

## **How much Udi is there in Udi?**

A typical feature of endangered languages is that they are spoken by linguistic minorities in a majority environment the language of which usually serves as a second (often native) language for the members of the given minority. This feature is embedded both into the dimension of language-based polyethnicity and language mixture (showing up both in language practices and the systematics of the underlying linguistic knowledge system of the speakers). The question resulting from this observation is to which extent strategies of language documentation and (if called for by the ethnic minority) preservation and revitalization have to respect the fact that the corresponding linguistic subject (the minority language) is marked for a great share with the majority (often also native) language. The paper will discuss this topic in more details with the help of Udi, an endangered Southeast Caucasian language spoken mainly in the village of Nij in Northwestern Azerbaijan. Udi is marked for a great portion of loans from Azerbaijani that makes many Udi utterances at least rudimentarily understandable for Azerbaijani speakers. Hence the question emerges, to which extent actually used Udi is 'Udi' at all. The paper surveys this question with the help of data stemming from corpora of modern Udi texts referring to the hypothesis that linguistic knowledge is retrievable mainly from patterns of language practices. Given the fact that Udi in Azerbaijan gradually shifts toward a more and more Azerbaijani profile raises the question which impact its possible status as a 'mixed' language has on strategies of language documentation and preservation.