

Target varieties in language shift and what that means
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In the language shift and language death literatures, most of the attention is focused on the shifting population and their language—think of Nancy Dorian's account of grammatical decay in East Sutherland Gaelic, for example. But the language they shift to, the “target language”, is at least equally interesting.

In this talk, I will argue that different mechanisms of language shift result in different types of target varieties. I will then present data on target varieties in two cases of Early Modern language shift, and consider what this tells us about the processes.