The Endangered Languages Project (ELP): Practical Applications

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Presentation overview

• What is the Endangered Languages Project?
• Tools for language research
• Language material upload functions
• Assessment of impact and future directions
What is the ELP?
The world through 3176 lenses.

An online collaborative effort to protect global linguistic diversity.
Goals of the ELP

Language Information

Language Material
Language Information on the site
Lule Saami
Classification: Uralic  endangered

Language metadata

ALSO KNOWN AS

CLASSIFICATION
Uralic, Finno-Ugric, Finno-Permic, Finno-Ugrian, Finno-Lappic, Sami, Western Sami, Northern Western Sami

CODE AUTHORITY
ISO 639-3

LANGUAGE CODE
smj

DOWNLOAD
As csv

MORE RESOURCES
OLAC search

Context of use

OTHER LANGUAGES USED BY THE COMMUNITY
• Swedish
• Norwegian

Samples

Njálmufáhta part 2
Njálmufáhta part 1
Ahpa jäähteli...
On the main language page:

- **Location (Taa)**
- **Vitality (Lule Saami)**
- **Context of use (Koro)**

**Metadata (Okanagan)**

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**Level of vitality**

**Endangered**

1,000-2,000

Native speakers worldwide

**TRANSMISSION**

Most adults in the community, and some children, are speakers.

**SPEAKER TREND**

Only about half of community members speak the language. Speaker numbers are decreasing steadily, but not at an accelerated pace.

**MORE ON SPEAKER NUMBERS**

“1,500 in Sweden (Krauss 1995)... Ethnic population: 6,000 in Sweden.”

**MORE ON VITALITY**

A small number of children learn the language, and while the trend seemed highly alarming a few years ago, the use of Lule Saami has recently been activated to some extent. Younger speakers may nevertheless prefer Swedish or Norwegian.
Viewing multiple sources

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Sources of information</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>&quot;120,000&quot;</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>&quot;149,000&quot;</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SOURCE: “Ethnologue: Languages of the World” , M. Paul Lewis , SIL International</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>&quot;120,000&quot;</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>&quot;148,530&quot;</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SOURCE: “World Oral Literature Project”</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>&quot;≈120,000&quot;</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Under the ‘resources’ tab

Grammatical material

Grammar

Colville-Okanagan Grammar
by Grahn Wiley-Camacho

The Colville-Okanagan Transitive System
by Grahn Wiley-Camacho

nsaixcin 1: A Beginning Course in Colville-Okanagan Salish
by Grahn Wiley-Camacho

Orthographic material

Scripts, writing systems and orthographies

Nsylxcn Pronunciation Guide
by Grahn Wiley-Camacho

Lexicographic material

Wordlists, vocabulary and dictionaries

captktn 2: More Colville-Okanagan Stories for Beginners
by Grahn Wiley-Camacho

captktn 2: An Intermediate Course in Colville-Okanagan Salish
by Grahn Wiley-Camacho

captktn 1: Okanagan Stories for Beginners
by Grahn Wiley-Camacho

An interview of ſ̓n̓ʔay̓ckst sx̱ól̓ Élél Nancy Wenscoop
by Grahn Wiley-Camacho

“Submit now”

Add language resources

If you have any language resources you would like to share please upload them to the platform.

Submit document now
Language Material
Under the ‘samples’ tab
Goals of the language upload functions

- To make pedagogical materials more widely and easily available

- To provide a space for the sharing of culturally meaningful stories, information, etc.

- To provide a way for geographically disparate community stakeholders and speakers to share materials easily with one another

- To provide a space for researchers to share material gathered through documentation and revitalization efforts
Impact and Assessment:

How effective has the ELP been so far in reaching its goals?
Usage statistics

- Avg. of over 10,000 unique visitors per month, from launch in June 2012 until the beginning February 2013.
- 3,612 samples uploaded
  - 1,619 audio samples
  - 1,024 video samples
  - 602 textual samples
  - 240 resource documents
  - 126 links and images
- Approx. 480 languages with samples uploaded
- Hundreds of user suggestions
- **Bounce rate**: the percentage of users who leave after viewing just one page

- Avg. ELP bounce rate: approx. 12% of users per month

- Avg. pages viewed per visit: approx. 18

- Avg. visit duration: approx. 4 minutes
What kind of samples are users uploading?
Instructional materials

TPR The Number Song
A Total Physical Response video for early childhood education.

AUTHOR: The Center for Interior Salish & The Paul Creek Language Association
PROVIDED BY: Graham Wiley-Camacho

Pronouns and Tense of the Cupeno Language
This will teach you what to add and take away for the correct tense in a word. It will also teach you about pronouns in this language.

AUTHOR: Kathryn Z
PROVIDED BY: Kathryn Zix

Poster of Hong Kong Sign Language

AUTHOR: Hong Kong Sign Language Association
PROVIDED BY: K.K. Kong

Ho’olauna: An Introduction. Welcome to the Hawaiian Language!
This is Ahonui! I have created this site especially for you! Learn the language from home. You will need to purchase your book for $5 from this link [hawaii.edu/hoalauna](hawaii.edu/hoalauna) (Copy and paste the link into your browser). Please continue to check back for more lessons on the Hawaiian Language. I am planning on conducting a whole course.

nsalxcin 1: A Beginning Course in Colville-Okanagan Salish
An introductory textbook introducing vocabulary and basic phrases in Colville-Okanagan Salish.

AUTHOR: Graham Wiley-Camacho
UPLOAD BY: Graham Wiley-Camacho
LAST VERSION: 1.0
ARCHIVED UNDER: English, vocabulary and dictionaries

Read document
Cultural information

NuorajTV films a course in sowing a saami cape (njálmmefáhta).

Marta Balle Búfena talks about how to make "lue bultins" (wrapped cake) in the Serau dialect of Heling (treg).

In this video clip, my grandma tells the Navajo story of how coyote had placed the stars in the sky and how to make two constellations using string, Dibéshá (the Pleiades) and Só Biseé (Star Witch Horns). She continues by showing other string games, like Many Stars (Só Lání), Two Coyotes Running Apart (Ma’i Alts’át’á Yilwóh), Open the Gate, Lightning (Kéédžá), the Arrowhead (Bédhé Sú’á’ígíl), Unraveling (Wótsádí), and Wood Carrier (Chizh Yooyéé). Actually, my mother re-teaches my grandma how to make lightning. Many Stars and Coyotes Running Apart are also constellations in Navajo astronomy. String games (na’át’ó) are only played in the winter by Navajos because that’s when the spider is asleep. Also, winter provides more time for social activities like string games or shoe games (Kéébi). My mom used to tell me that if I played string games in the summer, a spider would sew up my butt. Languages spoken are English and Navajo. Note: English subtitles are included if you have little to no understanding of the Navajo language, but annotations must be set to ON to see the subtitle!
Community and social events

The Beach Family Performs "White Horse"

The Beach Family from Cedar Creek, AZ, performed this song tonight for a community Christmas dinner, held at JFC Day School, in Cedar Creek, AZ. When told them we would be attending their dinner, they sang this song for my family. This song is available on their album "White Horse." Languages spoken are White Mountain Apache and English.
How are researchers using the ELP?
Taa language documentation (DoBeS) - Elicitation: Survey West !Xuun

Participant (FT) was asked to translate utterances of the Taa survey (ca. 400 sentences, incl. lexemes of the Swedesh 200-word list) from Afrikaans.

Koro Ethnobotany - Anthony Degio - [7]

Anthony Degio explains one of the 11 plants. A clip from "Koro Ethnobotany: 11 plants and their uses in Koro culture."

Chamacoco elicitation with Kafoté [pt. 2]

Kafoté (Crispulo Martinez) elicits a few phrases in endangered Chamacoco.

Amuzgo Topological Survey

We ask here Amuzgo expressions for toponimic/spatial relations with Jesús Sertana using the MNI Topological Reference Survey (Bohman & Pedersen 1993). Each of the stimuli pictures from the survey are mixed along with the responses in Amuzgo and the audio. (Note transcription is still preliminary: full has not yet been validated.)
REMEmBER

Both the Endangered Languages Project and the Endangered Language Catalogue from which the linguistic information is taken are works in progress.

The current iteration of the site is not the final version. Features are still being tested, evaluated, and changed.

New features and refined language information are to be added in the years to come.
Goals of the ELP moving forward

- Encourage increased uploading and use in the academic community
- Encourage the uploading of resource documents
- Encourage increased sharing and dialogue between users
New feature: Discussion forums
Concept: allows you to receive email alerts whenever new content is uploaded for a particular language, or whenever the language information is changed.
New multiple source display
New feature: Need for documentation index

Concept: provide an ‘at a glance’ estimation of how in need a language is of documentation

Will show how much (or how little) work has been done on any given language

Based off of an algorithm taking into account and variably weighting:

- Dictionaries/lexicons available for the language
- Grammars available of the language
- Texts collected in the language
- Multimedia documentation/recordings of the language available
Thank you!

Questions?