

ENGLISH
LANGUAGE
AND
DOCUMENTATION

ENGLISH LANGUAGE AND DOCUMENTATION



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PREFACE

Preface Language documentation (also called documentary linguistics) is a subfield of linguistics that aims to describe the grammar and use of human languages. Its aim is to provide a comprehensive record of the linguistic practices characteristic of a given speech community. The aim of language documentation is to create as complete a record of the speech community as possible, both for posterity and language revitalization. This record may be public or private, depending on the needs of the community and the purpose of the documentation. In practice, language documentation can range from single-linguistic anthropological fieldwork to the creation of vast online archives that include dozens of different languages.

Language documentation provides a strong foundation for linguistic analysis because it creates a corpus of materials in the language. The materials in question can range from vocabulary lists and grammar rules to children's books and translated works. These materials can then support claims about the structure of the language and its use. It should be seen as a fundamental classificatory task for linguistics, identifying the boundaries of languages and their characteristics.

Hanumangarh

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