

# Our objectives and what we've done so far

The grant we received funding for is a pilot project to review existing assessment tools and work towards creating new and innovative instrument(s) for the assessment of *language vitality*. In other words, surveys! We had many interesting discussions on how this has been or could be approached in our communities, and exactly what language vitality is (i.e. what it means to be a speaker, etc.). How can we contribute to understanding these issues better? How can we use surveys to answer these questions? By designing a survey! As a brief refresher, in the last two workshops and summer course we learned about

1. Identifying what the goals, aims or objectives of your survey (what you want to find out)
2. The importance of well thought out and designed survey questions
3. How to use programs like Google Surveys, Kobo, MS Excel (for data analysis), etc.
4. The two main survey question types:
  - Quantitative questions* require answers that are either multiple select, true/false, multiple choice, or on a scale
  - Qualitative questions* require answers that are 'open ended': the survey taker can use his or her own words to describe an opinion or attitude
5. The advantages and challenges of the different question types:
  - Quantitative questions* are powerful because you can generate statistics (i.e. pie charts and graphs etc.); easy to present, but certain nuances can be lost (and be cautious about misinterpreting results)
  - Qualitative questions* are powerful because you get a personalized and nuanced 'snapshot' of a person's thoughts; requires a special kind of analysis (which can be time consuming)

## Where we are going

Some of you had the chance to 'pilot' the survey you made in the workshops summer course. This is an important step in order to test how effective the questions are and if you can make sense of the results. We are now coming full circle with our project, which is to develop a tribal language survey for Arizona. As such, in the February workshop we will design and implement a survey consisting of 10 questions that we can fully deploy in our communities. The aim is that these will be questions that we can all use to tell us something about language vitality in our communities, but also to test the viability of an Arizona-wide survey. But **you** will decide what these questions will be. We will also decide the technical details together, such as what kind of program will be used, who will have access to the results, etc. At the end of the workshop you can then deploy and monitor the survey. We will then meet again later in the spring to analyze and discuss the results!

## Your tasks for the next workshop

### Think of ten questions for a survey on language vitality:

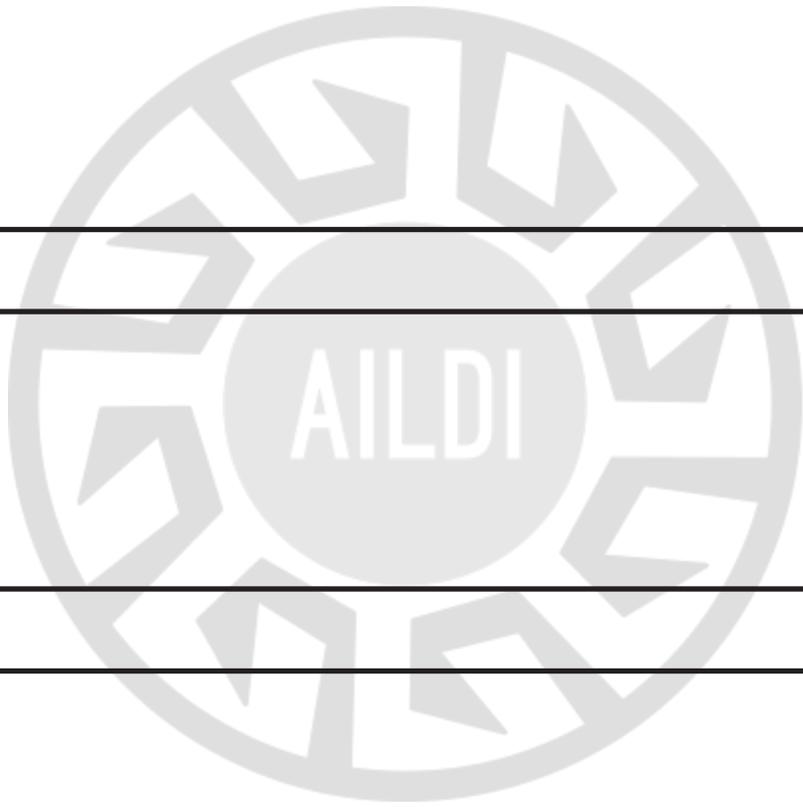
These questions will use the question types we learned about in the workshops and summer course:

**Design 2 qualitative questions (i.e. open-ended questions)**

**Design 8 quantitative questions (i.e. multiple choice/select, T/F, scales)**

This survey will have 10 questions in total. At our February workshop we will gather all of the questions together and discuss which questions to include in the master survey, and other details (like ordering etc.). Just to keep things orderly, please print out the following two pages (double sided is ok) and use the spaces to design your questions. **Please bring the sheets to the workshop!**

*Tips:* Please use the box any way you like to show what, for example, the scale should look like, or how a multiple choice/select list should look. You can also specify the order if you like (but you do not need to if you're not sure) - just indicate with a number in the top left. Please try and stick to the space provided by the box!



Comments or additional directions you have:

