

Consortium for Training in Language Documentation and Conservation:



International cooperation to support
trainers worldwide

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Training in language
documentation and conservation



A brief overview

What is training?

- **Training** – the transfer of skills and knowledge from one person to another
- **Training occurs in many ways in many settings**
 - Structured classes, e.g. at formal institutes, schools, universities
 - Workshops and symposia
 - Small groups
 - One-on-one interactions

Training covers every aspect of LDC work

- **Tools**
 - Software, microphones, cameras, interfaces
- **Products**
 - Archives, dictionaries, literacy materials, videos
- **Activities**
 - Recording, creating orthographies, writing metadata
- **Methods**
 - Master-Apprentice, morphological analysis, survey creation
- **Teaching**
 - Lesson planning, assessment, course design
- **Linguistic structure and analysis**

Training is central to LDC work

- It provides community language activists, and those that support them, them with the skill sets, tools, and expertise to make their efforts maximally effective

Diverse training programs worldwide

- ...impressive array of programs, workshops, and institutes that are currently offering training in language documentation and conservation across the globe

Intensive institutes for Indigenous communities

- American Indian Language Development Institute
- Canadian Indigenous Languages and Literacy Development Institute
- The Northwest Indigenous Language Institute
- Fundación Proyecto Lingüístico Francisco Marroquín

Short workshops for community members

- Indigenous Language Institute (New Mexico)
- Navaho Language Academy Summer Linguistics Workshop, Arizona
- Puliima National Indigenous Languages and Information Communication Technology Forum, Australia
- Australian Institute of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Studies (AIATSIS) – workshops on legacy materials, technology, etc.
- Documenting and revitalizing Indigenous Languages Training Program (RNLD), Australia
- Dhirubhai Ambani Institute of Information and Communication Technology (India)
- Forum for Language Initiatives (Pakistan)

Programs to repair transmission

- Language-nests, immersion schools, and associated teacher-training programs: e.g.
 - Kohanga Reo (Maori language nests and beyond)
 - Ka Papahana Kaiapuni Hawai'i
 - Chief Atahm School in British Columbia
 - Piegan Institute on the Blackfoot Indian Reservation
 - Tsé'hootsooi Diné Bi'ólta' (Navajo; Arizona)
 - Comhairle nan Sgoiltean Araich (Gaelic; Scotland)
 - Confederated Tribes of Grande Ronde Program (Chinuk Wawa; Oregon)

Programs to repair transmission

- Master-Apprentice Programs
 - Advocates for Indigenous California Language Survival
 - First People's Heritage Language and Culture Center in British Columbia
 - Now being used in Australia and the manual translated into Portuguese for use in Brazil

Language reclamation programs

- **Breath of Life**
 - Advocates for Indigenous California Language Survival (AICLS)
 - National Breath of Life Workshop Archival Institute for Indigenous Languages
 - ✦ Washington, DC, June 13-24, 2011 (still accepting applications!)
- **Many independent projects; all incorporate training**
 - Wampanoag (New York)
 - Kaurna (Australia)

Language centers

- About 40 Australian language or Indigenous-knowledge centers
- Alaska Native Language Center
- Yukon Native Language Center
- Yinka Dené Language Institute (Canada)
- Centre for Endangered Languages Documentation (CELD), Papua, Indonesia
- Centers created by the Māori Language Commission
- Community-based learning centers in Thailand

Summer institutes for broader audiences

- Long-established programs
 - SIL International (75 years)
 - LSA Summer Institute (since 1928)
 - Australian Linguistic Institute (since 1992)
- Recent international programs
 - The 3L International Summer School on Language Documentation and Description (annual)
 - The Institute on Field Linguistics and Language Documentation (InField) (biennial: *also aimed at community members*)

Regional institutes taught by linguists

- Summer School on Documentary Linguistics, West Africa
- Training Workshops on Language Documentation, Bali, Indonesia
- Documentary Linguistics Workshop, Japan
- Workshops on Digital Technology for Language Preservation, Papua New Guinea
- Saami Language Documentation and Revitalization school, Norway

Short workshops typically by and for linguists

- Linguistic software (e.g. RNLD)
- Recording methods, archiving, multimedia, etc. (HRELP)
- Training for new grantees (DoBeS, HRELP)
- Week-long intensive workshops (HRELP)

Graduate degree programs in linguistics

- Various

Degree programs for community language experts

- First Nations Languages Program (UBC)
- Certificate in Aboriginal Language Revitalization (U Vic)
- Aboriginal Languages and Linguistics Program (Simon Frazer)
- Centre for Australian Languages and Linguistics at Batchelor Institute of Indigenous Tertiary Education in Australia
- Koori Centre at the University of Sydney
- Pacific Languages Unit of the U. of the South Pacific

Degree programs in LDC

- MA in Language Documentation and Conservation (U Hawaii)
- MA, PhD programs in the Endangered Languages Academic Program (HRELP, SOAS)
- Centro de Investigaciones y Estudios Superiores en Antropología Social (Mexico – 7 campuses)
- MA in Language Documentation (U of Adis Ababa, in Ethiopia)
- MA in Language Documentation (U of Uyo, Nigeria)
- Joint MA Program in Computational Language Documentation (U Uyo, U Cocody in Abidjan, U of Bielefeld, Germany)

Networking / resource sharing supports training

- Substantial productive networks among the Australian Aboriginal Language Centers
- Resource Network for Linguistic Diversity (RNLD)
- Linguist List
- Networks of researchers at HRELP and DoBeS
- E-MELD
- Blogs & discussion lists such as
 - Transient Languages and Cultures Blog (U Sydney)
 - RNLD email list
 - US-based Indigenous Languages and Technology (ILAT) list
- Facebook groups

Given all this...

**...Why do we need the
CTLDC?**

The good and the bad

- These programs have raised awareness about language endangerment and provided important responses and models for action at local, regional and international levels

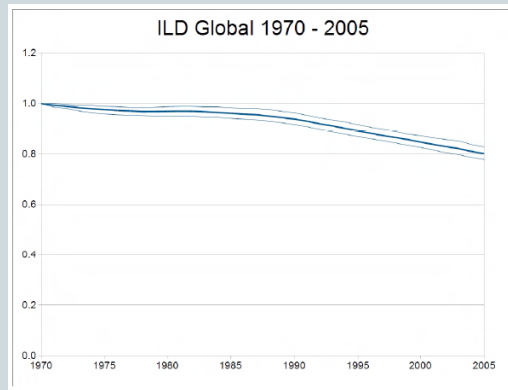
BUT

- The language endangerment crisis continues to intensify

Index of Linguistic Diversity (Harmon and Loh 2010)

- Recent statistics from a new, more sensitive, quantitative measure of linguistic diversity
 - Language richness (number of languages found in a given area)
 - Language “evenness” (distribution of individual mother-tongue speakers among languages)
- The ILD gauges *trends* in linguistic diversity; changes from 1970 to 2005

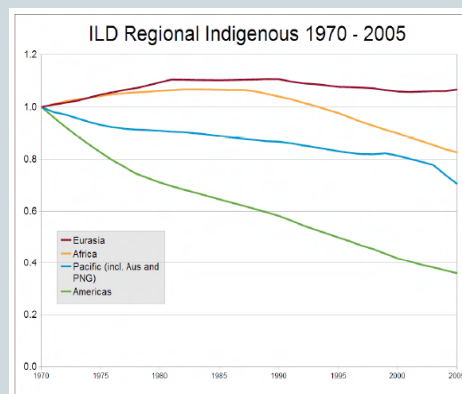
ILD Global 1970-2005



Harmon & Loh 2010: Figure 1

20% decline 1970-2005

ILD Regional Indigenous (1970-2005)



Harmon & Loh 2010: Figure 8

Global trends vs local efforts

- Without all of the various strategies which have been developed, the rates of decline would have been steeper
- There are many individual success stories which are concealed by global data
- Tremendous benefits have come from:
 - Wide-ranging revitalization strategies
 - Significant elaboration of the documentary record,
- But the graphs highlight that *more work is needed*

What this shows

- We need to draw together and extend the developed resources in order to maximize their effectiveness
- *CTLDC is a concerted global response to ensure that the experience and resources being developed can have a broad and lasting impact in communities across the globe*

Outreach needed

- Many endangered-language communities have the desire to implement language documentation and conservation activities, but have limited access to training and resources
- Many of the strategies currently in place are English-language focused (some Spanish-focused)
- Many of the current programs are magnet programs
- Increased international cooperation & regional programs are needed to maximize the effective sharing and use of resources

The CTLDC

**International
cooperation for moving
forward**

Consortium on Training in Language Documentation and Conservation



- A consortium of organizations and individuals who:
 - train people to document, maintain or revitalize languages
 - support such training through allied activities: e.g.
 - ✦ development of tools
 - ✦ resource networks
 - ✦ funding agencies
 - ✦ policy formation
 - ✦ archives

CTLDC mission



- The CTLDC fosters networking and collaboration among people and organisations that support training in language documentation and that promote the ongoing use of all of the world's languages

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Fostering networking and collaboration

- Facilitate the discussion of goals and models for training in language documentation and conservation
- Provide opportunities for collaboration between trainers of varied backgrounds, experiences, and perspectives
- Encourage the sharing of ideas and strategies, methods and tools, and curricula
- Bridge between speaker communities and external partners pursuing common goals

Professional organization for public outreach

- Raise greater awareness about the value and importance of linguistic diversity
- Increase the visibility of language endangerment issues in the media
- Provide input to policy-makers on issues concerning the maintenance of linguistic diversity and vitality
- Advocate for funding opportunities for training and related activities

Primary goals

- Extend access to the wealth of training knowledge, expertise, methods and materials
- Bring practitioners from diverse perspectives together so that we can
 - make materials and methods more widely available around the world
 - learn from each other
 - develop both theory and practice.

How are we doing this?

**Immediate and Long-term
Strategies**

Current:
CTLDC International Planning Group

- Representatives of organizations which are at the forefront of supporting linguistic diversity

What the planning group is doing

- Meeting, talking, forming the network, beginning to communicate and collaborate
- Having discussions about how best to provide resources and activities to further promote the network
- Working on developing CTLDC governance structures and membership protocols for long-term sustainability

Specific activities

- Working towards opening CTLDC for membership
- Working on outreach
- Identifying events where trainers can meet, talk, share expertise; plan meetings at these events
- Planning regional meetings and training programs
- Facilitating interaction and communication at every opportunity

Website coming soon: www.ctldc.org

- The virtual network, paralleled by personal networks at local and regional levels
- Tool for facilitating interaction
- Program-particular pages
- Publicize news and events related to training

Long-term website development

- Multilingual content
- Calendar of training programs worldwide
- Clearinghouse of training materials
- “Matchmaking” service, connecting linguists and trainers with communities in need
- Training “webinars” – how-to guides online

Other long-term activities

- White Paper on state of the art of LDC training
- Development of training protocols, best practices, and/or recommendations
- Worldwide survey of available training programs and assessment of training needs
- Provide input on development of new training programs

Broader benefits

- Bring training into the international spotlight and highlight its importance for language documentation and conservation
- Bring training to the attention of funding bodies and policy makers
- Serve as a research base for language activists representing diverse communities from across the world

Do you want to be involved?

- Need for people with technical expertise, translators, trainers, member organizations, etc.
- contact.ctldc@gmail.com

Thank you

- To RNLD and Linguapax for their work on this symposium
- To all the symposium participants for sharing their knowledge, insight, and experiences