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My Father's Story: An Ethnography About Language Loss

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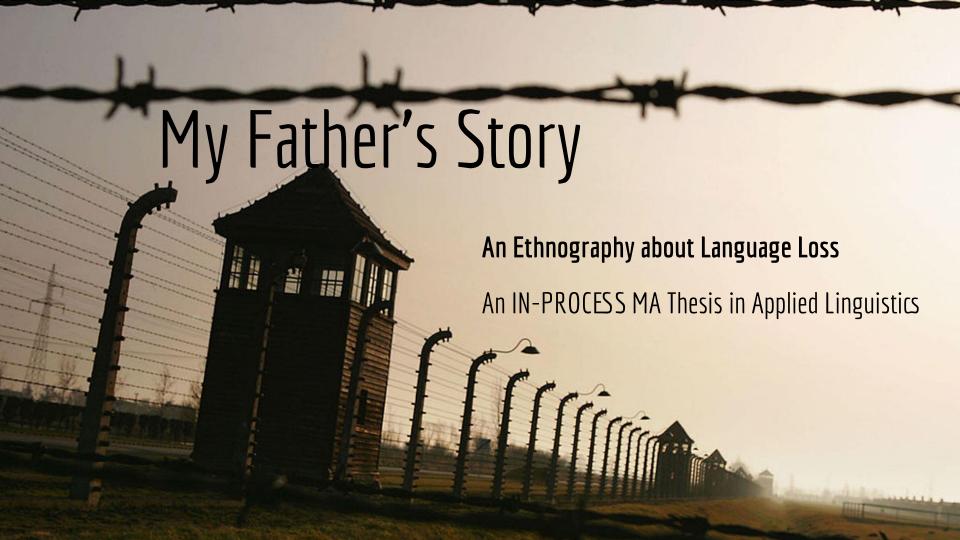


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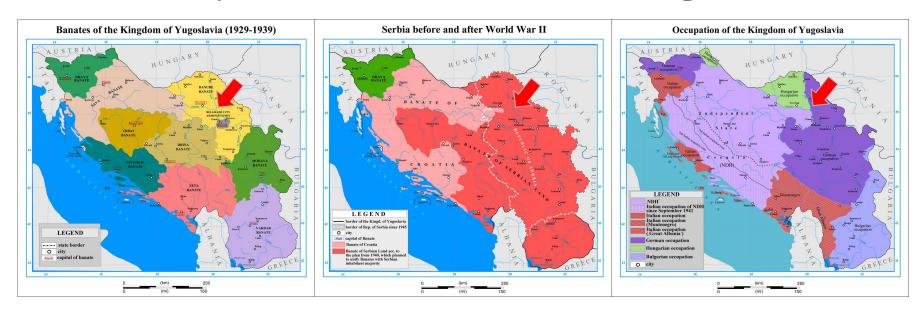


Introduction

A family ethnography around language and identity loss; about war, trauma, and forced migration.

This story is particular to my family but it's one of millions - from the past to those being created today.

Political shifts in the Serbian Banat* region



* Banat - administrative subdivision

Source: europe.unc.edu

South Banat District - Vojvodina PLANDIŠTE Plandište[®] Dél-bánsági körzet KOVAČICA ALIBUNAR (Hungarian) Južnobanatski okrug Alibunar OPOVO VRŠAC (Serbian) Južnobanatski okrug (Croatian) e_{Kačarevo} BELA Bela Crkva Districtul Banatul de Sud PANČEVO CRKVA (Romanian) KOVIN Northeastern district of Serbia (the Serbian Banat) JUŽNOBANATSKI OKRUG SOUTH BANAT DISTRICT Banatsko Novo Selo **PANČEVO** Starcevo Banatski Brestovac

Source: DVHH.org

Literature Review

1	OTHER STORIES	
2	ETHNOGRAPHIC METHODOLOGY	
3	HISTORICAL LANDSCAPE	

How we examine language loss across disciplines

PSYCHOLOGY

CHILDHOOD TRAUMA

NEGLECT

ABUSE

Poor identity formation Low self-esteem Shame / anger PTSD

BIOLOGY

BRAIN INJURY

EPIGENETICS

CULTURAL SOMATICS

Learning disabilities
Neurodivergence
Addiction

APPLIED LINGUISTICS

SECOND LANGUAGE ACQUISITION

L1
DEVELOPMENT

Transfer to L2 and Lx Literacy issues Teacher / learner needs

The ethnography aims to tell a story

- INTERVIEWS, FIELD OBSERVATIONS, and FAMILY HISTORY
- 'thick, rich description' (Spradley, 1979)
- Prove validity and triangulation (Patton, 1999 and Guba, 1981)
- Qualitative data:

FIELD RESEARCH

INTERVIEWS

PERSONAL OBSERVATIONS

Family research in Serbia

Retracing my father's childhood places









Photos from travels in Homolitz, Pançevo and surrounding towns in Serbia - Sept 2023





Photos from travels in Homolitz, Pançevo and surrounding towns in Serbia - Sept 2023

Memorial site for the victims of the camp at Rudolfsgnad outside of Pançevo, Serbia



Photos from travels in Homolitz, Pançevo and surrounding towns in Serbia - Sept 2023

Mass grave site near Pancevo, Serbia



Photos from travels in Homolitz, Pançevo and surrounding towns in Serbia - Sept 2023

Conflicting languacultures during my father's childhood

Shwovish was used only at home and was neither German nor Serbian

The Nazi regime considered ethnic Germans their own people

Serbian camp guards punished the camp prisoners for being "Germans"

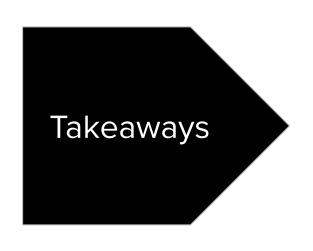
Communist school teachers beat my father for not being "Serbian"

German school teachers beat my father for not being "German"

Serbia is where I feel most comfortable, but

'If I think about food and a sense of home,

I will never be accepted there.'



Forgiveness and understanding - future generations

The associations that language brings to identity

The effects of language and power stay with us and form our idea of where we are accepted / or not

Language and identity dissociation has far greater damaging effects on people than we may realize

What is "your language" what is "your culture? For some it's not easily defined and causes anxiety

This is just one story of many.

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