

## Language Surveys

**CoLang 2012**, Week Two, June 25-28 (Monday-Thursday)

Period 1: 8:30 – 10:00

Room: Watson 3 West

Session leaders: Keren Rice and Mary Linn

Planning is an essential part of language revitalization. Surveys, sometimes required by funding sources, are a tool for planning. In this workshop, we will discuss questions such as, What can we learn from a survey? How can surveys help in revitalization? What different kinds of surveys are there? What kinds of questions should we ask? Who and how should it be given? What do we do with the results?

The leaders will use Handbook 3: Conducting a Language Survey (from Awakening Our Languages: ILI Handbook Series) as a starting point for classroom discussions. Participants will be asked to work in groups to develop survey questions and give short surveys to each other to practice reading and presenting results. The goal is for participants to leave with a creative toolset for using surveys in their own communities or language programs.

### Day 1: Background

- 1) What is a survey? Why do a survey? What does it take to do a survey? Cover parts 1-2 of ILI Handbook 3: Conducting a Language Survey?
- 2) Discussion of one survey, looking at what the purpose was, how it was set up, nature of questions, etc.
- 3) Group work & Preparation for Day 2: Read over three other surveys and discuss purpose of each, what you like about each, problems they might have encountered etc... Introduction of Part 3 ILI Handbook.

### Day 2: Writing Survey Questions

- 1) Having read surveys, now think about the way of carrying out a survey: Types of surveys, nature of community, nature of questions, who will give and how, etc.
- 2) Group work: Outlining your survey, including purpose, how to administer... Develop potential community survey. Who is the community? What is the purpose? How would it be administered?
- 3) Group work: Begin to develop your questions.

- 4) Preparation for Day 3: Work on your survey questions this evening.

### **Day 3: Giving the Survey**

- 1) Having worked on potential questions, now share your goals, outline and questions with the other groups. What pitfalls may you encounter?
- 2) Practice giving your survey to other participants. What works well? What may need to be changed? Did you find anything unexpected?
- 3) Preparation for Day 4: 'Give' survey to more people if you can. Introduction of Part 4 ILI Handbook.

### **Day 4: Interpreting and Using Results**

- 1) Discussion and exercises in interpreting results: How does context affect the results, how it was asked, who answered, etc...?
- 2) Group work: Compile your practice survey results. How do you start interpreting these results?
- 3) Short participant presentations of pros and cons of surveys they have given.
- 4) Where do we go from here?

### **Some references of interest**

#### ***General references***

Blair, Frank. 1990. *Survey on a shoestring: A manual for smallscale language survey*. Arlington, TX: Summer Institute of Linguistics and the University of Texas at Arlington.

Blum-Martinez, Rebecca, Leanne Hinton, and Christine P. Sims. *A Manual for Community-based Language Revitalization*. Albuquerque, NM: Linguistic Institute for Native Americans, 2001.

Grenoble, Lenore A. and Lindsay J. Whaley. 2006. *Saving languages. An introduction to language revitalization*. Chapter 7.9. Sample survey questions. Pages 198-201. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press.

Hinton, Leanne. 2001. Language planning. In Leanne Hinton and Kenneth Hale (editors). *The green book of language revitalization in practice*. Academic Press. 51-59.

Liberson, Stanley. 1980. Procedures for improving sociolinguistic surveys of language maintenance and language shift. *International Journal of the Sociology of Language* 25(1):11-27.

Otsuka, Yuko and Andrew Wong. 2007. Fostering the growth of budding community initiatives: The role of linguists in Tokelauan maintenance in Hawai'i. *Language Documentation and Conservation* 1.2.

<http://scholarspace.manoa.hawaii.edu/html/10125/1716/otsuka.html>

### ***Stages of language planning.***

<http://www.fphlcc.ca/language/revitalization/language-planning/stages-oflanguage-planning>

### ***Language assessment***

#### ***Resource Network for Linguistic Diversity***

[http://www.rnld.org/assessing\\_vitality](http://www.rnld.org/assessing_vitality)

### ***SIL***

<http://www.sil.org/sociolx/assessment.html>

<http://www.sil.org/sociolx/ndg-lg-vitality.html>

### ***Literacy surveys***

Waters, Glenys. 1998. *Local literacies: Theory and practice*. Dallas: Summer Institute of Linguistics.

### ***Language surveys***

Grimes, Joseph. 1995. *Language survey reference guide*. Dallas: Summer Institute of Linguistics.

### ***Language attitude surveys***

Agheysi, Rebecca and and Joshua A. Fishman. 1970. *Language attitude studies: A brief survey of methodological approaches*. *Anthropological Linguistics* 12/5. 137-157.

Garrett, Paul, Nikolas Coupland, and Angie Williams. 2003. *Investigating language attitudes: Social meanings of dialect, ethnicity and performance*. Cardiff: University of Wales Press.

Giles, Howard, M. Hewstone, E.B. Ryan, and P. Johnson. 1987. *Research on language attitudes*. In Ulrich Ammon, Norbert Dittmas, and Klaus J. Mattheier (editors). *Sociolinguistics: An international handbook of the science of language and society*. Berlin: Walter de Gruyter. 585-597.

### ***Some sample community surveys (available on the website)***

Cherokee Language Survey Interviewer's Guide.

Language Use and Attitude Survey. First Nations languages at Cold Lake First Nation

Umonhon Community Language Survey

Sauk Language Survey and Assessment Project

What is our language status (and what do we want to do with it?) [Yakama language survey]

Kalele project. Tokelau Language Survey.

Samoan language survey.

<http://www.tafesilafai.org/survey.htm>

### ***Informal surveys***

Urbanczyk, Suzanne, Joanne Charlie, Brian Thom, and Edna Thomas. Themes, thoughts, and theories on strategic planning for Hul'qumi'num language revitalization. (<http://home.istar.ca/~bthom/icsnl2002-edited.htm>)

### ***Some other surveys***

UNESCO survey: Linguistic vitality and diversity.

<http://www.unesco.org/culture/ich/index.php?pg=00144>

### ***Language survey reports***

Chapter 4. Current status of the Cherokee language. Ga-du-gi: A vision for working together to preserve the Cherokee language. Report of a needs assessment survey and a ten-year language revitalization plan. 2002. (available on the website)

Pumvyetv, Pum Oponvkv. Seminole Nation ANA Language Assessment Project Final Report. (available on the website)

Dene Kede survey report. (available on the website)

Report on the status of B.C. First Nations languages. 2010.

(<http://www.fphlcc.ca/language/language-report>)

### ***SIL Resources***

#### ***electronic survey reports***

<http://www.sil.org/silesr/>

#### ***SIL language surveys***

[http://www.ethnologue.com/show\\_subject.asp?code=LSV](http://www.ethnologue.com/show_subject.asp?code=LSV)

(Some are available on-line.)