DOCLING 2015

Documentary linguistics workshop focusing on
working with speaker-linguists and resource development

17 – 23 February 2015

Research Institute for Languages and Cultures of Asia and Africa (ILCAA), Tokyo University of Foreign Studies

The EL Training group

This workshop provides field linguistic researchers with theoretical, methodological and technical training in the documentation of endangered/minority languages.

Language documentation systematically collects and "adds value" to recordings and observations of a variety of language and cultural events. It differs from descriptive approaches because its focus is on the language-use context and on the recorded data and metadata, paying attention to its quality, archiving, dissemination and usages.

Documentation materials are used for linguistic study and research in other fields, and as resources for language revitalization and other community and cultural activities. This workshop focuses on the creation and processing of documentation materials and how to enhance their quality, usefulness, and usability, addressing topics including:

- defining language documentation
- maximising the quality of recorded audio, images and video
- creating, managing, sharing, archiving and repurposing data
- using language documentation materials

Location

The Research Institute for Languages and Cultures of Asia and Africa ("ILCAA", "AA-ken"), an affiliate of Tokyo University of Foreign Studies (TUFS)
Address: 3-11-1 Asahi-cho, Fuchu-shi, Tokyo 183-8534, JAPAN
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Staff

Teachers

International:
- Peter K. Austin (SOAS University of London) (PA)
- Anthony Jukes (CRLD, La Trobe University) (AJ)
- David J. Nathan (University of Oxford) (DN)
- Sonja Riesberg (University of Cologne) (SR)

For ILCAA:
- Toshihide Nakayama (ILCAA, Tokyo University of Foreign Studies) (TN)
- Hideo Sawada (ILCAA, Tokyo University of Foreign Studies) (HS)

Language consultants

- David Sangdong, speaker of Rawang (Myanmar), SIL international
- Arzhaana Syuryun, speaker of Tuvan (Russia), Russian Academy of Sciences
- Deisyi Batunan, speaker of Talaud (Indonesia), Manado State University
- Antonio Soares, speaker of Makasae (Indonesia), Udayana State University

Course co-ordinators

- International: David J Nathan
- ILCAA: Hideo Sawada

WWW

Web addresses for further resources:
- http://lingdy.aacore.jp/en/activity/docling/2015.html
- http://www.el-training.org/docling/2015/index.html
  (this site has links to course readings)

Group projects

Practical group projects are an integral part of the workshop. Course participants to work together to practise and to further develop the skills covered in the formal sessions. Project work focuses on exploring language documentation through:

- roles and skills in group work
- planning in relation to documentation contexts and goals
- understanding workflow and documenting decisions
- collaboratively working towards concrete outcomes

Each group will give a public presentation and also prepare and share web pages which describe their methodology and present their documentation resources.

Groups will consist of approx 5 participants. Each group will be assigned to a language consultant. Teaching staff will assist and advise the groups on their work. Each group will be divided into two sub-teams, A and B:

- team A focuses on descriptive/academic outcomes of language documentation, eg.
    1. find out about an interesting linguistic phenomenon in the consultant's language
    2. plan how to document it (skills, methods, activities, outputs)
    3. then document it
    4. then prepare a sharable web resource and a section of the final presentation

- team B focuses on language community benefits of language documentation, eg.
    1. find out about language pedagogy needs, or some verbal art or cultural activity, in their consultant's community
    2. plan how to document it (skills, methods, activities, outputs)
    3. then document it
    4. then prepare a sharable web resource and a section of the final presentation

The teams will work together for some of the group project work activities, and separately on their specific focus. They bring their work together for the final day of the workshop, when each group gives a public presentation about their planning, activities, decisions, outcomes, and problems.

Provisional program for DocLing 2015

	10:00-11:20 **A**	11:40-13:00 **B**	14:00-15:20 **C**	15:40-17:00 **D**
Tue 17 **1**	Introduction to language documentation (PA)	Documenting conversations and other genres (TN, AJ)	Ethics (PA)	Documentation outcomes (DN & AJ)
Wed 18 **2**	Fieldwork techniques & elicitation (SR)	Planning language documentation & group projects (AJ, SR, DN)	-- Group work -- Project planning (groups, staff)	-- Group work -- Report & feedback (groups, staff)
Thur 19 **3**	Audio (DN)	Software for documentation (PA)	*parallel* **a** Audio practical (AJ) / **b** Software practical (SR)	*parallel* **a** Software practical (SR) / **b** Audio practical (AJ)
Fri 20 **4**	Data management (DN)	*parallel* **a** Data practical (PA) / **b** Data practical (DN)	*parallel* **a** Data practical (DN) / **b** Data practical (PA)	-- Group work -- Recording with consultants (groups, staff)
Sat 21 **5**	*choice* **a** Photography for documentation (HS) / **b** Video for documentation (AJ)	*choice* **a** Advanced software (SR)) / **b** Web delivery (DN)	-- Group work -- Project work (groups, staff)	-- Group work -- Project work (groups, staff) Also, individual clinic sessions
Mon 23 **6**	-- Group work -- Project work (groups, staff) Also, individual clinic sessions	-- Group work -- Project finalisation (groups, staff)	Group project presentations (all)	Group project presentations (continued) Wrap-up (all)

NOTES

Participants should attend after 17:00 on the first day (Tues 17) for help with installing and configuring software.

For *parallel* sessions, instructors split the participants into 2 classes

For *choice* sessions, participants choose which session is most suitable for them (but at least 1 from each group should attend Web delivery)

On Saturday 21 there is an Alumni event from 17:10 - 18:40 followed by a party 18:40 - 20:15 at the University Center (fee ~2500JPY)

Tuesday February 17

Introduction to language documentation (PA)

Purpose:

This session introduces the theory and practice of language documentation. Examples of documentation projects will be presented to identify good practices, and areas in need of further attention. Applied language documentation will also be outlined.

Topics include:

- defining language documentation
- language documentation versus description
- kinds and components of documentation projects with examples
- workflows – the role of data management, archiving and dissemination
- metadata and meta-documentation
- applied documentation – putting theory and practice to work to deal with real world issues

Documenting conversations and other genres (TN, AJ)

Purpose:

To show the importance of conversation material for documentation; types of settings and conversations; methods of transcription; methods for prompting, recording and transcribing conversation. We also consider equipment and methods needed for documenting performative genres such as oratory, and process genres such as building and cooking.

Ethics and working with communities (PA)

Purpose:

To introduce the significance and roles of ethical and legal issues in language documentation, and the kinds of relationships that can be established between researchers and communities. Examples and practical advice for project work.

Topics include:

- practical ethics – informed consent, general and specific principles
- codes of practice
- intellectual property – copyright, moral rights, cultural rights
- relations with communities – reflexivity, understanding goals and commitments, collaborative models, lone wolf linguists
- what can go wrong and why

Documentation outcomes (DN, AJ)

Purpose:

To survey genres and examples of outcomes including descriptive material but with emphasis on resources specifically designed for language support and revitalisation, including video and interactive multimedia.

Topics include:

- multimedia and language learning
- topics in materials development
- interfaces and navigation
- video editing and subtitling

Following this session, we will discuss the project groups

Wednesday February 18

Fieldwork techniques & elicitation (SR)

Purpose:

To describe various methods for observing, recording and eliciting various kinds of language events, noting their strengths and weaknesses for different documentation goals and outcomes. Special focus will be on the use of linguistic and non-linguistic stimuli.

Topics include:

- elicitation, narratives, conversation, various kinds of stimuli and experiments
- pros and cons of different methods
- working with children
- examples of what works and what doesn't

Planning language documentation & group projects (AJ, SR, DN)

Purpose:

The first part of this session will give an overview of types of language documentation project, with advice about planning a project.

The second part of the session introduces the group project tasks. Participants will work in groups, with each group allocated to a language consultant. Groups will negotiate, plan, make documentation, and report and present their work to the workshop. Staff will be available to provide advice. See *Group Projects* (above) for further information.

Topics include:

- what to document?
- where to seek funding?
- interdisciplinary research and working in teams
- form groups and start planning projects

Group work

Groups start planning, then in second group work session each group will present a planning report to the class.

Thursday February 19

Audio (DN)

Purpose:

Understanding the goals of audio recording, and how to choose and deploy equipment effectively. To make recordings of good fidelity, quality, effectiveness, and ease of listening/watching.

Topics include:

- acoustic principles
- types of microphones and their uses
- choosing the right equipment for the task
- recording in noisy environments
- deploying audio

Software for documentation – survey (PA, AJ)

Purpose:

The ecology of software tools for language documentation and presentation.

Topics may include:

- how to choose software; strengths and weaknesses
- workflows, moving data and analysis between software
- import and export
- Transcriber
- ELAN
- Flex
- Lexique Pro
- Arbil, WeSay, SayMore

Software practical (SR)

Purpose:

Using ELAN for transcription and more.

Topics include:

- getting started
- managing Linguistic Types and Tiers
- importing data
- transcribing and annotating
- exporting for analysis and mobilisation

Audio practical (AJ)

Purpose:

Gain experience in listening to and evaluating sound, choosing the right equipment and using it correctly.

Topics include:

- listening to microphones
- dealing with noise sources
- spatial audio – mono and stereo
- practical matters – cables, batteries, cases
- working with speakers

Friday February 20

Data management (DN)

Purpose:

To survey the problems, principles, skills, and tools for managing data and files in a documentation corpus, which may consist of hundreds or even thousands of files.

Topics include:

- file naming
- data modelling, creating an inventory/catalogue
- techniques for text manipulation in plain text and office software
- linking information
- metadata
- character encoding
- archiving

Data practical (DN, PA)

Purpose:

To apply and extend the methods discussed in the lecture through practical exercises.

Group work – recording with consultants

Purpose:

Groups to plan recording session, select equipment, record audio documentary material for projects, create metadata, copy to computers. Staff will be available to provide linguistic and technical advice.

Saturday February 21

Photography for documentation (HS)

Purpose:

To show effective ways to use photography in language documentation (and field research in general).

Topics include:

- purposes and roles of photography in documentation
- camera types and their merits/demerits
- tips for shooting photos
- how to manage photos

Video (AJ)

Purpose:

Understanding the goals of video recording, and how to choose and deploy equipment effectively. To make video of good quality and effectiveness.

Topics include:

- video camera basics
- choosing the right equipment for the task
- filming in difficult environments
- editing and subtitling

Saturday Feb 21 (continued)

Advanced software (SR, PA)

Purpose:

This session will consider some of the software previously described, to develop further hands-on expertise. The software to be covered will depend on the skills and goals of the participants.

Group work on projects (groups & staff)

Purpose:

Groups continue to work on their projects. Staff will be available to provide linguistic and technical advice. During this session, individuals can have a booked session (typically 20 mins) with a teaching staff member to discuss their own project.

Evening events
- *Alumni Talks*: 17:10-18:30 Michinori Shimoji et.al. "DocLing and Ryukyuanists", Yuma Ito "A Small Linguist Before and After DocLing"
- *Party*: 18:40-20:15 at the University Center (fee ~2500JPY)

Monday February 23

Group work on projects (groups & staff)

Purpose:

Groups continue to work on their projects. Staff will be available to provide linguistic and technical advice. During this session, individuals can have a booked session (typically 20 mins) with a teaching staff member to discuss their own project.

In the second session, groups finalise their projects and presentations, and submit web pages. Staff will be available to provide linguistic and technical advice.

Group project presentations (all)

Purpose:

Each group presents their methodology, documentation outcomes, and discussion of problems. Feedback, questions and discussion.

Wrap-up (all)

Purpose:

Participant feedback and discussion, course evaluation, group photographs.