

# LANGUAGE DOCUMENTATION

Language documentation is a sub-field of Linguistics. It aims to provide a comprehensive documentation of the speech of a community. The focus has been on highly endangered languages. Apart from contributing to language revitalization, language documentation also provides rich empirical data for linguistic analysis.

Language documentation is an urgent task. In today's globalized world, a great number of the world's languages face extinction. With the disappearance of a language, also a part of the human cultural heritage disappears. Some of our language documentation projects are also accompanied by language revitalization programmes.

We also give courses in language documentation, and in language analysis software. In our field methods class students have carried out descriptive projects on Tshangla, the unofficial Lingua Franca of eastern Bhutan (2015), and Benabena, a Trans New Guinea language from the Papua New Guinea eastern highlands (2016). We have also offered courses in FLEx to faculty staff and students every year for the past few years.

**Levantine Arabic,** specifically the dialect of the village of *Shaykhṭāba* in Lebanon  
Documenter: Mahmut Ağbaht

**North Saami and Lule Saami.** An investigation into the transitional varieties, spoken in Sweden and Norway. A faculty funded project.  
Documenters: Rogier Blokland (Modern Languages) and Michael Dunn.

**Noghay,** a Turkic language with around 100 000 speakers living dispersed across different Autonomous Republics of Russia.  
Documenter: Birsel Karakoç

**Mazandarani,** an Iranian language with more than a million speakers, mainly in the older generation.  
Documenters: Guiti Shokri and Carina Jahani  
Finalised ELDP project.

**Wakhi,** an Iranian language with about 58 000 speakers.  
Documenter: Jaroslava Obrtelova  
Ongoing Ph.D. project.

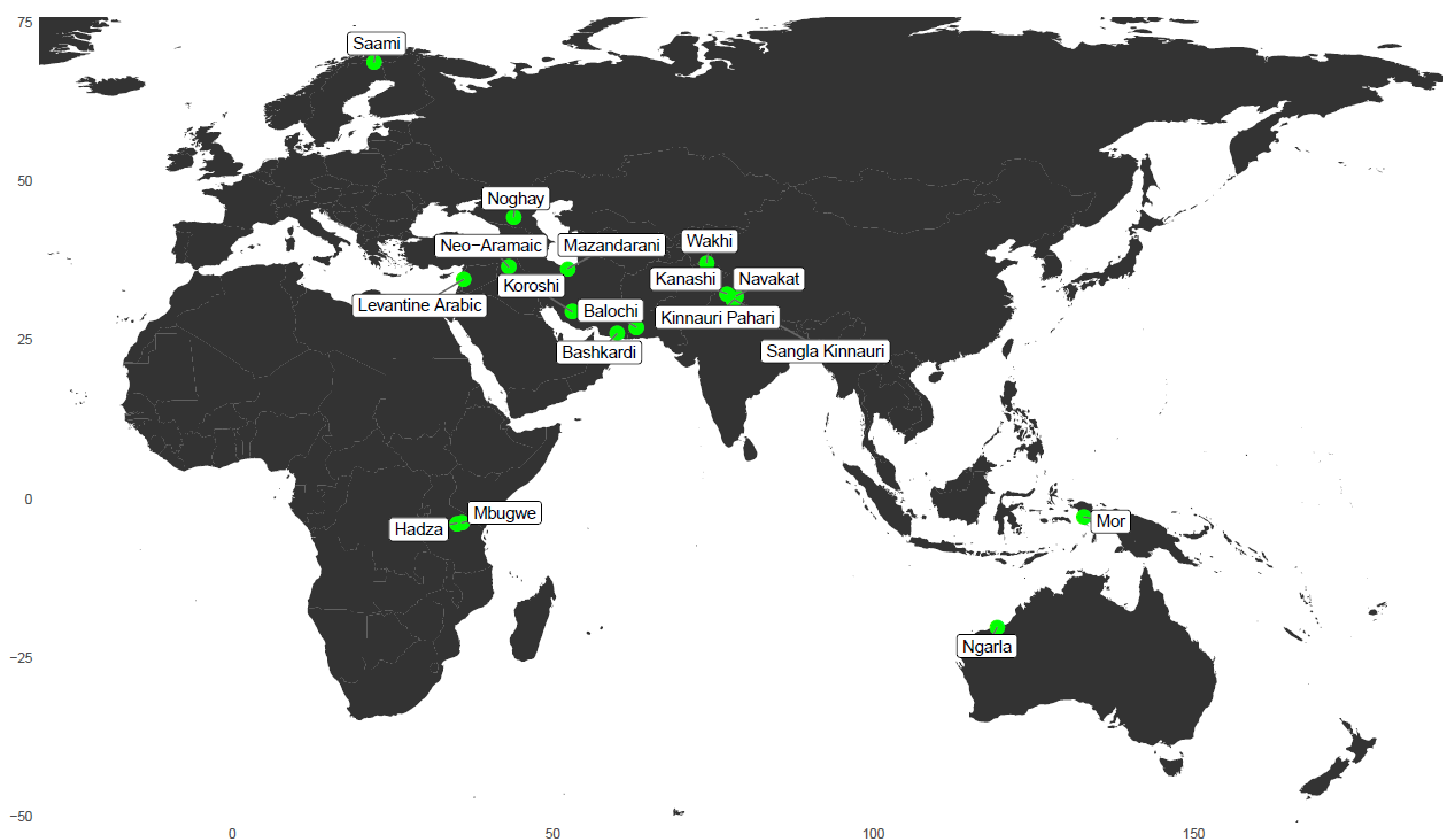
**Sangla Kinnauri, Navakat, Kanashi, Kinnauri Pahari**  
Documentation program of Tibeto-Burman and Indo-Aryan languages of the Indian Himalayas led by Anju Saxena. Funded by several Swedish Research Council projects.

**Hadza,** a language isolate, spoken in Tanzania.  
Documenter: Niklas Edenmyr  
Ongoing Ph.D. project.

**Mbugwe,** a Bantu language spoken in Tanzania.  
Documenter: Vera Wilhelmsen  
Ongoing Ph.D. project.



A Mbugwe family



**Mor,** a language isolate of Papua, Indonesia. About 30 speakers remain from an ethnic group of 100 individuals.  
Documenter: Harald Hammarström



Recording folktales with Mor elder Abbas Sinakum

**North-Eastern Neo-Aramaic,** in particular the Christian dialect of the village of Telkepe in Iraq.  
Documenter: Eleanor Coghill

**Koroshi,** a displaced dialect of **Balochi** with around 10 000 speakers  
Documenters: Maryam Nourzaei and Carina Jahani

**Bashkardi,** an Iranian language with less than 10 000 speakers.  
Documenter: Behrooz Barjasteh Delforooz in cooperation with Agnes Korn.  
Swedish Research Council project 2012-2014

**Balochi,** an Iranian language spoken by around 10 million people but lacking a standard written language. Extensive documentation and revitalization programme led by Carina Jahani.  
<http://www.lingfil.uu.se/forskning/the-balochi-language-project/>

**Ngarla,** a Pama-Nyungan language with less than 50 speakers  
Documenter: Torbjörn Westerlund  
Finalised Ph.D. project.



Trilingual sign in Swedish, North Saami and Meänkieli



Noghay children in Dagestan



Kanashi data collection in Malana village



Zong, a Wakhi village



Baloch school children