

Title: From Documentation to Revitalization: The Case of Czech as a Heritage Language in Texas

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This paper discusses the current state of the Czech language in Texas with a special focus on incorporating the highly endangered Texas Czech vernacular into Czech language instruction, beginning with the college level and community language classes, and moving down to K-12 schools. The presentation draws on fieldwork observations, data on community members' language attitudes, recent interviews with Texas Czech teachers, Czech language class observations, and views both of students of Czech as a heritage language, and of Texas Czech activists. It argues that the teaching of Czech as a heritage language in Texas should recognize the Texas Czech vernacular as a vital community resource in order to be able to attract, motivate, and, ultimately, better serve the diverse student populations in both academic and community classroom settings. The role of the worldwide web in promoting the culture and language of ethnic Czech Moravians in Texas is also discussed, as well as the great potential of the fledgling Texas Czech Dialect Project at the University of Texas at Austin to help educate both users of Czech and engaged members of the Texas Czech community.

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