

**What can endangered language activists learn from the “revival” of Hebrew?
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I am regularly asked by activists working on the maintenance of revival of their endangered language what the example of Hebrew, a language “revived” after two millennia, can teach them. My first answer is that it was not “dead”, but continued to be used as a sacred and literary language by the Jews during their long diaspora. I then point out that it was not revived, but rather revernacularized (by adding a daily community speech function to a written one) and revitalized (by being spoken to babies and so re-establishing natural intergenerational transmission). There were other critically important conditions: an ideologically committed self-isolated community, control of the schools by the community, widespread knowledge of the heritage written language which had continued to develop over the centuries, and no effective competing language variety.

1. Hebrew maintenance after the end of statehood.
2. Hebrew language knowledge and use in the 19th century.
3. The Zionist ideology – out with the old (economic, social, linguistic, religious).
4. Returning to Zion and Hebrew.
5. Autonomous communities (Moshav, Kibbutz, Tel Aviv)
6. Community control of schools.
7. Potential competition.
8. Hebrew language activism.
9. From NGOs to government.
10. Immigrant absorption and the army.