

asking questions and trying to understand these protocols is important to be able to even begin to do research within a community. Again, work in advance can be an enormous asset in getting this 'right.'

There are questions that relate to the fieldwork directly.

*Who do I work with?* Very often people will be recommended to you, or even arrangements made for you to work with a particular person or people. Sometimes there are people in the community who are regarded as the ones that researchers should work with. Some of these people might be ideal for someone beginning work on the language; others might be better for someone at a more advanced stage. You might not have a choice about who you work with, especially at the beginning, and you may need to find ways of reassessing a working relationship somewhere along the way. Who you work with, just like who you live with, may be political in a way that can be difficult to understand, and this can affect your work. While it is probably best to try to limit your involvement in the politics of a community, often involving very old and complex issues, sometimes it is difficult to know that this is what is going on. Political issues may be stated in a variety of terms; for instance, arguments about choices in orthography may find their roots in differences between groups within a community.

From another perspective, sometimes people who would be good to work with have other jobs. It is important to consider whether it is ethical to draw them away from other work for work that is likely to be of short term.

*What do I tell people about my funding?* You might have funding to do your research. There may be a perception that as a researcher, you are well off. And this might be true, from the perspective of the community, even if it is not true from your perspective. There may also be negative perceptions about certain funding sources. For instance, in a community where there are tensions with the government, funding from a government agency might make community members associate you with the government, and think that you might be sent to report on their activities. A community may have tried unsuccessfully to get funding for language work and wonder why you, with little or no knowledge of the language or culture, were successful in this while they were not, and this could inhibit the work. Trying to understand what the issues are might help you in finding a way to discuss them.

*How do I tell people about what I am doing? What does linguistic work mean? What are people interested in? How can I explain what I do?* When people engage in a project, they want to know what they are agreeing to do. It is important to find a way of explaining the work that you hope to do in terms that are accessible, and in ways that people might be able to engage in. In many communities you will need to find plain language in which you explain what you are doing and what your interests are. For instance, suppose that you want to carry out a phonetic study on a particular type of laryngeal contrast and require that people tell you if sounds ɰ are the same or different. People might push back, saying that you are trying to change the language or take away the language by asking these questions, and you might need to explain why this work could be important for them. Perhaps the research might relate to language programs that are in the schools, and trying to find a way that those learning the language as a second language are able to pronounce properly. If you are working collaboratively with the community (see later sections), this perhaps becomes easier, while introducing other challenges.

*How much should I pay?* There may be rates of pay that are generally accepted within a community, and it is likely important that you are in line with those. In some communities, people may be expected to work with a researcher without being paid, especially if the research is deemed to be of value to the community. There might be community standards about how different people are recompensed. Money might not be the most appropriate way of paying—gifts might be considered to be a more appropriate means of recompense, or an exchange of services. Establishing an appropriate means and rate of pay are part of showing respect. Once I was instructed by the band council of a community not to pay people, with the council telling people to give