

Bedik's documentation, revitalization and communication: field's experience and results

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The purpose of this communication is to share our fieldwork experience of our project Bedik's Documentation and to highlights the importance of incorporating local spoken of bedik's language and its daily practice in the local context.

Bedik is an endangered language spoken in Senegal and classified as part of tenda group within the Mande branch, belonging to the Niger-Congo language family. The bediks are an ethnic minority comprising having around 3500 inhabitants living in villages located on the mountains of eastern Senegal.

We are setting up a documentation of the Bedik language as part of a long-term revitalization process. The general idea of this project is to create a corpus of texts, collected and recorded of speech and videos in various genres and cultural contexts, with a first trilingual dictionary of around 3000 entries.

Moreover, this project is initiated with the bedik community (local language community consultants and some teachers) who will be trained in writing the language in order to speed up data collection and beyond this project keep on working on the documentation of the language, thus enhance the revitalization efforts.

Following a brief overview on the situation of endangered language in Senegal and the presentation of the project on the Bedik language, we will highlight our first field experiences and we will show the alliances which are being built between we linguists and the local community speakers and how minority language and culture can be revitalized through combining the villagers' daily practices and their participation.