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## ***Awakening the language and speakers' community of Wymysiöeryś***

- *Mânter, do dy wymysiöejer ryd zo weter zâjn derhałda?*  
- *Dos ej ânikjer büw, wo kon wymysiöeryś ân â fyt kyndyn*  
Interview with Helena Biba (age 89)

The town of Wilamowice (southern Poland) is the unique home to the community of speakers of *Wymysiöeryś*. The language enclave originates from Colonial Middle High German and – according to diachronic dialectological analyses – made up a sub-exclave of the so-called *Bielitz-Bialaer Sprachinsel*. As a result of social and political cataclysms brought by the WWII and the following ban on and gap in its intergenerational transmission, it faced an inescapable language death. That doom, however, has been restrained by the activities of dedicated native speakers, with Tymoteusz Król (born in 1993) functioning as an eco- and sociolinguistic relay between the generation of last speakers passing away and unexpectedly growing group of potential ‘new’ speakers.

The microlanguage, now spoken as native by less than three dozen Wilamowiceans, and still without any official recognition at the administrative level, is experiencing an astonishing, but well-prepared and local culture-based revitalisation course.

The paper intends to dialogue the current achievements and challenges of the revival processes for *Wymysiöeryś* – from an internal (T. Król as the youngest native speaker and intra-community researcher) and external (T. Wicherkiewicz as participating academic) perspectives, including the recent results of and actions undertaken within an integral revitalisation programme based on the successful collaboration of the community, two major universities in Poland as well as the local school and municipal authorities. The programme refers to all three levels of language planning: corpus, status and acquisition.

Efficiently combining grassroots and top-down approaches, we also ground language revitalisation in the social, cultural and economical benefits of preserving and extending local cultural heritage and linguistic landscape.