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### Chapter 1: Introduction

Chapter 1 identifies the target audience for the Handbook, discusses the current status of fieldwork and closely related topics such as endangered language documentation. The authors report on how the Handbook is an original contribution to the field. It provides broad geographical coverage, a historical background of linguistic fieldwork, encyclopedic coverage of approaches and techniques in field data collection, theory, and methodology of data collection and analysis. The chapter concludes by laying out the organization of the book and provides a list of relevant references and of other books on linguistic fieldwork.

### Chapter 2: Definition and Goals of Descriptive Linguistic Fieldwork

Chapter 2 defines and discusses the primary motivation and primary goals of "descriptive linguistic fieldwork". The chapter quotes from several publications on fieldwork to reveal the diversity of definitions of what constitutes fieldwork, and the associated methods. The chapter also notes a comparative difference in the types

### Chapter 3: The History of Linguistic Fieldwork

Chapter 3 provides an in-depth account of the history of linguistic fieldwork. It traces Christian missionary fieldwork from early colonial times to the current day mission of the Summer Institute of Linguistics and World Bible Translations: the work of "gentlemanly scholars" from the seventeenth to nineteenth centuries; comparison with field work by wealthy or interested parents; language descriptions