acquisition paths, usages and attitudes. For our contribution, we will consider their attitudes towards language mixing. We will look at correlations of different speaker profiles with positive or negative attitudes. For instance, our data show that L1 speakers tend to see language mixing as something more normal in multilingual settings, like "Fantastic. És la realitat social del meu entorn", while New Speakers indicated more often seeing language mixing as a sign of low language proficiency ("un mal ús").

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Speaker Attitudes Toward Variation, Change, and Contact in Romeyka

Romeyka, an endangered Hellenic variety spoken in northeastern Turkey, has been in sustained contact with Turkish and displays considerable microvariation across syntactic and lexical domains (e.g., Mackridge, 1987; Schreiber, 2023). While prior research has examined structural features (e.g., Sitaridou, 2014; Michelioudakis & Sitaridou, 2016; Neocleous, 2020) and sociolinguistic vitality (Schreiber & Sitaridou, 2017), speaker perceptions of linguistic variation and change remain underexplored. Little is known about how speakers perceive intergenerational and regional differences, the influence of Turkish, and practices such as code-switching. This study addresses these gaps by investigating how Romeyka speakers from three villages in the Çaykara (Katohor) region perceive and evaluate linguistic differences within and across their communities. Drawing on qualitative, semi-structured interviews, I explore attitudes toward intergenerational change, regional variation, and contact-induced features. I also examine how speakers assess different Romeyka varieties and how linguistic practices are tied to local notions of legitimacy and group identity. By foregrounding speaker perspectives, this research contributes to broader discussions on language ideologies, contact, and the social dimensions of microvariation in endangered languages. It offers insight into how speakers navigate change and continuity in the context of ongoing language shift.

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Presentation title:

Language change and standardisation in a contact situation: examining trends in the codification of standard Leonese varieties.

Abstract:

As it is the case with every Asturleonese variety, the history and current situation of Leonese is deeply shaped by its contact with Spanish. The extreme diglossia and linguistic proximity between both languages has led to a situation of critical endangerment and language convergence, whereby Leonese is gradually losing distinctive phonological and morphosyntactic features, worsening its historical perception as a dialect of Spanish. Drawing from my ongoing research on such *castilianisation* of Leonese and the linguistic ideologies surrounding this language change process, this presentation will first focus on the structural changes observed in the language and then discuss the responses from different actors involved in its incipient standardisation. While efforts to counteract convergence have been central to revitalisation and codification, these have taken distinct directions, prioritizing different linguistic forms and structures depending on, for example, whether they aim to reinforce distance from Spanish, align with the Asturian standard of Asturleonese, or preserve local traditional forms. By examining these processes, this presentation will highlight how contact-induced change not only shapes linguistic structures but also influences how speakers and activists conceptualize the language's future.

The Inevitable Hybridity of Revlangs (Revival Languages)

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This paper will try to answer the following question mentioned in the Call for Papers: 'What kind of structural innovations might new speakers introduce in contexts of revitalization and how should these be incorporated in the documentation of these varieties?'

The paper will propose that a language emerging from a successful revival ought to be categorized as a *Revival Language* (*revlang*). Revlangs share many common characteristics such as hybridization between the language being reclaimed and the revivalists' mother tongue(s). Revlangs should therefore be classified under the 'revival language' 'family' rather than a specific Stammbaum language family (such as Semitic or Celtic).

Two principles that are manifested in revlangs are the Founder Principle and Congruence Principle: (1) According to the Founder Principle, an emerging revival language is predetermined by the characteristics of the languages spoken by the founder population. So, for example, in the case of Barngarla, the Aboriginal Australian revival language of Eyre Peninsula, South Australia, English is a primary contributor because it is the mother tongue of the vast majority of revivalists at the *critical period* of the beginning of reclaimed Barngarla. In the case of Israeli, Yiddish is a primary contributor. So whilst Reclaimed Barngarla is an English-Aboriginal hybrid, Israeli is a Semito-European hybrid. (2) According to the Congruence Principle, the more contributing languages a linguistic feature occurs in, the more likely it is to persist in the emerging revlang.

The paper will show evidence from revlangs such as Israeli (Reclaimed Hebrew, see Zuckermann 2020), Barngarla, Kaurna and Ngarrindjeri (Australian Aboriginal), Sanskrit, Te Reo Māori and Hawaiian.

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