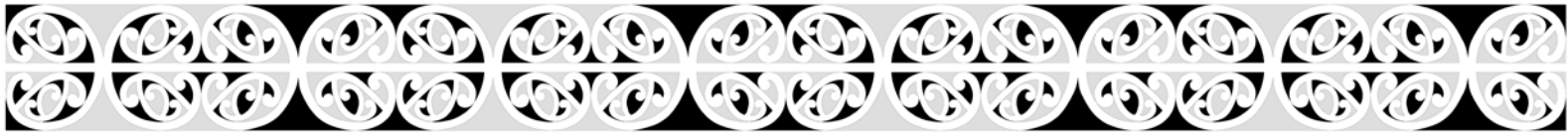


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Matua te Reo, Matua te Tangata

Speaker Community: visions, approaches, outcomes

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HE MIHI

Pupuke te hihiri

Pupuke te mahara

Pupuke te wānanga

Wānanga nui a te kore

E ruku rā te pō, te pō i whēnuminumi ai a tupua, a tawhito

E ruku rā te ao, te ao kūteretere o tēnei whakatupuranga
otirā ngā whakatupuranga e puea ake ai ki te huranga o te rā,
a Tama-nui e rewa nei ki te pae o kare taitimu, o kare taipari
ki te whai ao, ki te ao mārama

Tiheee Mouriora!

E te iti, e te rahi, rarau mai nei ki te pae o taku ahi

Ehara i te mea nāku i hika ai, ehara i te mea nāku tahu

Nā ōku tūpuna i hika ai, nā ōku mātua i tahu ... kia mura

Ehara i te mea nāku i tūtū, ehara i te mea ngā i toutou

Nā aku tuāhine, nā taku taina i tūtū, nā aku hoa i toutou ... kia korakora mai rā i te pō

Ehara i te mea nāku i uta, ehara i te mea nāku i hīpae

Nā taku hoa rangatira nei i uta, nā aku tama i hīpae ... kia tiketike, kia rarahi

Engari rā a nge au nei, te koniahi nei, me tōna mahana

Engari rā te pātiti ahi nei, me tōna wera hoki, ae, nāku tērā

Tēnā e aku rangatira, kua hoki mai te ora o Mahuika

i roto i te pō roa e takiri nei ko te ata, ka tū ka puta

ki huranga o te rā, me ōna hihi, me ōna taratara ki roto ki te ao mārama

He manawa ora, he ora

Mā ake tātou



ABSTRACT

It is a well-documented fact that, globally, the number of languages spoken is diminishing. Māori is a threatened language. While much effort has gone into language revitalisation efforts to reverse language shift for Māori, in the past few decades it has focused on state as opposed to community mechanisms and community capacity has reduced. This is at odds with international evidence of the critical nature of intergenerational language transmission, a community-based strategy, in the achievement of language vitality.

This research is about Māori language revitalisation and investigates how it facilitates intergenerationally sustainable health outcomes. It explores three main areas: the characteristics of Māori language revitalisation, the form of community development approaches used, and the Māori health outcomes that arise from language revitalisation practice.

The research was located within a constructivist paradigm, took a qualitative approach, and applied a case study research strategy. Three case study groups that displayed features of language revitalisation participated in the research. They were: Te Ataarangi – nationally based; Te Reo o Whanganui – regionally based; and, Te Kōpae Piripono – locally based. The primary source of data was in-depth open-ended interviews carried out with knowledgeable group representatives.

This study has proposed a new term, speaker community, which signals a shift in understanding the process by which restoring vitality to a threatened language is achieved. First, language vitality is viewed as a state of language strength arising from the restoration of conditions that enable language use among a community of speakers where another language is dominant. Second, that language revitalisation is a community-level endeavour that provides a means to achieve language vitality.

This research has also explained the role of language revitalisation in the achievement of positive Māori health outcomes. The framework 'Matua te Reo' describes the relationship between the core activities of speaker communities and the achievement of positive Māori health outcomes. The identified health outcomes underpin a secure Māori identity and are community defined. It is further argued that the sustainability of outcomes can be enhanced by encouraging a key language revitalisation approach based on the re-engagement of natural intergenerational transmission of language, culture and identity.

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