

International Conference
Preservation of Languages and Development of Linguistic Diversity in Cyberspace: context,
policies, practice

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Cyber trends and Languages

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Abstract: Cyber technologies are quickly evolving impacting our society under many headings. Minoritized languages and cultural identities are potentially endangered by information communication technologies but this refers to nowadays environment not yet fully and globally impacted by innovation. New and emerging technologies are reshaping many sectors deeply impacting the way to transfer and manage both information and knowledge. Interaction models are changing, citizens daily life includes an even increasing number of cyber devices, big data analytics offers new challenges. The role of platforms, social media and fake news.

Keywords: Data Ownership, Privacy, Ethics, Cybersecurity, Culture of cybersecurity

Setting the scene

Cyber technology is increasingly merging any sector of our life, we are witnessing relevant changes due to both technological enhancements and modification of user requirements/expectations. In recent times the digital domain, once strictly populated by professional users and computer scientists, has opened up to former digitally divided. Society is changing under the influence of advanced information technology. Computers have been around for about half a century and their social effects have been described under many headings Technology is evolving toward a mature “calm” [5 - Weiser 1991] phase, “users” are overlapping more and more with “citizens” [6 - Council of Europe 2001] and they consider technology and e-Services [7 – Ronchi 2019] as an everyday commodity, to buy a ticket, to meet a medical doctor, to access the weather forecast. Mobile devices represent the most recent revolution in both technology and society, they are perceived as something different from computers even if they play, among others, the same role and immediately became part of our daily life, a wearable accessory as our wallet or wristwatch. Digital divide in its original semantic meaning is mainly bridged thanks to mobile position aware devices but now we must deal with a different divide the knowledge divide. The mass use of technology in all the fields impose to acquire a minimum level of knowledge in the proper use of cyber-technology including the field of cyber-security. How all these changes impact minoritized languages and communities ? The impact depends from socio-economic aspects, technological infrastructures and related accessibility, digital literacy, business field and interests.

The natural trend of minoritized languages

Many times on the occasion of the meetings on language preservation we discussed about the impact of cyber-technology on them. This happened at the beginning at the time cyber-technology was too young to play a key role in this field, the Internet was still a key tool for few people and the potential impact on minoritized communities was almost zero. Through the time the number of “minoritized” communities grew up including an even increasing number of people. This phenomenon was initially termed “digital divide”