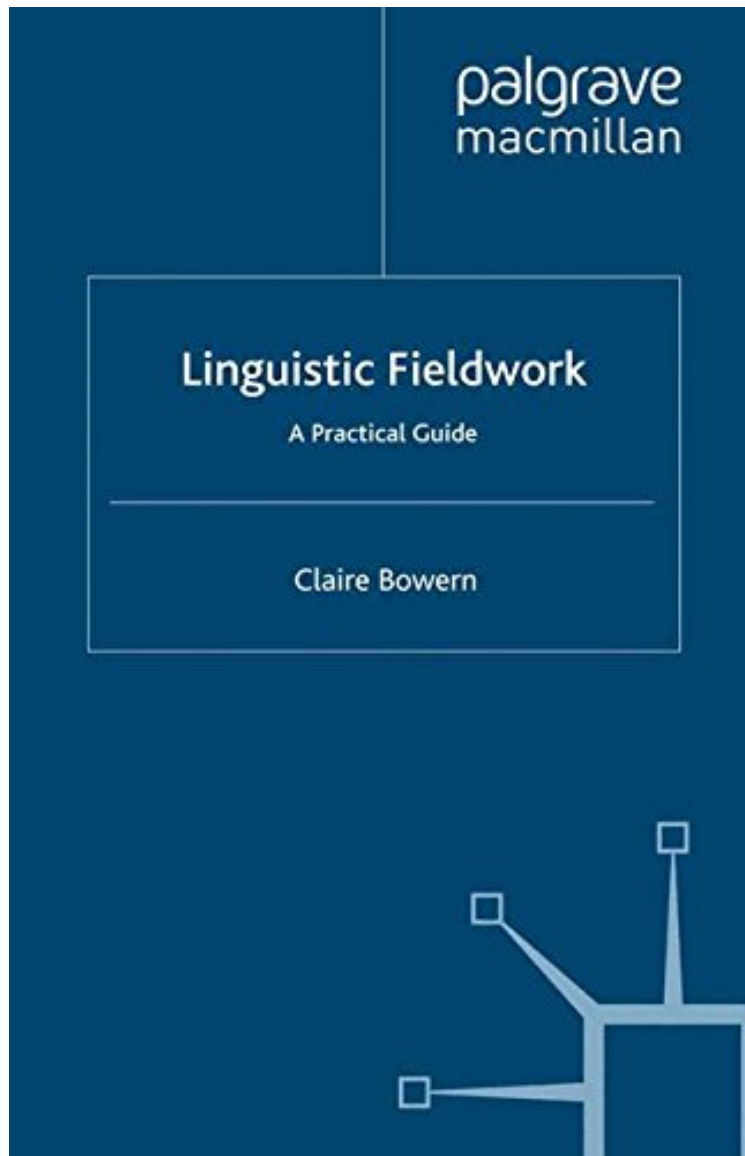


(Library ebook) Linguistic Fieldwork: A Practical Guide

Linguistic Fieldwork: A Practical Guide

Claire Bower

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Claire Bower : Linguistic Fieldwork: A Practical Guide before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Linguistic Fieldwork: A Practical Guide:

0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Five StarsBy Louise GrandouillerInteresting book and great transaction!5 of 5 people found the following review helpful. Targeted for a certain kind of fieldworker, and has some weaknesses, but still an instructive bookBy Christopher CulverClaire Bower's LINGUISTIC FIELDWORK leads young linguists through the methodological, ethical and financial necessities of successfully doing research among

native speakers. There are chapters on what gear to take along, how to manage your notes, how to treat your native consultants, and how to ask for grants. The book is mainly targeted to fieldworkers who seek to describe small, hitherto undocumented languages, the sort that have no written tradition yet and we may not even be sure of its basic phonology. In my field, Finno-Ugrian linguistics, most languages already have good basic descriptions and perhaps even native literature and other media, and fieldwork is more likely to consist of focusing on a very specific portion of the language instead of (my last trip, for example, was to hand out questionnaires on verbs of motion in Mari and Chuvash). Other fieldworkers are of the Labov variety, exploring linguistic differences among neighbourhoods and social classes in their own town. There's nothing specifically for these latter two types of fieldwork, but there's still much to learn from the general fieldwork advice that Bowerman gives. Indeed, the chapter on ethics here was pretty revelatory to me, as when I told my department I wished to do fieldwork, all it said was "That's nice" and gave me some money. Bowerman, however, notes that much funding in the US is tied to application with a demonstrably ethical approach, and I had never seen some of these rules before. I wish that Bowerman had written more about how to deal with officialdom, especially when the state is an oppressive one with little care for the minority one goes to study. Completing obligatory registration procedures upon arrival in a community when everyone thinks you're a spy is difficult, and locals might not want to work with you if they fear they'll be punished for talking to foreigners. Finno-Ugrian and Turkic linguists sometimes encounter such irritations in Russia. Also, the section on technology could have used some brushing up with outside help. The book is correct that recordings should not be kept in MP3 format, but its explanation for why not is incorrect. And Bowerman wisely recommends keeping one's data in a clear, open format instead of a proprietary one like Microsoft Word, but she neglects to mention XML dialects, which have the best shot at longevity. Still, even with some weaknesses, I imagine all linguists can get something from Bowerman's book. 1 of 1 people found the following review helpful. superb By Geraldo Faria The title says it all. It is very practical guidebook and based on her experience, a true story. Linguistic Fieldwork should be read by those who seriously consider going to a foreign location and learning the locals' language. It defines your own boundaries and how you should proceed from the basics of language documentation and data collection, to proper payment to consultants, contracts and a thorough analysis of what the researcher is expected to do and not. An easy read and a companion on your trip to the field.

This is a practical guide to all aspects of linguistic fieldwork. It not only discusses techniques for working on the phonetics, phonology, morphology, syntax and discourse of an undescribed language, but also considers field technology, grant application preparation, ethical research methods and problems which might arise when in the field.

'Good book! We will use it in our field methods course and recommend it to our students who engage in fieldwork [it] addresses issues that every new field linguist has to face, but that are not discussed much in other sources. It is very useful as a beginner's introduction'. - Anthropological Linguistics '[It] is very directly oriented to students in a field methods class or similar sort of course, with the focus on clarity and detail of information, while also making direct reference from time to time to Bowerman's own experiences as a fieldworker'. Australian Journal of Linguistics 'Bowerman's Linguistic Fieldwork: A Practical Guide is an excellent contribution. It offers a comprehensive, thorough approach to virtually all aspects of fieldwork, with meticulous attention to details, many of which only an experienced fieldworker could anticipate. A particularly noteworthy feature of the book is the supplements to the text. Most noteworthy of all is the website that accompanies the book. This is an extremely useful resource and will prolong the lifespan of the book. The book is an excellent resource both for use in a field methods class and for actual on-site fieldwork, and gives thought to both types of context when presenting suggestions for data collection and elicitation [It] is the most comprehensive and up-to-date linguistic field manual currently available'. Linguistic Typology 'This book provides a nice compact introduction to linguistic fieldwork, especially valuable for going beyond elicitation methods into essentials such as funding, ethics, and technology. Written in a non-technical, easy to follow style, it would be an excellent starting point for a beginner, and it offers some tips that even experienced fieldworkers will find useful.' Language Documentation Conservation 'This engaging textbook covers all conceivable aspects of fieldwork, from the preparation stage of writing grant proposals and obtaining visas, to the final stages of archiving the data. This book is designed both for students taking a field methods class, and for those undertaking fieldwork in a community other than their own. In sum, this is an extremely readable, interesting, and useful book, which I would definitely recommend.' Project Muse About the Author CLAIRE BOWERMAN is Assistant Professor of Linguistics at Rice University, USA and a member of the Australian National University's Centre for Research on Language Change. Her primary areas of research are language documentation/description and historical linguistics, particularly in Northern Australia.