
[19] ***Language in Museums: Present. Language Museums of the 20th and 21st centuries***

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While the earliest language museums coincide with the nineteenth century anthropological turn that witnessed the collection of tradition in the form of folklore, language, and objects associated with a nostalgic vision of rural society, twenty-first century language museums have much broader objectives and audiences. Building upon the linguistic safeguarding practices developed in past centuries such as establishing dedicated societies, identifying and implementing standards, and collecting written testimonies discussed in the first paper, today's language museums demonstrate how scholarship on language can be shared between experts, but also, more importantly, how our linguistic understanding can be enriched through a constant dialogue with communities who all speak languages – enriched, in essence, through a collaborative understanding of the function people feel languages have in the definition and transmission of a community's culture, traditions, and identity. Like eco-museums, they are special institutions dedicated to the collection and sharing of intangible cultural heritage, and in this way perform a broad public service, while seeking to bind communities together. In this paper, I will discuss some of the most outstanding examples of language museums, their missions, and their role as a forum for public dialogue, with special attention to the particular political, social and cultural problematics associated with such museums such as the opportunities and limits imposed by languages involved in conveying content, the technological support systems adopted for collecting, display and communication, the generative roles of memory, identity, change and loss, and the relationships of language museums with their source communities. Selected References Adair, Bill, Benjamin Filene and Laura Koloski, eds., *Letting go?: sharing historical authority in a user-generated world*. Philadelphia: The Pew Center for Arts & Heritage, 2011 Burke, Peter, *Languages and Communities in Early Modern Europe*. Cambridge and New York: Cambridge University Press, 2004 DeSilvey, Caitlin and Rodney Harrison, eds., *Anticipating Loss: rethinking endangerment in heritage futures*, special issue of the *International Journal of Heritage Studies*, 2019, DOI: 10.1080/13527258.2019.1644530 Foster, Michael Dylan and Lisa Gilman, eds., *Local Perspectives on Intangible Cultural Heritage*. Indianapolis, IN: Indiana University Press, 2015 Harrison, Rodney, *Heritage: Critical Approaches*. Abington and New York: Routledge, 2013 Sharifan, Farzan. *Cultural Linguistics. Cultural Conceptualizations and Language*. Amsterdam: John Benjamins, 2017 Stefano, Michelle L., Peter Davis and Gerard Corsane, eds., *Safeguarding Intangible Cultural Heritage*. Suffolk, UK: Boydell Press, 2012 Sonmez, Margaret J-M, Nadia Cannata and Maia Wellington Gahtan. *Museums of Language and the Display of Intangible Cultural Heritage*. London: Routledge, 2019