

Family Language Policy, Language maintenance and revitalisation
The role of parental language beliefs, practices and management in the maintenance
of minority languages

The intergenerational transmission of minority languages is a crucial factor for the cultural and linguistic vitality of minority language communities. This is especially true for indigenous communities, where there is no migratory influx of fresh speakers to offset the overall impact of language shift. This session explores the significance of the “home domain” in traditional models of language maintenance and shift, focusing on the role that parental beliefs, practices and management related to the use of languages within the family can play in the maintenance and revitalisation of minority languages. Through a study of actual research data from a number of studies of migrant and indigenous minority languages in New Zealand and elsewhere, the discussion will highlight some of the opportunities and challenges that real-life sociolinguistic contexts can pose for the transmission of minority languages, including, among other factors, the impact that dominant language ideologies can have on the choice and implementation of effective language policies within the family.

Readings:

De Bres, J. (2015). The hierarchy of minority languages in New Zealand. *Journal of Multilingual and Multicultural Development*, 36(7), 677-693.

King, K. A., Fogle, L., & Logan-Terry, A. (2008). Family language policy. *Language and Linguistics Compass*, 2(5), 907-922.

Additional material:

DeCapua, A., & Wintergerst, A. C. (2009). Second-generation language maintenance and identity: A case study. *Bilingual Research Journal*, 32(1), 5-24.

Melo-Pfeifer, S. (2015). The role of the family in heritage language use and learning: impact on heritage language policies. *International Journal of Bilingual Education and Bilingualism*, 18(1), 26-44.