Presentation will Include:

- Background & Origin of LDTC & SLDTC
- Pilot 1
- Pilot 2
- Revisions
- SEED Project: “2+2+2=2”
The Language Documentation Training Center (LDTC)

- Founded in 2004
- LDTC primary goal: train speakers to document their own languages
- Each language has a dedicated webpage; uses written documentation
- 2004-2014: LDTC documented over 103 languages—no signed languages
- Announcement of HSL: catalyst for collaboration & implementation of the SLDTC
Kamano Kafe

About Me and My Language

- **kafa**: noun. rat. kafa kora ra'a blood.
- **kaninkru**: adj. yellow. kaninkru kena yellow pants.
- **kasefa**: adj. new. kasefa kare new car.
- **ke za**: verb. to see. ke za ne huwe I want to see.
- **kiza reza**: verb. to laugh. kiza reza huwe I want to laugh.
- **kora**: noun. blood. koranke mupa red and.
- **koranke**: adj. red. koranke zoka red hair.

Syntax

**Noun phrase:**

| efeka | afu | tare efeka | afu |

**Verb phrase:**

| kasefa jantem ni m-ie |

Home  | Orthography  | Morphology  | Story/Song  | Word List  | Syntax  | Language Use  | Dictionary  |
Sign Language Endangerment

- Widespread problem
- Similarities to spoken language endangerment:
  - Languages of minority cultures
  - Historically stigmatized & persecuted
  - Frequently banned in education
  - Often threatened by larger sign languages
- Some countries have nationally-recognized SL
  or signed version of the spoken language
- ASL - power sign language internationally
Sign Language Endangerment: Other Factors

- Lack of intergenerational transmission
- 10% of Deaf people in US have Deaf parents
- Pathological vs Cultural view
  - Increased use of Cochlear implants
  - Attempts to integrate Deaf people into hearing culture via oral-aural education
The Sign Language Documentation Training Center (SLDTC)

- Similar to LDTC
  - Linguistic training for users of threatened sign languages
- Currently in its third iteration
- Goals include:
  - Train participants to document own or other sign languages
  - Increase awareness of language endangerment
  - Encourage language conservation & revitalization
SLDTC Workshop Format

- Why Sign Language Documentation
- Eliciting, Interviewing & Recording
- Translation & Transcription
- Syntax
- Morphology
- Phonetics & Phonology
- Language Endangerment & Conservation

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Iterations

Pilot 1-Spring 2013:

★ Similar to the LDTC

★ Involved:
  - 6 Deaf participants who knew >1 sign language
  - 4 graduate students/mentors
  - 1-3 ASL/English interpreters & Interpreting students (including Jan)
  - Dr. James “Woody” Woodward

★ Used same lectures & materials

★ Tried to use Lexique Pro
Iterations

Pilot 2-Spring 2014

✦ Took different approach-focused on ASL & HSL
✦ Retained some original participants; added new ones
✦ Improved & condensed handout
✦ Used ASL stories as source
✦ Switched to ELAN

Pilot 3-The New Big Idea
SLDTC Pilot 1: What worked

- Uncharted territory & new experience
- Participants’ willingness & patience
- Coordinators’ enthusiasm
- Participants recognized the potential
- Classroom configuration
- UH & KCC Collaboration
  - Sign Language, Interpreting & Linguistics

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SLDTC Pilot 1: What Didn’t Work

- No modification of spoken language materials for Deaf participants & signed languages
- Time constraints
- Did not use appropriate transcription process
- Did not use videos for recording
- Language barriers
- Did not evaluate endangerment appropriately for signed languages
- Hardware & software challenges: Lexique Pro
- Lack of Deaf-friendliness
- Inconsistent commitment & attendance
SLDTC Revisions

- Addressed major problems:
  - Software
  - Video recording
  - Language
  - Re-evaluate goals & final products
- Changed workshop length
- Restructured each workshop
- Created training videos in ASL (Pilot 3)

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Curriculum Revisions

- Focused on video documentation of a single story
- Decided not to use dictionary software
- Participants added new analysis tier in ELAN weekly to their recording
  1. Full translation into English
  2. Transcription/Gloss
  3. Syntax
  4. Morphology
  5. Phonology
Why ELAN?

- Good annotation tool for signed languages
- Software fits with sign language morphology
- Software allows users to time-align recordings (either video or audio) w/ layers of transcription & analysis
- Can include multiple videos in one file
- Allows users to work with data hands-on
- Easy to learn
- Overall successful
Making it Deaf-friendly

- Did away with text-heavy PowerPoints
- Worked as a group, less 1-on-1 w/ mentor
- Started with something tangible & hands-on
- Video recordings more intuitive for signers
- Coordinators learning ASL & HSL
- Realized materials & information needed to be more accessible
- Plan to create instructional videos in ASL for Pilot 3
“2 + 2 + 2 = 2” Video Grant Project

2 Deaf Translators: Linda Lambrecht & Olav Axelsson
2 ASL/English Interpreters: Jan Fried & …
2 SLDTC Coordinators: Samantha Rarrick & Brittany Wilson

+ Special assist from Dr. Woodward

*2 Video Tutorials in ASL*:
  - “Recording & Using ELAN”
  - “Translation & Transcription”

& the ability to document one’s own Sign Language*
“2 + 2 + 2 = 2”

How our work can add to yours

», Our tools can become yours
», Willing to share tutorials
», Work will be on the Kaipuleohone archive http://www.ling.hawaii.edu/ldtc

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Q & A

✦ Does it all add up?
✦ Questions?
✦ Comments?
Mahalo nui loa!