

Creating and designing documentary linguistic outcomes

The University of Florida Language Archive (TUFLA) Workshop

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University of Florida
Grinter Hall 404

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Workshop Description

From the outset the digital outcome of a documentary linguistic project has been envisaged to service an audience beyond linguists, i.e. to reach and be used by a diverse group of people, including the language communities involved and individuals or institutions interested in language and culture in a more general sense. The primary academic function of a language archive is pictured as an observation deck where culture, language, and language behavior can be observed and processed for further analysis depending on the interests of the archive user. On the side of non-academic stakeholders uses and reasons for access of a language documentation still remain conceptually fuzzy beyond revitalization and a general notion of preservation.

Lately, the breaking points created between the aim of service to general and wide audience and the focus on linguistic matters are being put into stark relief. Current documentary linguistic practice runs the risk of creating relatively inaccessible or unwieldy digital documentary products or language archives. Proposals for the solutions to this problem step away from conceiving a language documentation as a linguistic observation deck. Instead a language documentation comes across as an endeavor that presents language as a human achievement and envisions documentary linguistic outcomes as akin to a museum exhibition or a book.

This workshop takes a closer look at the products of language documentation and their roles, functions, and designs in the bigger framework of language and ultimately humanistic studies. The basic premise is that if a language archive is envisioned to reach a wide audience, the archive and the documentary endeavors should ideally reflect this from the outset.

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Program

08:30—08:45	Welcome by Fiona McLaughlin (Chair of Linguistics department)
08:45—09:15	Inauguration of Archive
09:15—10:05	Language Documentation: a Linguistic Sub-Discipline or a transdisciplinary Endeavor (Frank Seidel, University of Florida)
10:05—10:55	Valuing endangered language documentations as intellectual products (Anthony Woodbury, University of Texas at Austin)
10:55—11:10	Break
11:10—12:00	The Endangered Languages Documentation Program Archive (Mandana Seyfeddinipur, ELDP School of Oriental and African Studies)
12:00—01:30	Lunch
01:30—02:20	The use of archives for lesser described languages (Dorothee Beerman, Norwegian University of Science and Technology, Trondheim and Pavel Mihaylov, Ontotext, Sofia)
02:20—03:10	The future of archives from the technologist's perspective (Paul Trilsbeek, The Language Archive, Max-Planck Institute for Psycholinguistics, Nijmegen)
03:10—03:30	Break
03:30—04:30	<i>Baraza Lecture Series:</i> From capturing languages to delineating repertoires: Reshaping documentary methodologies around the linguistic culture of the Cameroonian Grassfields (Jeff Good, University at Buffalo)
04:30—05:30	Reception at the Center for African Studies