

# **The Social Production of Language Documentation: People, Places, and Processes**

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**Abstract:**

I discuss the social and epistemic complexity of working with pre-existing language documentation materials to highlight the social contingency of linguistic knowledge. I draw upon my own work with Koryak people of Kamchatka, Russia on the North Pacific coast and the relationships I have had with Koryaks with respect to some of these legacy materials and my own recordings. This work is part of 25 years of ongoing social relationships that I have with people in Kamchatka. The social life of linguistic materials is not about the relationships between people and texts but among people with respect to texts.