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title: The phonology of reawakened Aboriginal languages: issues in pronunciation and authenticity in language revival in Australia.

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abstract: Wherever languages are ‘awakened’, ie. learned under ‘revival’ scenarios in the absence of a generation of first language speakers, we find that the learners’ first language will have a major impact. The phonological patterns of L1 play a strong role in shaping the new language that you acquire. This paper explores the influence of literacy and teaching by first language speakers of English, on the pronunciation of Aboriginal languages in the context of language re-awakening in NSW. It canvasses some pronunciation changes currently taking place in NSW in the context of revitalised learning, explores issues concerning the perceived authenticity of ‘recreated’ languages, draws attention to the mismatch between teacher-sanctioned pronunciation and the pronunciations spontaneously produced by learners in other contexts, and argues that for recreated languages phonemic orthographies might not be the best choice.