

Article Summary: Wong 1999

Title: Authenticity and the Revitalization of Hawaiian

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Source: Anthropology and Education Quarterly 30(1): 94-115. 1999.
American Anthropological Association.

Main questions:

- What is language authenticity?
- Who defines language authenticity? Who says what is and is not authentic Hawaiian?
- What is the relationship between authenticity and language revitalization?

Some background ideas:

- Most people speak Hawaiian as a second language. This includes the university teachers and the new generation of speakers that they teach and evaluate. Very few native Hawaiian speakers are alive and most of them are old. The roughly 200 people that live on Ni'ihau, a privately owned island, are the only people that still speak Hawaiian as their first language.
- English influences all efforts to revitalize Hawaiian because most people are trained in this language and its worldview.
- Educators include all people that work to revitalize the Hawaiian language. Examples include academics, classroom teachers, curriculum developers, people that use and promote Hawaiian in theatre and other media, and individuals that support family members.
- Authenticity means a language is genuine, legitimate, or real; it has a definite origin that people agree on.
- We can expect conflict if and when people take the position that there is only one correct form of a language. People may use authenticity to



