

Table of Contents

Acknowledgements	9
Introduction: Studying young people engaged in revitalizing minority languages in Europe	13
Scope of research and methodology	15
Theoretical inspirations	22
Structure of the book	26
Chapter 1: The sociolinguistic situation and language practices of young people	29
The sociolinguistic situation of the four minorities	29
Kashubia: diminished home transmission	29
Brittany: in the shadow of trauma and the language revival of the 1970s	33
Upper Lusatia: impending language change	37
Wales: language communities and a territorial community	41
Language ideologies, symbolic violence and discrimination	47
Kashubia – language ideologies in the eyes of the young	49
A dead language, a rural language	51
Welsh – a non-progressive language	54
Speaking a minority language as an expression of nationalism	57
Lusatia – from quiet discrimination to overt hostility	59
State protection and language policy	63
The Kashubian language – change in status and prestige	63
Brittany – unappreciated state aid	66
Lusatia – a defensive stance	68
Wales – application of the model language policy	70
Effects of language policy in the perception of the young	73

Chapter 2: Institutionalized transmission of minority languages	77
Types of education offered to minorities	77
Can schools save minority languages?	81
The role of teachers...	87
... and the role of parents	90
Chapter 3: Young speakers of minority languages	93
Problems concerning the modernization and standardization of minority languages	93
Dialectical vs. literary forms of a minority language	93
“Ideal types” of young users of minority languages	101
“Native speakers”	102
“Learners”	108
“New speakers”	119
Chapter 4: How young people construct language identities	133
Language vs. identity	133
Language as an ethnic boundary	140
Language vis-a-vis belonging to a minority	143
Chapter 5: Community life in the eyes of young people	151
Minority culture as a community – a paradise lost?	152
Minority identity as an option	160
Identification with a minority as a continuous struggle for identity	168
Towards a new type of relation	173

Chapter 6: Community and language practices of the young	181
Formation and role of interest groups focused on minority issues	182
From interest groups to activity-oriented communities	188
<i>Eisteddfod</i> – reinforcing a sense of belonging to a community through cultural practices	194
Minority communities of practice: language, education, identity	206
Online media: real vs. virtual communities	218
Chapter 7: Towards activism	227
Participation in minority culture	227
Early stages of engagement	232
Parents	234
School	237
Cultural activities	238
Friends, activists	241
Chance/coincidence	243
Finding one's own place	244
Parting from family and location	245
Becoming involved with preservation of the minority language	248
Engagement	249
Activism	253
Types of activism	258
Attitudes towards activism	263
Activist profiles	266
Subjective perception of benefits of activism	270
The world of activists as they view it	274

Chapter 8: Between tradition, folklore and modernity	277
Upper Sorbian culture – rites and folklore	279
Kashubia – from folklorization to modernity	291
Brittany – from community customs to invented tradition	302
Welsh culture – between everyday practices and festivities	312
In search of ethnic boundaries in the transcultural world	320
Conclusions: Discourses of endangerment and responsibility	329
The discourse of endangerment	330
The discourse of benefits of multilingualism	334
Quasi-political discourse	337
The discourse of responsibility	343
Epilogue	346
Bibliography	349
Subject index	377
Name index	385