Initiative for building an infrastructure in support of language documentation

Toshihide NAKAYAMA

Current state of LgDoc in Japan

Problem in sustainability of research:
- Continuity and growth of LgDoc research is in danger
Problem in sustainability of utilization:
- Access and utilization of language resource is in danger

Why sustainability of research is in danger?

- Insufficient number of graduate programs
- Lack of sufficient graduate training
- Difficulty in job hunting
- Lack of a researcher community
  ➞ LgDoc research is severely underprivileged

Why sustainability of utilization is in danger?

- Very strong focus on linguistic description
- Limited attention to utilization of the language materials
- Limited attention to longevity of the language materials
  ➞ LgDoc research materials are in great danger

New initiative: Fieldling

Goal:
- To address the two sustainability problems in LgDoc activity in Japan

Fieldling: its focus

- To build a lasting academic infrastructure
  + Lack of support structure is a critical problem
  + We need self-sustaining support mechanisms
- Targeted mainly at junior researchers (graduate students and post-docs)

Toshihide Nakayama
(nakayama@aa.tufs.ac.jp)
Fieldling in a nutshell

Fieldling
= academic potluck party for LgDoc researchers
  ⊗ where people gather and meet
  ⊗ where you bring what you have and share with others
  ⊗ where you solve problems/do things together with others

The making of Fieldling

- The beginning:
  ⊗ Calls for participation to major linguistics programs
  ⊗ Preparatory meeting
  ⊗ Launch of the ML and the community site
- Building up:
  ⊗ Project-based collaboration and online communication
- Behind the scene: supported by ILCAA
  ⊗ ILCAA: an inter-university research center
  ⊗ Linguistic Dynamics Science Research Project (LingDy)