A proposal for organizing InField Asia-Pacific

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What

• This proposal aims to organize InField Asia-Pacific - a summer Institute in documentary fieldwork.
InField 2008, UCSB
(http://www.linguistics.ucsb.edu/faculty/infield/organizers/index.html)
Why

- We propose to bring this training model from North America to the Asia-Pacific region, where many language workers are battling severe language endangerment.

http://www.ling.hawaii.edu/~uhdoc/truku/
Challenges

- Target audience
- Language(s) of communication
- Curriculum design
- Needs analysis: scholarly interests and practical issues

Where

- National Chung Cheng University, Taiwan (?)
- Academia Sinica, Taiwan (?)
- Providence University, Taiwan (?)
- Others?
About TSL Research Group

"Seeing" Language

Spoken languages are communicated by the auditory-oral modality while signed languages are communicated by the visual-gestural modality. Just like spoken languages around the world, signed languages are all different in different communities. Taiwan Sign Language (TSL) is the language used by deaf people in Taiwan, which is different from the sign language used in the United States-American Sign Language or the sign language used in Japan (Japanese Sign Language or Nihon No Shudan), although the latter is historically related to TSL.

Just like spoken languages, a sign language is also composed of a lexicon and a grammar.

TSL Research Group

The Taiwan Sign Language research group is led by Prof. James H.-Y. Tai of the Institute of Linguistics at National Chung Cheng University, Taiwan. Other faculty members of the institute, including Jane Tony, James Shyren, Jeng-shiang Chang, and Nina Chang, all participate in sign language research to different degrees. (See Publications and Publications)

This research group was started with a research project: "A Study of Taiwan Sign Language, Therefore..."
<Goal>

This conference aims to bring international scholars to present the results of I and training for Austronesian endangered languages. We welcome abstract sessions and poster sessions on topics related to digital archiving, language corpus building, language transmission, capacity building, and e-learning.

Proposed Dates:
Issue 5-7, 2007
Venue:
International Conference Hall, Providence University, Taiwan

Program Committee:
Victoria Rau, Meng-Chien Yang, Yih-Ren Lin, and Margaret Flower
When

- July 5-16, 2013 (tentative)?

Resources

- 1) the archiving experience and resources of the Institute of Linguistics at Academia Sinica, etc.
- 2) the newly formed research team embarking on a typological study of 14 Austronesian languages in Taiwan and their documentation and revitalization,
- 3) the networking capacity of the Consortium on Training for Language Documentation and Conservation (CTLDC)
Three Yami websites by Providence University

Digital archiving, e-Learning, and online dictionary

Proposed NSC Project

- Lillian Huang’s 3-year proposal to rewrite 14 grammar sketches and upload texts and dictionaries online (January 2012-December 2014)
How

- Invite international scholars who are actively engaged in this field to conduct workshops.
- Provide a high quality two-week training program on digital archiving, language documentation, and e-learning for minority language teachers/cultural workers, graduate students and faculty in linguistics in the Asia Pacific region.
- Organize a symposium for scholarly exchange.

Standard Curriculum

- Our proposed workshops for InField Asia-Pacific 2013 comprise 7 groups:
  - (1) Models of language documentation and revitalization,
  - (2) Digital archiving,
  - (3) Fieldwork (Austronesian languages, Tibeto-Burman languages, and Chinese dialects),
  - (4) Empowerment,
  - (5) Sociolinguistics,
  - (6) Applied linguistics, and
  - (7) Collaboration with other disciplines.
A Tentative Plan

• First week: A walk through of the SOP and techniques of a typical language documentation and conservation project
• Symposium on the weekend
• Second week: Workshops on 7 topics

1. Models of language documentation and revitalization

• What models of language maintenance and revitalization work?
2. Digital archiving

– Steps of LDC:
  • A walk through of the SOP and techniques of a typical language documentation and conservation project

– Recording:
  • Audio recording and editing
  • Video recording and editing

– Software:
  • ELAN
  • Toolbox/Lexique Pro/FLEEx

– Database:
  • Data design, data management, and archiving

3. Fieldwork

– Fieldwork in Austronesian linguistics
– Fieldwork in Chinese dialect studies
– Fieldwork in Tibeto-Burman linguistics
4. Empowerment

- Ethical issues
- Grant writing for language activists and linguists: How can I write a successful grant proposal?
- Reversing language shift: Strategies for re-introducing languages no longer spoken to children and adults

5. Sociolinguistics

- Sociolinguistic survey methods
- Language endangerment
- How to write a sociogrammar
6. Applied linguistics

– Orthographies
– Strategies for curriculum development
– Development of pedagogical grammar
– Dictionary writing
– Language material development
– Assessing language proficiency of minority languages

7. Collaborations with other disciplines

– Ethnobiology
– Anthropological ecology
– Cognitive linguistics and culture
– Ontology
A Yami language teacher’s journey in Taiwan

Maa-neu Dong and Victoria Rau
A standard grammar text

Is it too technical?

A Needs Analysis of Yami Language Teachers’ Training

• How to teach indigenous language structures

• Different needs depending on where they are based, i.e., in the indigenous speech community or in an urban school setting

• Proposal on training
College level indigenous language classes

Orchid Island Middle School
e-Learning
Animated stories for elementary school students
What do we need for training indigenous language teachers?

- Principles of orthography
- Language teaching materials
- Contrastive analysis
- Language assessment
- Cultural classifications of lexicon
- A sociogrammar
Thirdness in language and culture