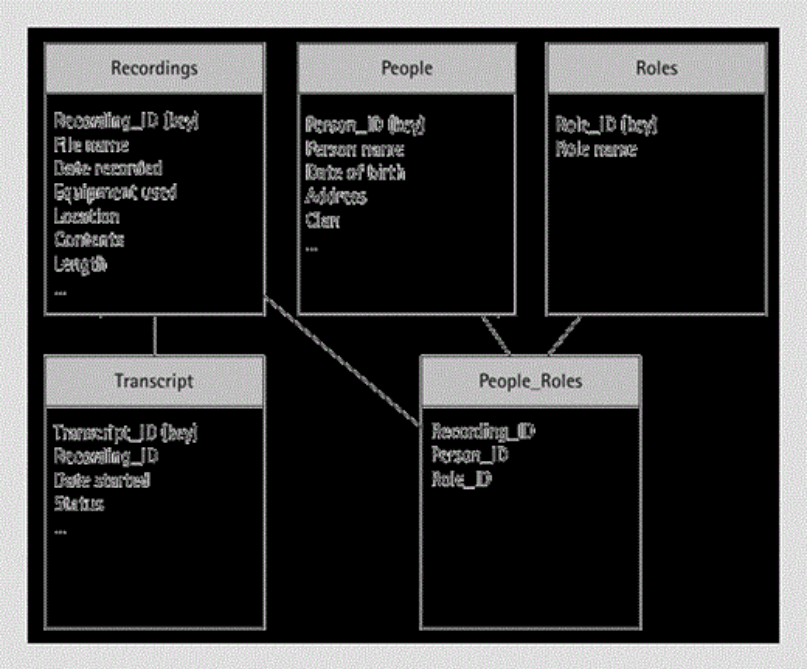
references the key of each associated recording. Including in one table the key from another table establishes the relation between the two tables.

Figure 4.5.



A simple relational database for fieldwork metadata.

A more complex example is that of tracking the various **people** who are associated with the items in your collection, with information like their names, their dates of birth, their clans, etc., and their **roles**. People can have roles as speakers, linguists, transcribers, singers, and so on; furthermore, a single person may hold multiple roles across your collection, and particular roles will most certainly be filled by different people for different items.

Rather than listing all the people associated with a particular recording and their roles within the recordings table, it is more efficient to have a separate table with all of the people involved in the project, and another table listing all the possible roles people can hold. A third table, known as a 'composite table' (or 'link
p. 108 table'), then lists **person–role** pairings (each by their key), and the key of the recording with which each ↳ person–role pairing is associated. This means that the names of speakers will only appear once and so you do not risk entering variations on the same name into your catalogue, thereby making it impossible to search on all references to one person. Using a database can allow you to query your data in complex ways (e.g. 'Who are the speakers for whom I have completed transcripts of their recordings?', 'What are the different roles that person *p* held in my collection between 2005 and 2010?').