Contents

List of Illustrations xi

Acknowledgements and Preface to the Second Edition xii

1 Introduction 1
- 1.1 About this book 1
- 1.2 What is the 'field' and what is 'fieldwork'? 2
- 1.3 The term 'informant' 10
- 1.4 Fieldwork and 'theory' 11
- 1.5 Fieldwork and identity 13
- 1.6 Who's working on the language? 15
- 1.7 Summary and further reading 16

2 Technology in the Field 18
- 2.1 Why make recordings? 18
- 2.2 Choosing recording equipment 19
- 2.3 Computers 28
- 2.4 Pen and paper 29
- 2.5 Recording practicalities 30
- 2.6 Checklist for equipment setup 34
- 2.7 Summary and further reading 35

3 Starting to Work on a Language 37
- 3.1 What to do at the first session 37
- 3.2 Discovering a phoneme inventory 41
- 3.3 More on transcription 42
- 3.4 Common errors and cues 44
- 3.5 Data organisation 46
- 3.6 What to record 47
- 3.7 Summary 48

4 Data Organisation and Archiving 51
- 4.1 Before the session 52
- 4.2 After the session 56
- 4.3 Software for data processing 59
- 4.4 Fieldnotes 61
- 4.5 Metadata 65

4.6 Processing field data 67
4.7 Interlinearising 68
4.8 Archiving 69
4.9 Organising data in field methods classes 72
4.10 Further reading 72

5 Fieldwork on Phonetics and Phonology 73
5.1 Broad and narrow transcription 73
5.2 Research design 74
5.3 Further topics in phonetic research 78
5.4 Suprasegmentals 80
5.5 Further topics in phonology 82
5.6 Further reading 84

6 Eliciting: Basic Morphology and Syntax 85
6.1 Why do elicitation? 85
6.2 First elicitation of sentences 85
6.3 Types of data collection 89
6.4 Potential problems 96
6.5 Summary 103

7 Further Morphology and Syntax 105
7.1 Elicitation of paradigms 105
7.2 Productivity 107
7.3 Selected topics in morphology 108
7.4 Variation and optionality 114
7.5 Discourse-based morphology 115
7.6 Handling unknown morphology 115
7.7 Common problems 116
7.8 Commonly missed constructions 117
7.9 Where to from here? 119

8 Lexical and Semantic Data 122
8.1 Getting vocabulary 122
8.2 Lexicon compilation 123
8.3 Specific domains for lexical elicitation 124
8.4 Frequent lexicographic pitfalls 128
8.5 Further reading 130

9 Discourse, Pragmatics, and Narrative Data 131
9.1 Types of naturalistic data 131
9.2 Working with naturalistic data 131

9.3 What to do with the materials 135
9.4 Discourse data 138
9.5 Topics for investigation in discourse and pragmatics 140
9.6 Further reading 141

10 Consultants and Field Locations 142
10.1 Field methods classes and the field 142
10.2 Choosing a field site and preparation 143
10.3 Choosing a consultant 148
10.4 Linguist–consultant interactions 154
10.5 Working with semi-speakers 156
10.6 Living in the field 158
10.7 Coming back from the field 164
10.8 Further reading 165

11 Ethical Field Research 167
11.1 Preliminaries 167
11.2 Ethics of recording 169
11.3 Ethics and archiving 171
11.4 Acknowledging speakers 171
11.5 Permissions 172
11.6 Other ethical issues in research 175
11.7 Payment 182
11.8 Minority areas and endangered languages 183
11.9 Further reading 188

12 Grant Application Writing 190
12.1 Steps to grant writing 190
12.2 What to include in a grant application 191
12.3 Budgets 193
12.4 Human subjects applications 197
12.5 Grant management and record keeping 203
12.6 What if you can't get a grant? 203

13 Working with Existing Materials 205
13.1 Published resources 205
13.2 Other people's field notes 206
13.3 Recordings 207
13.4 Some further comments about old records 209
13.5 Preparing for the field using others' research 211
13.6 Further reading 214

14 Fieldwork Results 215
14.1 Returning materials to communities 216
14.2 Orthography design 217
14.3 Learner's guides and sketch grammars 221
14.4 Reference grammars 222
14.5 Other academic outcomes 223
14.6 Training community members 224
14.7 Web materials 225
14.8 Talking books 225
14.9 Dictionaries and word lists 226
14.10 Language revitalisation 230
14.11 Summary 232

Appendix A: Metadata Sheets 234
Appendix B: Suggested Fieldwork Program for an Undescribed Language 235
Appendix C: A Basic Phonetics/Phonology Checklist 236
Appendix D: A Basic Morphology/Syntax Checklist 237
Appendix E: Sample Consent Form 242
Appendix F: Equipment Checklist 246
Appendix G: Basic Word List 248

Notes 251

References 259

Index 273