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Abstract

## **Transcribing Unwritten Languages in the Course of Fieldwork in Indonesia**

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This presentation considers the process of transcribing sign languages in the course of fieldwork, comparing them with the methods utilized in the case of spoken languages. At a certain point, linguistic fieldworkers assign some phonetic/phonemic or graphic symbols to linguistic units of the target language. These symbols may help to understand linguistic structures of a language, mainly its phonetics, phonology, and morphology. Needless to say, in documenting a sign language, priority must be given to video recording. In this talk, we consider the effectiveness of transcribing a sign language from the viewpoints of linguistic analysis, language learning and revitalization. We conclude by saying that language transcribing may lead to (i) positive perception of one’s own language, (ii) raising the awareness of community identity, and (iii) facilitation of language learning.