Heritage Language Variation and Change in Toronto Community Activities

Heritage Language Karaoke

Objectives:

- 1. Promote confidence and pride in heritage language skills
- 2. Provide engaging, culturally relevant language practice
- 3. Support differentiated heritage language learning and use

Description:

This activity uses karaoke as a fun, culturally relevant way to support heritage language communities; providing ways to support vocabulary development, grammatical awareness, and oral practice in a target heritage language. Designed with the heritage learner in mind, the goal is to shift away from deficit-based thinking and instead build confidence in the language skills they already have. The activity can be done individually or in small groups. Facilitators provide printed lyrics and audio, guide learners through their chosen task, and encourage reflection or group discussion at the end. To accommodate a range of proficiencies, three different karaoke tasks are available to learners depending on their comfort level with the target language:

- Beginner: Identify and translate key vocabulary from the song lyrics.
- **Intermediate:** Complete fill-in-the-blank lyric sheets to analyze grammar or verb forms. Missing words are selected to promote awareness of language patterns.
- **Advanced:** Interpret and reflect on the song's meaning, rewrite or translate lyrics, and share personal connections.

By offering scaffolded activities, this approach supports learners across a spectrum of abilities while validating the diverse ways they engage with their heritage language.