The comprehensive theme of Danube-Swabian language biographies analyzes all historical and current conditions that led to the current linguistic situation of this ethnic group. Therefore, the historic settlement areas and demographic statistics are reviewed, the local dialects and the dialect landscapes they produced, as well as the conditions of fieldwork and the body of work in dialectology at the IdGL Tübingen, are discussed, in order to arrive at valid conclusions.

Today, when the Danube Swabians are scattered across the world, given the state language in their host country and the prevailing regional dialects (in the German-speaking areas of Europe), we observe a multitude of linguistic varieties between dialect and standard language, from bilingualism to the use of three language versions (such as an old and a new and dialect along with a colloquial version of the standard language).

The dominant trend observed is the linguistic integration into the prevailing linguistic varieties of the new home region, whereby adaptation into a dialect landscape similar to the dialect brought along from home (Rhenano-Franconian, Swabian, or Bavarian) occurs faster than adaptation into a foreign dialect landscape. A way out of any difficulties of understanding is the communication in the standard German language, while in foreign-language environments (such as English, French or other), over the long term, it is mostly the assimilation of the linguistic minority.

From quoted witness reports and existing (or directly obtained from interlocutors) language biographies, it is obvious that assimilation is also typical for the current language among the younger generation of resettled Danube Swabians. The latter are still interested in the traditional culture brought along by their parents and grandparents, while the older generation, now integrated in their linguistic environment in Germany or Austria, is trying to preserve the home dialect – sometimes even the state language of the old country – in their private sphere.