Firebird Foundation for Anthropological Research

TRICL

Training and Resources for Indigenous Community Linguists

Schedule of Events: January 25-29, 2016

Napit Village, Near Pasighat

Arunachal Pradesh

Day Time	Monday, Jan 25	Tuesday, Jan 26	Wednesday, Jan 27	Thursday, Jan 28	Friday, Jan 29
From 7:30	Breakfast	Breakfast	Breakfast	Breakfast	Breakfast
9:00 – 10:20	Introductory session	Phonetics/phonology	Morphosyntax	Lexical elicitation	Granted projects
10:20 – 10:40	Morning tea	Morning tea	Morning tea	Morning tea	Morning tea
10:40 – 12:00	Documenting language and culture	Transcription systems	Text processing	Dictionary preparation	Archiving
12:00 – 1:30	Lunch	Lunch	Lunch	Lunch	Lunch
1:30 – 2:50	Field recording	Field recording	Field practice	Field practice	Show and tell
2:50 – 3:10	Afternoon tea	Afternoon tea	Afternoon tea	Afternoon tea	Afternoon tea
3:10 – 4:30	Field practice	Field practice	Field practice	Field practice	Looking ahead
4:30 – 6:30	Apong	Apong	Apong	Apong	Apong
6:30 – 8:00	Dinner	Dinner	Dinner	Dinner	Dinner

Session Descriptions

Introductory session

In this session, we will introduce TRICL and discuss the work we will do in the week ahead.
Staff members will introduce themselves.
Participants will also be invited to introduce yourselves and tell us a little bit about yourself, your community, your language, and why you are interested in language and culture documentation.

Documenting language and culture

In this session, we will discuss linguistic and cultural documentation. What is it? Why should we do it? Who can do it? Who is it for?
We will also look at some of the differences between "description" (or "analysis") and "documentation".
And we will look at some of the parts of a cultural/linguistic documentation project, and we will discuss the critical importance of "metadata" - information that we take down about the files that we make as part of a documentation project.

Field recording

In this hands-on session, we will learn about making a good field recording, mostly focusing on using the Zoom H1 recorder which will be provided. Some of the topics we will discuss and illustrate:
- choosing a recording site
- handling a recorder
- microphone placement in relation to speakers and surrounds
- operating a digital recorder
- transferring and backing up files
- keeping a recording log

Field practice

The goal of Field practice each day will be to practice the concepts introduced during the morning sessions by making and working with actual field recordings. Participants will be divided into groups of around four people, each group working with one staff member.

Apong

Apong is traditional Adi rice beer. Every day after the final session, there will be an opportunity before dinner to continue working, or to have free interaction, or to ask questions, or to do fieldwork, or to simply relax. Apong will be made available during this time. Of course, it is not required to take apong! This is optional for everyone. However, apong is a traditional part of relaxation after a day's work among the Adi, and our hosts will therefore provide it for us.

Phonetics and phonology

This is our first of two sessions focused on linguistic theory. However, it will not be like a linguistics class in a university. We will discuss some basic concepts about the sound systems of languages, and focus on what is most important to know from the point of view of documenting NEIndian languages. Some of the topics will include

- the International Phonetic Alphabet (IPA) - what it is and how to use it
- what is a phonological system, and how does it work
- deciding on the right symbol to use
- some typical sounds in NEIndian languages
- tones and vowel length

Transcription systems

In this session we will discuss various issues to do with transcription, or writing down a recorded text. We will discuss different options for transcribing (pen and paper or computer-based systems), look at some examples of transcriptions, talk about some techniques, and look at some common mistakes.

Morphosyntax

This is the second of two sessions focused on linguistic theory. Here we will discuss some basic concepts about the structure and organization of words, and some common ways that words are structured and organized in NEIndian languages.

Text processing

This session follows along from the session on transcription systems. Here, we will look at some of the things we can do with a text once we have it transcribed to increase its value. For example, recording a description of the text that explains its meaning, recording a translation of the text in another language, doing a word-for-word translation into another language, and using the text in the construction of dictionaries.

Lexical elicitation

Lexical elicitation is an important part of fieldwork, especially if we want to make a dictionary. But how do we collect all the words? "Wordlists" are a common starting point, but the problem with wordlists is they are not designed for the cultural world of NEIndian languages. In this session, we'll discuss and demonstrate a method of situational, improvised elicitation based on cultural activities.

Dictionary preparation

Many NEIndian communities hope to produce dictionaries of their languages, whether for cultural preservation, use in schools and as a general reference, or both. But writing a dictionary can be a complex process, and there are a number of ways of approaching it. In this session, we will discuss some of the ways

that dictionaries can be produced to serve various needs using various types of resources. We will also discuss some general topics, such as how to structure a dictionary, how to structure an entry, and how to deal with the semantically rich word structures that are found in many NEIndian languages.

Granted projects

This session will introduce aspects of applying for and carrying out granted projects, whether independently or in collaboration with a team. We'll look at some of the funding sources available, discuss how to structure and write an application, and discuss how to fulfil grant obligations. We'll focus primarily on the Firebird Foundation grants for collecting Oral Literature, but we'll also look at some other possible funding sources.

Archiving

In this session, we'll take another look at the role of archives and why we should work with them, and outline a specific process for TRICL participants to interact with TRICL staff and the PARADISEC archive to deposit materials produced during and/or after the workshop.