**Questionnaire**                                          October 18th, 2024

*Thesis Research – Endangered languages and knowledge loss*

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<u>Introduction</u>
For my master thesis, I am looking into endangered languages and the resulting loss of knowledge. My main goal is to investigate whether different "types" of knowledge are at varying risk of being lost when a language dies. Specifically, when language X is endangered but there is an endangered language project working on it, can such a project, *in theory*, preserve all knowledge? Or are there categories or "types" of knowledge that are particularly difficult to document and are therefore more likely to be lost when the language dies?

The aim of this research is to create a more detailed overview of the specific "types" of knowledge that are lost when a language disappears, and to investigate whether certain kinds of knowledge require more attention or specialized expertise for documentation. This could potentially help field researchers and endangered language communities as a more refined idea of how certain knowledge is connected to language might help direct documentation and revitalisation efforts to cases where they are most needed.

All questions are optional, but you are encouraged to fill out all of them. When using the term "the project", I do not refer to one specific project; feel free to respond based on any project you have worked on, such as your largest or most recent one. You may interpret the phrase *"types" of knowledge* in any way you see fit. To give a general idea, "types" of knowledge could for example be classified by theme (e.g. medicinal, cooking, religion, etc.), function (e.g. skill, wisdom, etc.), or any other form. Feel free to use any "type" of knowledge you see fit.

Questions

1. What is the endangerment status of the language(s) you worked on? Is the status based on Glottolog, EGIDS, UNESCO, LEI or another scale?

2. Into what "types" of knowledge would you categorise the documented knowledge in the project?

3. What do you believe is the most valuable knowledge that has been documented because of the project (that might otherwise have been lost)?

4. What were the differences in what the project wanted to document and what the community wanted to document?

5. Were there things that both the project and the community wanted to document, but turned out to be difficult or even impossible in practice? So, in the field, would you say certain "types" of knowledge are harder to document than others?

6. In theory (without external obstacles such as e.g. lack of willingness or expertise), would you say certain "types" of knowledge are *inherently* harder to document than others? Please elaborate.

7. According to you, does language death necessarily result in complete knowledge loss? Or are certain "types" of knowledge less dependent on language?

8. Are there any other comments you would like to share?


If you would consider filling out your contact information for potential follow-up questions:

- Name:
- Email address:

Please, send this filled-in form back to:

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For any questions, you may also reach out to me.
Thank you for your time!