

Revitalization



What is Language Revitalization?

"The attempt by interested parties, including individuals, cultural or community groups, governments, or political authorities, to reverse the decline of a language"

- Also called:
 - Language Revival
 - Reversing Language Shift

2

What are the goals of Revitalization?

- Increase speaker numbers
- Increase language use
 - Within and between different different sections in the population
- Increase domains of use
- Increase language prestige/valorization
- Primary goal: Get children learning and invested in the language (intergenerational transmission) 3

Domains of Use

- Where, when, and in what contexts the language is used
- Places
 - At home, at church, in weekend schools
- People
 - With grandparents, with friends
- Activities
 - praying, playing certain games, gossiping



- Large Scale
 - Country or community wide efforts to reverse language shift
 - · Revitalization of Hebrew in Israel
 - · Revitalization of Cherokee
- Small Scale
 - Individual or small group efforts
 - · Encouragement of language use in the home
 - Small community gatherings in which an effort is made to speak only the threatened language
 - Small "daycare" centers for young children in which only the language is spoken

Successful revitalization efforts usually include:

- Language immersion for at least the younger children
- Competent, qualified, fluent speakers willing to act as mentors and teachers
- Community commitment and enthusiasm for revitalization
- Expansion and creation of threatened language specific domains (language use outside of just the school and home)
- A well thought out plan and step by step achievable goals

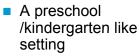
6



Types of revitalization programs

- Language Nests
- Immersion schools
- Master-apprentice programs
- Community-based programs





- Childcare providers are elders, adults who speak the native language with the children.
- Example of a successful program: Maori language nests, in New Zealand:

Te kōhanga reo







Immersion schools

- Post- kindergarten level
- Some to all academic subjects taught in native language from native-speakers
- Example: Hawaiian Language Immersion Program





9



Master-Apprentice Program

- All participants are adult age
- An apprentice is paired with a master (native speaking elder) to meet regularly and converse in the native language
- Example: Chickasaw, a Native American language spoken in Oklahoma.

10

Community-based programs

- Can be any age; there is no real connection to school
- Usually a summer camp or weekend activity
- Revolves around community activities, but only using the native language.



Other ideas...

- Not all revitalization plans need to be so large, language revitalization can start small with a few changes:
 - Creating "domains" in your everyday life where you only speak your native language (for example: Only in the kitchen)
 - Finding, or serving as, a mentor and speaking only your native language for a few hours a week
 - Creating a small group of people who do culturally relative things (crafts, activities) once a month where only the native language is spoken
 - Your ideas?





Your Turn!

- With your mentors, think about steps you could take in your community to revitalize, or maintain your language. Things to consider:
- Where your language is, in terms of vitality and revitalization needs
- Do-able programs and activities that you feel you could complete with a small amount of resources



Only the beginning

- LDTC is only the beginning. There are a lot of things you can do with the skills and knowledge you've learned here
 - Create a small-scale revitalization project
 - record more stories, poems, songs from speakers of your language
 - work on your dictionary more
 - Find out if there are linguists working on your language
 - Take Advanced LDTC!
- Thank you!

- 14

