

***Sažetak*:**

"An ecological approach to language documentation and revitalisation"

Linguists and language communities often have different aims and expectations from language documentation and revitalisation. There may also be a range of views on language within the community. One area where there may be a clash of viewpoints is how to handle language change.

Documenters, community members and planners are faced with questions regarding what stage of language development/decline should be reflected in the documentary record; and whose usage should be seen as 'authentic'? What do we mean by 'authentic' in such a context? Who decides? Linguists may wish to preserve unique features of a language, so our data collection may focus on the usage of elders in order to establish a baseline from which to measure language variation and change. A linguist might thus be perceived as documenting and valorising 'pure' or 'authentic' language, even if that is not our intention. In this talk I discuss the implications of these findings for language documentation, focusing on the need for 'ecological' language documentation which includes the processes of language change and revitalisation, and takes into account both disciplinary and community ideologies of language.