



Foreword

*Language is an archaeological vehicle, full of the remnants of dead and living pasts, lost and buried civilizations and technologies. The language we speak is a whole **palimpsest** of human effort and history.*

(Russell Hoban, children's writer, 1925-2011 – cf. Haffenden 1985: 138)

This volume 'Endangered Words, and Signs of Revival' consists of fascinating and multifaceted refereed articles that emerged from scholarly collaboration at the international Australex 2013 conference, which took place on 25-28 July 2013 at the University of Adelaide, Australia Australis (Latin for South Australia). Adelaide is a somewhat hidden Australian gem where the hills meet the ocean. The University of Adelaide was established in 1874 and is the third oldest university in Australia. So far we have only had 5.01 Nobel laureates and 107 Rhodes scholars but we are planning on more. Adelaide Linguistics is internationally known for its public impact and social contribution, especially in the field of Revivalistics, language reclamation and empowerment, Indigenous wellbeing, and Native Tongue Title. Adelaide University linguists lead the revival of various Aboriginal Australian languages such as Kurna, Barngarla, Ngarrindjeri and Wirangu. Hence the fascinating and multifaceted theme of this volume: ***Endangered Words, and Signs of Revival***.

AustraLex 2013 featured not only world-class scholarly papers but also emotional celebrations, marking for example Professor Luise **Hercus's** 50-year work on Aboriginal languages, and Professor Peter **Mühlhäusler's** 20 years of scholarship at the University of Adelaide. Furthermore, in accordance with *la deutsche vita*, we also celebrated exactly **175 years of Lutheran missionaries' Aboriginal lexicography**, with a special guest from Germany: Reverend Volker **Dally**, the director of the Leipzig Lutheran Mission, who enlightened us about Triple-A: Christian missionaries as preservers of Indigenous languages in Australia, Asia and Africa.

Professor Christopher **Hutton** came from the University of Hong Kong to deliver a keynote on 'Reclaiming Socio-Cultural Memory: Creating a Reference Dictionary of Hong Kong Cantonese Slogans and Quotations'. Professor Michael **Walsh**, from the Australian Institute of Aboriginal and Torres Straits Islander Studies (AIATSIS), delivered a keynote on 'Endangered Words in the Archive: The Rio Tinto / Mitchell Library Project'.

Various refereed papers and posters addressed a wide range of areas associated with *Revival Linguistics*, lexicography, lexicology, lexicology, endangered languages, semantics, endangered meanings, extinct concepts, contact linguistics, social empowerment through language, and

words, culture and identity. Topics included dictionaries in Indigenous, minority and other endangered communities, dialectal lexicons, the educational and cultural roles of dictionaries, *talknological* dictionaries, and lexical engineering. We touched upon controversies such as the 'Give us authenticity or give us death' argument and the descriptive/prescriptive debate. Other subjects included learners' dictionaries, specialist dictionaries, phraseology, proverbs, onomastics and terminology.

In this volume we have 11 selected papers, as follows:

Rob Amery and Mary-Anne Gale – 'They came, they heard, they documented: the Dresden missionaries as lexicographers'

Delyn Day and Poia Rewi – 'Endangered meanings and concepts: Māori language habitats'

Guillaume Enguehard – 'Language planning as warrant of authenticity'

Mary-Anne Gale – 'The reawakening of Craitbul: the revival of the Boandik language of Mount Gambier'

Lauren Gawne – 'Similar languages, different dictionaries: a discussion of the Lamjung Yolmo and Kagate dictionary projects'

John Hobson – 'How do you fill all the gaps in the dictionary? Identifying lexical development strategies for re-awakening Australian languages'

Dorothea Hoffmann – 'Mapping the language – how a dying language loses its place in the world'

Lars-Gunnar Larsson – 'Language variation in the revitalisation process'

MJ Mafela – 'Users' style guides and bilingual dictionaries: the case of indigenous African languages'

David Nash – 'Reviving endangered words: the niche of scientific names'

Joanna Szerszunowicz – 'Phraseological units containing archaic elements in bilingual lexicography'

Ex oriente LUX, ex occidente LEX.

Seek light!

Ghil'ad, Julia and Jasmin

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