

fieldworker may encounter in their field location, even more so when our focus is not confined to a particular geographic or linguistic region.

This volume aims to be geographically inclusive, with contributors who work in the Americas (Berez, Chemillier, Macauley, Mark, O'Meara, Rice, Stea, Turk), Africa (Chemillier, Holbrook, Newman), Asia (Adachi, Nanbakhsh, Majid, McClatchey, Seyfeddinipur, Strycharz), Europe (Barwick), the Pacific (Conn, Evans, Lemonnier, Margetts and Margetts, Meyerhoff, Mosel, Pollock, Thieberger), and Australia (Barwick, Dousset, Evans, Mark, Nash, Simpson, Thieberger, Turk). For fieldwork guides specifically focused on particular geographic regions, see Abbi (2001) for India, Dai Qingxia, Luo Rendu, and Wang Feng (2009) and Heimer and Thøgersen (2006) for China, Steinhoff, Bestor, and Lyon-Bestor (2003) for Japan, Wurm (1967) and Sutton and Walsh (1979) for Australia.

1.2.1 Data collection and management

The first section of the volume deals with data collection and management. It is all too common for researchers to be sent into the field with no training at all in the use of equipment, with the result that their vital primary data is not as useful as it could have been. Central to the project of language documentation is the creation of records, and our reliance on fragile technologies to do this requires care and attention to detail. As a number of chapters (e.g. Chemillier, Majid, Meyerhoff et al., Seyfeddinipur) reiterate, a recording is often the only way of analysing an event that occurs too quickly for human observers to fully appreciate. It is highly desirable to record dynamic performances in order to study them, and to then ensure that these recordings provide the basis for claims made about the performances and the language. In Chapter 1, **Anna Margetts and Andrew Margetts** outline techniques and equipment for making the best quality recordings in the field and include a discussion of what characteristics to look for in your field kit (recorders, microphones and peripheral equipment), and what sort of power sources to consider when planning a fieldtrip.

Asifa Majid (Chapter 2) discusses experimental field elicitation techniques, how to design activities to encourage speakers to use particular conceptual categories and how to produce non-linguistic stimuli for elicitation as a means of exploring semantics. She describes how to administer various versions of the well-known Max Planck Institute materials, and how to interpret the results.

There have been a number of guides to linguistic fieldwork. **Ulrike Mosel** (Chapter 3) distils from a survey of this existing work the key points relevant to modern fieldwork and provides 'a guide to the guides', pointing out their pros and cons on a range of aspects of fieldwork methods, including various kinds of elicitation, text collection, and the development of a representative corpus. She emphasizes the need for linguists to know what is typologically expected for the target language and notes that non-linguistic researchers can still make an important contribution by making recordings with the help of speakers.

Nicholas Thieberger and Andrea L. Berez (Chapter 4) provide a guide to managing fieldwork data, from fieldnotes and recordings through transcription and annotation to analysis. They liken the creation of good fieldwork records to building a house with firm foundations, allowing subsequent extensions secure in the knowledge that the initial work can support them. Dealing with general principles as well as the specifics of data conversion, they discuss the underlying issues related to separating the form of data from its content, and the importance of preparing field material for posterity, both for our own reuse of it in our ongoing study of the language, and for the people we record.