

Harvard University
Sponsored by the WOLF Lab, PhonLab and Ling 241 Practicum

The Revitalization, Maintenance and Linguistic Development Project

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Boylston Hall 104

In this talk the Revitalization, Maintenance, and Development Linguistic Project (PRMDLC in Spanish) will be presented. This project has been active in Mexico for over three decades. The PRMDLC starts from the recovery of peoples' own language and culture, i.e., their own epistemologies. Producing oral and image-based culturally appropriate-sensitive materials, we recreate them in prestigious media such as a TV or a smartphone screen, where Indigenous children seldomly see their languages. Therefore, one of the basic goals of the PRMDLC is to establish a (re)vitalizing corpus (co or multi) authored by Indigenous speakers; including, among others, a collection of printed, audio-visual, and multimedia materials in Indigenous languages, produced and consumed by speakers themselves, while at the same time aiming to impact a broader, mainstream audience. Entailing such direct collaboration between speakers and researchers, the PRMDLC runs collaborative workshops too, in which the use of minoritized languages is favored through an indirect method of revitalization, based on multimedia incentives, i.e. film animation screening on special occasions at the community level (e.g. feasts). This method encourages spontaneous participation as engagement is a prerogative of the audience, overcoming corrective (school) approaches to language, not prescribing "correct" answers to language games such as riddles or tongue twisters. In this presentation several of these materials will be presented, while at the same time providing a reflection on the implications this critical committed linguistics approach has for academia.

For more information, please visit:

<https://ciesasdocencia.academia.edu/Jos%C3%A9AntonioFloresFarf%C3%A1n>
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