

## Revisiting the Concept of “Questionnaire” Used in Linguistic Field Surveys

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### ABSTRACT

*A questionnaire, in any linguistic field survey, is an essential research instrument that is made with a set of predefined questions which are assumed to generate appropriate responses from the informants to address the primary questions raised in a particular study or investigation. Based on this primary assumption, every linguistic field-based survey that desires to collect information from native speakers of a particular language includes a set of prepared questions which are closely related to language, life, living, society and other aspects of the language communities. In principle, every linguistic questionnaire, unless it is defined in a different way, is typically a close-ended document that aspires to reflect on the open-ended canvas of community life. In recent years, however, our age-old concepts of linguistic questionnaires have undergone some kinds of conceptual change due to the advent of modern technology and their active utilization in linguistic field surveys. Therefore, the so-called “close-ended” schemes of questionnaires have now become “open-ended” giving field surveyors many opportunities for capturing linguistic data and ethnographic information from the many untraversed terrains of indigenous community lives – an opportunity which was quite impossible to avail even a few years ago. In the present years, linguistic questionnaires have*