Language revitalization as a discipline is characterized by the constant tearing into two, in opposite directions by “the linguistic project” and the “community project”. These two components, however, are ultimately part of the same impulse and anxiety to “do before it is too late.”

This forms the foundation of the doing: the collection of data and the transmission of the language are the primary drives in ‘saving the language which needs to be saved’. With this focus on doing, we have either specifically ignored or lost sight that the object of Linguistic (as an academic study carried out by linguists) projects and the object of language revitalization are not the same.

Although immediate goals so far have been superficially commensurable, the realities of active and evolving language revitalization practices ultimately pose a challenge to linguists and community activists alike: can the notion of language death be reconciled with language life?