

# (Informal) Logic: Chapter 4

WRIT 0590: Module 2.4

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# Warm-Up Exercise: Reflecting on Your Writing Journey

**Prompt:** Think back to your experience in college so far, especially this past semester.

- ▶ How has college challenged you as a writer?
- ▶ How do you feel about your writing now compared to when you started?

## **Activity:**

1. Write freely for **5–7 minutes**. Don't worry about structure, just reflect.
2. Underline or highlight key insights in your response.
3. Pair up and discuss how to structure your reflections with a classmate for **5 minutes**.

# What is Language Death?

- ▶ **Language death** occurs when a language loses its last native speakers.
- ▶ Often a result of *social, political, or economic* pressures.
- ▶ Can be **gradual** (language shift) or **sudden** (language repression or genocide).

# Stages of Language Endangerment

- ▶ **Stable bilingualism** – both languages are maintained.
- ▶ **Declining transmission** – fewer children learn the language.
- ▶ **Limited speakers** – only older generations speak it.
- ▶ **Moribund stage** – last fluent speakers remain.
- ▶ **Extinction** – no remaining fluent speakers.

# Establishing Priorities for Language Documentation

- ▶ **Information gathering** is the top priority.
- ▶ Not all endangered languages are in the same state of decline.
- ▶ *Some languages have only a few speakers left* – urgency of documentation varies.
- ▶ Organizations such as the **International Clearing House for Endangered Languages** in Tokyo emerged to address these needs.

# What Information Needs to be Gathered?

- ▶ **Number of speakers** – but this alone is *not sufficient*.
- ▶ **Speaker fluency, accuracy, and age distribution.**
- ▶ **Sociolinguistic context** – attitudes of speakers and the wider community.
- ▶ **Possibility of revitalization** – can the language be maintained or revived?

# The Need for a Theoretical Framework

- ▶ Fact-finding requires **theoretical orientation**.
- ▶ A framework can **identify and interrelate** factors in endangerment and revitalization.
- ▶ *Without a framework, efforts remain scattered and inconsistent.*
- ▶ There is no single intervention strategy – approaches must be tailored to each case.

# Challenges in Language Revitalization

- ▶ **Economic factors** – financial support for revitalization is scarce.
- ▶ **Political will** – governments may not support revitalization.
- ▶ **Community attitudes** – some speakers may not see value in maintaining their language.
- ▶ **Literacy and documentation** – many endangered languages lack written records.
- ▶ **Difficulty in assessing success** – few clear cases of successful language preservation.
- ▶ **Lack of long-term studies** – hard to evaluate sustainability of revitalization efforts.



# Strategies for Language Revitalization

- ▶ **Bilingual education and immersion programs.**
- ▶ **Community involvement** – elders teaching younger generations.
- ▶ **Government and institutional support** – policy changes and funding.
- ▶ **Digital and media presence** – using technology to support language use.

# Conclusion

- ▶ **Language death** is a pressing issue requiring **immediate action**.
- ▶ **Prioritizing urgent cases** is essential given limited resources.
- ▶ A **theoretical framework** for assessment and intervention is needed.
- ▶ **Revitalization requires** a combination of documentation, policy support, and community engagement.
- ▶ **Success is difficult to measure** – very few languages have been fully revitalized.