

## **Shared language management goals, differing beliefs and unexpected outcomes**

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Irish language management, though not unique in endangered language context, is unusual in that it has been founded on an ideology of planning a language revival for the majority of the population who are a post-language shift speech community, people whose forbears spoke Irish but for whom it is now an additional language, while at the same time stabilizing the residual speech community. The concentration on language management for the perceived needs and goals of the national community has had many far-reaching and unforeseen consequences for the groups of speakers who use Irish as one of the main languages of their bilingual communities. Recent research has shown that Gaeltacht Irish speakers' beliefs about the language and its practice contrast subtly with those of the national collectivity (government agencies and majority popular opinion). Although government and language communities share the overt aims of stabilizing Irish in the Gaeltacht, and favour the expansion of the numbers of speakers and functions of the language nationally, the power of ideologically driven state language management for millions of people which targets the language of a group of tens of thousands has inevitably produced mismatches, that may paradoxically have further endangered the future of Irish as a community language while pursuing national language management goals. The Irish experience of mismatched national vs. community language beliefs, practices and management has much salience for the growing number of polities which seek to attribute new expanded roles to their historic native languages, but which in so doing can arguably undermine the practices of the remaining speakers and the communities of language activists whom in many cases have actually led the campaigns for these new roles.