

## Record Levels of Research Funding for Endangered Languages

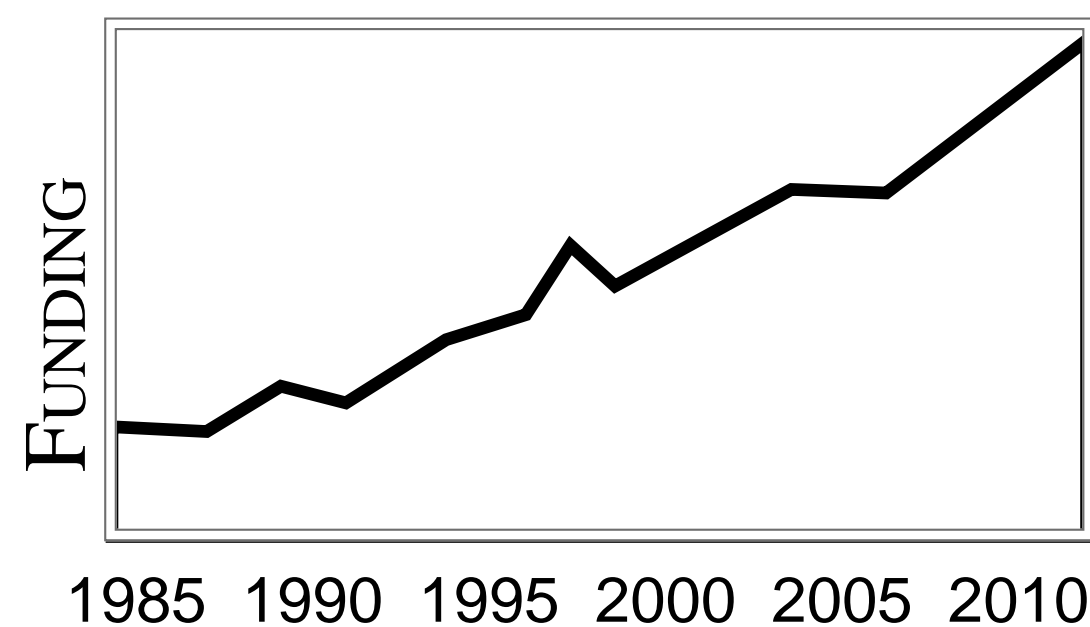
The endangered languages agenda has brought substantial changes to the field of linguistics, with small, minority, and peripheral languages now valued even beyond their bearing on linguistic theory.

Thanks to the use of emotive and moralistic rhetorical strategies, and digital technologies, linguists are now set to save these languages.

Large funding initiatives now support fieldwork, documentation, grammar writing, archiving, and community language development.

The past decade has also seen new degree programs, training courses, publications, and academic positions in endangered languages.

Opportunities to save a language now abound.



### Classifieds

#### HEARTS LOST AND FOUND

Linguist, male, 30s, seeking language consultant aged 70-95, looking for short term exchange, will consider long term relationship.

#### PERFORMANCES

Live at Carnegie Hall –  
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# Endangered Languages – Dying to be Counted

## Linguists Warn of Language Extinction

**EXPERTS: '90% of Earth's languages are vulnerable'**

Most of the world's 6,912 languages will have died out by the end of the century, experts predicted yesterday. Linguists issued fresh warnings about the perilous position of the thousands of languages spoken by adults but increasingly rarely by their children and grandchildren. 'Ninety per cent of languages today are spoken by less than 100,000 people and are very vulnerable,' says linguist Dr Max ... *Continued on Page 84*

## Scientists Discover Smallest Language

Using the latest geo-linguistic statistical techniques and Onto-GIS metadata, Necro-linguistics Institute researchers have located the world's smallest language. The Ugh language (ISO 639-4-zzz) occupies the least space on the earth's surface and therefore has the highest linguo-population density of any tongue. During the coming summer, in fly-in fly-out fieldwork, researchers will investigate structural correlates of this astounding finding.

## New Technology to Explore Language Loss

By Gus Vendredi  
CHRONICLE SCIENCE WRITER

NASA, Microspiel and the Spaghetti Phone Foundation announced today a joint venture to develop new technologies and undertake a daring experiment. Specially prepared high resolution digital recordings of Homer's Iliad translated into 47.6 of the world's most endangered languages will be uploaded to the International Space Station and played into the vacuum of space to investigate the effects of languages being uttered to no listeners at all.

## Editorial

There is a tension between the moral agenda that motivates endangered language work and the way that agenda has been operationalized. Even as a lofty discourse brings endangered languages into focus, linguists' efforts to preserve languages has led to their commodification.

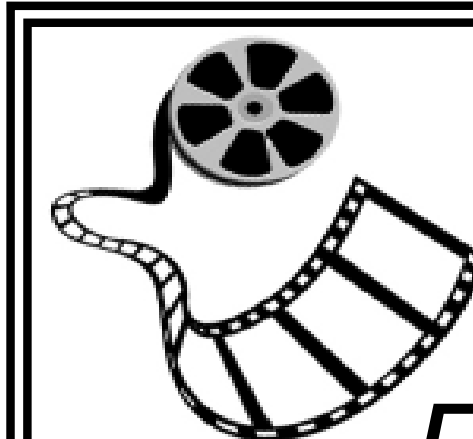
'Degree of endangerment' is assessed using deceptively precise measures like UNESCO's nine-parameter 'endangerment index'. The aims and outcomes of documentary projects are formulated as quantified technical properties of the archive to result, such as recording hours, data volume, and file formats. Linguists' obligations to their field communities are discharged through transacted objects like language primers, CDs, subtitled videos, and official letters of support.

Rather than approaching language endangerment with the technocratic standards of their own culture, linguists should strive to be more responsive to what is distinctive about each language and the particular needs of each speaker community. Only by doing so can documentary linguistic practice be brought into alignment with its moral stance.

## Today's TV

- 10:00 *The Wizard of Ugh* (1939). New print in archive-quality color.
- 12:10 *Cooking with Gus*. Bake delicious eksamel cookies using best practise ingredients.
- 1:00 *Newsdesk* with Prof. Bob Pixel (analogue transmission only).
- 1:01 *The Strange Case of the Ugh*. Detective story, searching for nominal values.
- 3:15 *Mastermind*. Dr Lynne Quist asks tongue-twisting questions and seeks the ultimate prize.
- 4:10 *Crouching Velar, Hidden Nasal*. Foreign, 10% subtitled. Martial articulations.

## CHRONICLE CARTOON



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