Opening up new lines of interaction between researchers and language communities to promote new models of language documentation and archiving.
Endangered languages

Capacity building

It is generally agreed that there are about 7,000 languages spoken across the world today and at least half of these are under threat of extinction. This is mainly because speakers of smaller languages are switching to other larger languages and not passing on their heritage tongues to their children. They do this for perceived economic, social or political advantages, or because they feel ashamed of their ancestral language. The language can thus be lost in one or two generations, often to the great regret of their descendants.

This is a world-wide phenomenon and language loss is found across all continents. The level of language endangerment and loss is highest in countries with long-standing colonial attitudes and approaches to the indigenous languages and communities, such as Australia (where 95% of indigenous languages are moribund or extinct), the United States, Canada and Russia. Increasingly, factors such as globalisation and urbanisation are affecting all regions of the globe.

Since its inception in 2002, the Hans Rausing Endangered Languages Project has focussed on efforts to document as many endangered languages as possible, and to provide support for their speaker communities in a range of ways. The granting arm (ELDP) has sponsored over 230 projects to document languages on every continent. The archive (ELAR) has developed a new system of curation and content delivery which facilitates closer interactions between grantees, language communities and researchers. ELAR has redefined the digital languages archive as a platform for building and conducting ongoing relationships between providers and users of language resources. The academic programme (ELAP) has trained over 80 MA and PhD students and 7 postdoctoral researchers, and organised workshops, summer schools and publications on theoretical and practical topics.

Along with these developments, through various synergistic activities, HRELP has been able to promote a more proactive approach to language documentation and support. Our significant achievements during 2010 are presented in this report. Some of these have involved taking the first steps in community-based capacity building, providing better structures and channels for documentation work of all kinds, as well as developing local resources for community members and linguists. This has taken place both through core activities in London, and importantly also in on site locations in Africa and Asia.

Project members from ELAP, ELAR and ELDP have participated in a range of teaching and training events throughout 2010 on three continents. We have been involved in training with local communities, and have been successful in raising funds to support local language teacher training in West Africa. Through grants and facilitation ELDP has also supported more local language documentation through organising and supporting mentorship and on-site training.

HRELP

The Hans Rausing Endangered Languages Project (HRELP) was established in 2002 with a commitment of £20 million from Arcadia Trust to document as many endangered languages as possible and to encourage the development of relevant skills across the world. It has the following three components:

Endangered Languages Documentation Programme (ELDP)

ELDP was set up to provide approximately £15 million in competitive research grants to encourage the development of linguistic fieldwork in endangered languages (especially by those at an early stage in their careers) and to support documentation of as many threatened languages as possible. The Director of ELDP is Dr Mandana Seyfeddinipur. Professor Peter Sells served as Interim Director from January to July 2010. All grant applications are assessed by a team of linguists to ensure that everything possible is done to record and encourage linguistic, cultural and human diversity.

Endangered Languages Archive (ELAR)

ELAR archives digital materials collected by ELDP grantees and ELAP staff and students, as well as other depositors. It is a prime resource for study and methodology in the field of digital language archiving. David Nathan is Director of ELAR.

Endangered Languages Academic Programme (ELAP)

Aimed at training the next generation of language documenters, ELAP offers researchers an array of opportunities: an MA in Language Documentation and Description, a PhD in Field Linguistics, and postdoctoral fellowships at SOAS. We also offer a comprehensive programme of public lectures, seminars and training courses. Dr Friederike Lupke is Acting Director of ELAP in 2010.

The mission of HRELP is to:

• Provide opportunities for fieldworkers, academics, students, collaborative ventures and international organisations to work together with endangered language communities to ensure that everything possible is done to record and encourage linguistic, cultural and human diversity;

• Train new generations of linguists to document and support endangered languages;

• Award approximately £1 million a year in research grants to high quality projects;

• Set up an innovative, comprehensive endangered languages digital archive as a major international resource for scholars, communities and other interested people;

• Welcome all those able to donate time, money or expertise to help build on the solid base HRELP has established.
Activities throughout the year

This annual report covers the period January 2010 to December 2010 for the ELAP, ELAR and ELPD programmes.

Students

ELAP had its seventh year of operation and enrolled 11 new MA Language Documentation and Description students in September 2010. The programme also enrolled 4 new PhD students. Of the continuing students, Lamoon Souag completed his PhD studies in 2010. His thesis was based on the effects of contact on the morphosyntax of two languages of the Sahara, Korandje and Siwi. Lameen Souag is the eighth PhD student to graduate from ELAP.

Visitors

Dr Malin Petzell, Gothenburg University, was a visitor from 1 July 2008 - 30 June 2010 and was sponsored by the Swedish Research Council. Her principal research interests were: language description (documentation and analysis), Bantu languages, nominal and verbal morphology, syntax, language endangerment, field methods, and typology.

Professor Tania Kuteva, Dusseldorf University, is a Feodor Lynen Visiting Professor supported by the Alexander von Humboldt Foundation from 1 October 2009 – 1 June 2010 and from 1 October 2010 to 1 April 2011. Her main interests include grammatical typology, grammaticalization, morphosyntax and theory of language. Her current research project entitled ‘Complex grammatical categories and the evolution of grammar’ is concerned with grammatical categories (such as the avertive) which are semantically more elaborate than the categories traditionally described in mainstream typological literature.

Prof John Haiman, Macalister College, St. Paul, USA, is visiting from 1 October 2010 to 1 February 2011.

Prof William Foley, University of Sydney, Australia, visited in November 2010 and held a seminar in the department entitled ‘Direct versus Inverse in Languages of the Lower Sepik Family, Papua New Guinea’.

We took Herbie Nichols, a retired fisherman with encyclopaedic knowledge of anything to do with the sea, to see Lloyd Robilliard, who collects old objects and is building a museum. Here Lloyd is asking Herbie what some items were used for. Alice Mitchell holds the microphone.

Guernsey Field Trip 2010

In order to give MA students first-hand experience of linguistic fieldwork on an endangered language and to offer them opportunities to contribute both to language documentation research and language revitalisation efforts, Julia Sallabank organised the second Guernsey Field Trip in April 2010. This event was partially sponsored by ELAP and one student was also funded by the Foundation for Endangered Languages. The seven students attending this year were: Alice Mitchell, Henrietta Matz, Yun-Hsin Chang, Elwira Sobkowiak and Sim Tze Wei, and Katherine Crawley.

Students were asked to think of ways to get consultants to use particular parts of language (e.g. imperatives, colour adjectives) and tried them out with consultants, who were usually very tolerant of their strange requests! It was interesting to look at which techniques worked and which did not: e.g. eliciting vocabulary lists proved difficult with semi-speakers of a Low language variety in a diglossic relationship, as they tended to revert to the ‘High’ variety as ‘correct’.

Students recorded their experiences in a blog, which can be viewed at http://guernseyfieldtrip.posterous.com/ and they were interviewed on local media in Guernsey.

Yun-Hsin uploading the recordings onto her computer and renaming the files.

We ask Herbie Nichols, a retired fisherman with encyclopaedic knowledge of anything to do with the sea, to see Lloyd Robilliard, who collects old objects and is building a museum. Here Lloyd is asking Herbie what some items were used for. Alice Mitchell holds the microphone.
For the first half of 2010 Professor Peter Sells continued as Interim Director. A new Administrator, Jean McGarry, was appointed and began working for ELDP in January. During the first half of the year, the application forms were fine-tuned further in light of the November 2009 panel meeting. In May 2010 Dr. Mandana Seyfeddinipur, took up the new post of Director.

Since then, the new team has been reviewing and revising all procedures, including developing an online application system, which will be ready for the 2011 grant round. At the panel meeting in June, ELDP presented its plans for the future, which included an audit of all grants which have been awarded to date in terms of their reports and archive deposits, to assess the impact of the programme and to help with strategic planning for the future. By measuring outcomes so far, ELDP is keen to develop an effective and pro-active approach to its programme.

The 2010 grant cycle attracted over 100 applications; 30 grants were awarded amounting to a total of £1,277,246. Of these, 6 were for Major Documentation Projects, 3 were for Individual Postdoctoral Fellowships, 10 were for Individual Graduate Scholarships and the remaining 11 for Small Grants. Among successful applications were proposals from Africa and Asia; this reflects ELDP’s intention to broaden its grant awarding capacity to institutions and areas which have received less support.

ELDP has introduced a mentoring scheme into its programme to support awardees in areas where the disciplines and practice of language documentation are less developed. ELDP also held two training workshops in London in 2010, one in March for 15 ELDP grantees and one in September for 14 ELDP grantees. In addition, ELDP funded a second Summer School in Ghana organized by Felix Ameka (page 12).

### Endangered Languages Documentation Programme (ELDP)

#### ELDP grants awarded 2010

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Principal Investigator</th>
<th>Host Institution</th>
<th>Funding</th>
<th>Project Language</th>
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<td>The College of William and Mary</td>
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Linguistic and cultural documentation of Sadu

Xiangming Xu and Bibo Bai describe their ELDP-funded project on the documentation of Sadu in south-western China

Sadu is an endangered and undocumented language spoken in three small hamlets with a population of about 1500 speakers in the province Yunnan in south-western China. Sadu belongs to the Tibeto-Burman branch of the Sino-Tibetan language family. It is surrounded by Yi, Han, Hani and Hui as well as other minority nationalities, but it is not intelligible to the neighbouring speakers of Bai and Yi. The language is highly endangered as the current use of Sadu is declining alarmingly. Most of the Sadu adults encourage their children to speak Yunnan Chinese or Mandarin to enable wider communication at school and in the surrounding communities. A pilot study has shown that to date Sadu is now only spoken among adults.

The research team includes a native speaker of Sadu and a speaker of Bai, which gives the team a unique opportunity to gather important materials and to come to a deeper understanding of the relationships between the languages. The team has already conducted pilot studies in the villages of Jiaoyuan, Dashuitang and Xincun. During the course of the project a work station will be set up in the village of Jiaoyuan. The research team will be living with the Sadu community and will take part in farming and house building activities, as well as in traditional festivals and rituals such as wedding and funeral ceremonies. Part of the documentation effort is dedicated to the unique folk love songs sung by adults and to the folk stories, which are performed by elders during ritual ceremonies and evening gatherings. In addition the team will produce CDs of these traditional songs and tales for the Sadu community.

To date there has been almost no research on the Sadu ethnic group. The team has gathered some information on the historical background of the community from oral narratives by the elders in the villages. This information will be put together combining historical, linguistic, geographical and cultural information about the ethnic group. In addition, the project will produce a trilingual dictionary (Sadu/Chinese/English), a grammatical description, and create an orthography for literacy development.

Grant applications are assessed by an international panel of experts. Andrew Spencer, Professor of Linguistics in the Department of Language and Linguistics of the University of Essex, acted as Independent Chair for the Panel meeting in 2010.

Full details of the panel members can be found on the website at www.hrelp.org/aboutus/staff/panel/.

ELDP Panel Membership

Felix K. Ameke, Leiden University

Felix K. Ameke teaches in the Department of African Languages and Cultures of Leiden University and Leiden University Centre for Linguistics (LUCL), and is also an Associate Researcher of the Language and Cognition Group at the Max Planck Institute for Psycholinguistics, Nijmegen.

I Wayan Arka, The Australian National University

I Wayan Arka is a Fellow in Linguistics at the Research School of Pacific and Asian Studies at The Australian National University.

Lenore Grenoble, University of Chicago

Lenore Grenoble is the Carl Darling Buck Professor at the University of Chicago where she holds appointments in the Department of Linguistics and the Department of Slavic Languages and Literatures.

Susan D. Penfield, University of Arizona

Susan Penfield is Professor at the University of Arizona and currently seconded to the National Science Foundation as Programme Officer for the Documenting Endangered Languages Project.

Anju Saxena, Uppsala University

Anju Saxena is Professor of Linguistics at Uppsala University, Sweden.

Roberto Zavala-Maldonado, Ciesas-Sureste

Roberto Zavala is Associate Professor at CIESAS-Sureste, a Mexican interdisciplinary research centre for Social Sciences, located in San Cristobal de las Casas, Chiapas.

William McGregor, University of Aarhus

William McGregor is a Professor of Linguistics at the University of Aarhus, Denmark.

Ex-officio members

Friederike Lüpke, SOAS

Friederike Lüpke, Acting Director, ELAP and Lecturer in Language Documentation and Description at the School of Oriental and African Studies. See under ELAP Staff (p24).

David Nathan, SOAS

Director, Endangered Languages Archive, School of Oriental and African Studies. See under ELAP staff (p28).

ELDP Staff

Peter Sells, SOAS

Interim Director, Endangered Languages Documentation Programme, School of Oriental and African Studies. Peter Sells, is Professor of Linguistics in the Department of Linguistics at SOAS.

Mandana Seyfeddinipur, SOAS

Mandana Seyfeddinipur, Director, ELDP and a Senior Research Associate in the Department of Linguistics at SOAS. Her research interests include the psychology of language, pragmatics, language use, and multimodality with a focus on gesture.

Jean McGarry, SOAS

Jean McGarry, is the administrator for ELDP; she studied Linguistics as part of her first degree and previously worked as the Scholarships Programme Manager at Canon Collins Trust.

Dexiang Li, Benqin Li, Bibo Bai, Zhongfu Li (left to right); Zhongfu Li is telling his family genealogy.
Innovation at the Endangered Languages Archive (ELAR)

ELAR’s new online system was released this year, representing the culmination of several years’ development of policy, workflow and software. We have conceived the archive as a platform for creating and conducting relationships between the archive’s various users. ELAR is the first language archive to use Web 2.0 principles to reliably and transparently implement data access within a carefully designed set of conditions, including negotiation between data depositors and data users. We developed this system not merely to keep pace with the latest web trends, but because the characteristics of Web 2.0 systems (also known as social networking systems) correspond closely to the needs of our discipline and its main clients—language documenters and the users of their deposited materials.

The circumstances under which endangered languages are documented mean that many documentation materials are of an inherently sensitive nature. ELAR’s system balances protocols for respecting such sensitivities with a preference for open access to publicly funded research. Our own research has indicated that careful formulation and implementation of access control is a key ingredient in the development of trust amongst language speakers, documenters, archivists and users, and that trust is the foundation on which we can ultimately maximise the quality, amount, and accessibility of deposited language materials.

The Kayardild deposit’s Home page (see opposite, top) shows our user-friendly interface.

ELAR’s new system makes extensive use of interactive maps.

In the Resources view of the Ratahan deposit (see above), all but one of the resources are on open access to all registered users, while the participants’ names have been anonymised on request. Here, the user has requested all resource bundles that include video. The centre panel offers access to the bundles’ audio, video, transcription, and other resources. ELAR’s innovative system also provides facilities for depositors to create and edit their own deposit pages, for users to apply directly to depositors for access to protected materials, and for users to contribute comments and information. Our system has built up a user base of several hundred people, we have received considerable positive feedback, and a number of other projects are currently considering implementing systems built on ELAR’s framework.

Navigational aids appear in the left panel, with links providing immediate access to resources according to their access protocol. In this deposit 205 items can be accessed by researchers and community members; 74 can be accessed only by subscription (requiring request to the depositor); see the box above showing the set of protocol values. Below other categories are participants’ names, providing easier access for community members. The centre panel summarises the deposit, while the right panel provides contextual information, including a comparison of the present user’s access rights to that prevailing in this deposit.

Ed Garrett demonstrates playing a deposited video file through the new archive interface to Peter Sells at its launch on 30 June.
Hans Rausing Endangered Languages Project (HRELP) Annual Report

4th picture (bottom): Issouf Diarrassouba
2nd picture l-r: Mr. Teiko, Mr. George Bondzie
1st picture: Participants and teachers at the University of Education, Winneba.

Africa. It also enabled the formation of an international organizers important insights into the particular challenges two Summer Schools have given the HRELP team and the research project on endangered languages. The School concluded with group presentations of the results University for verification of the collected materials. The market women and then with Effutu speakers at the There, they worked with Effutu-speaking fishermen and

Participants also improved their skills in documentary techniques, through group projects in which they conducted multiple data elicitation sessions on the beach in Winneba. There, they worked with Efutu-speaking fishermen and market women and then with Efutu speakers, at the University for verification of the collected materials. The School concluded with group presentations of the results of their research and documentation projects. The close collaboration and discussions between staff and participants over the course of two schools in the two Summer Schools have given the HRELP team and the organizers important insights into the particular challenges and opportunities in the documentation situation in West Africa. It also enabled the formation of an international network of scholars.

In Cote d’Ivoire two sign languages are in use. American Sign Language (ASL) is used in deaf education and by deaf people with no formal schooling and Effutu speakers at the University of Education, Winneba, Ghana. It also enabled the formation of an interdisciplinary aspect of the project hopes to contribute to the development of methodologies for establishing language and dialect borders in and between sign languages.

Participants also improved their skills in documentary techniques, through group projects in which they conducted multiple data elicitation sessions on the beach in Winneba. There, they worked with Efutu-speaking fishermen and market women and then with Efutu speakers, at the University for verification of the collected materials. The School concluded with group presentations of the results of their research and documentation projects. The close collaboration and discussions between staff and participants over the course of two schools in the two Summer Schools have given the HRELP team and the organizers important insights into the particular challenges and opportunities in the documentation situation in West Africa. It also enabled the formation of an international network of scholars.

2nd Summer School on Documentary Linguistics, Ghana

In 2008 HRELP supported the initiative by Felix Ameka (ELDP panel member and Professor of Linguistics at the University of Leiden) to contribute to the documentation of endangered languages in Africa through capacity building with two biannual Summer Schools in documentary linguistics in West Africa. The first Summer School on Documentary Linguistics took place in Winneba, Ghana in 2008 and was a great success. The School effectively built local capacity in various West African countries. Many of the participants of the 2008 School conducted courses and classes in documentary linguistics back at their home institutions and continued their documentary work. Two participants received grants from ELDP in 2009, and two other participants received funding from other sources to continue their documentary work.

The second Summer School on Documentary Linguistics was hosted by the University of Education, Winneba, Ghana, from 18 July to 1 August 2010. The School picked up momentum in providing training at an intermediate level for the participants of the first School with the strongest track records. There were 15 participants, from the Ivory Coast, Cameroon, Senegal, Benin, Ghana, and Nigeria. HRELP was again centrally involved in the event. ELDP funded the School, and current and former HRELP staff/ students Sophie Salffner, Serge Sagna, Sam Abtinton, Mandana Seyfeddinipur and David Nathan contributed to teaching. David Nathan and Sophie Salffner also made arrangements and provisions for all of the equipment used during the School. In addition, James Esseybe (University of Florida) and Bruce Connell (University of York, Toronto) taught during the week 2 event.

The second School was geared towards advancing the theoretical basis of documentary work and improving practical documentary skills. A broad syllabus containing sessions from lexicography and semantics to hands on video and audio recording sessions provided the participants with invaluable training. Participants also trained in one-on-one sessions on particular issues related to their specific research project on endangered languages. The School provided a forum for discussion of individuals’ projects and also provided advisory sessions on how to apply for funding.

The marginalization of the local Ivorian Sign Language is partly the result of a lack of information end users about the language. Most people are not aware that the signs used by deaf people constitute a language, Documentary work is critical for establishing the local sign language, and is not adequate for use in education.

There has been no linguistic study of local Ivorian signs so far. Appraisers study in this two different towns has shown that there are similarities as well as differences between the signing in the villages. At this point it is hard to estimate whether the degree of lexical and structural variation is distinguishing dialects or separate languages.

With a team of deaf research assistants this project will document

Ivorian Sign Language (an ELDP project grant)

Documentation Programmes in West Africa

Dr Sophie Salffner, a recent graduate in the PhD in Field Linguistics, was granted a £20,000 award from the British Council together with Dr Ingrid Udoh (University of Uyo, Nigeria) and Dr Francis Djebade (Adekunle Kajins University, Akungba, Nigeria). The funding was awarded under the PMG Connect and Collaborative Programme. Documentation Project - Review and development of the teaching of Language Documentation and Description at SOAS, the University of Uyo and Adekunle Ajasin University, Akungba, and to further the development of Language Documentation and Description as a framework and field of research. The University of Uyo offers an MA in Computational Language Documentation, which will be revised, evaluated and developed based on the outcome of the project. Recommendations will also be made in light of new developments in Language Documentation and Description. The renewed interest in anthropological linguistics and interdisciplinary aspects of the field in addition, the project aims to develop an optional module on Language Documentation and Description for the MA Linguistics programme at Akungba University.

For all three universities, the project members will develop a module on Anthropological Linguistics and the Ethnography of Speech. The project also hopes to feed experience from Language Documentation and Description in the West African context into the field of research so

Dr Sophie Salffner, a recent graduate in the PhD in Field Linguistics, was granted an award from the British Council that this region is better represented in the discipline. As part of the project, two members of staff from each Nigerian partner university will visit SOAS for a month, and Sophie Salffner will take part in a joint workshop in Nigeria.

Grant for developing African language teacher training

Friederike Liipke, Julia Sallabank, Ishek Sachdev and Noriko lwasaki, all staff in the Linguistics department at SOAS, received £15,000 from the SOAS Knowledge Transfer Fund to conduct a survey of the needs of African language teachers in several West African countries and to develop a training package for teacher trainers. The project involves partnership with the African Academy of Languages (ACALAN), and will be piloted with teacher trainers for the West African
Endangered Languages Documentation Programme
Research Projects Awarded 2010
**Endangered Languages Week 2010**

This year’s Endangered Languages Week (ELW) took place from 22-27 February 2010. Our aim was to highlight the issues of endangered languages and language documentation, with the 2010 theme being Sustainability. Can the world’s languages be sustained, and if so, which ones, and how? And can the now-vigorous activities in documenting and supporting languages continue long enough to make a difference?

This year’s ELW included the following activities:

**Annual Public Lecture** Professor Lenore Grenoble (University of Chicago) presented a lecture on ‘Switch or Shift: Code-Mixing, Contact-Induced Change and Attrition’.

**Open Day** In addition to HRELP staff and students we invited a wide variety of presenters to come to SOAS to participate in this event. These included: The Deadness Cognition And Language (DGAL) research centre, the British Library (Endangered Languages Archive), the Foundation for Endangered Languages (FEL), the Subject Centre for Languages, Linguistics and Area Studies (LLAS), the World Oral Literature Project (WOLP), Surrey Morphology Group, Manchester University linguistics department.

The Open Day included displays, demonstrations, software, posters and a selection of books donated by publishers: Cambridge University Press, Oxford University Press and Multi Lingual Press, Oxford University Press and Multi Lingual.

**Meet a Fieldworker** This event enabled staff and students at SOAS as well as members of the general public to come face-to-face with the researchers in HRELP who discuss and share their work and experiences in the field.

**Meet an Endangered Language** This series of talks involved a series of brief introductions to the language, culture and people of a number of endangered language groups. In 2010 the following languages were featured:

**Talyshi by Gerardo De Caro** Gerardo works with Talyshi, an Iranian language spoken in northern Iran near the Caspian Sea and the border with Azerbaijan. The language shows massive dialect variation and is under pressure from Persian. In this presentation Gerardo discussed the language situation, and presented an overview of Talyshi culture and language use.

**Kwarandzyey by Lameen Souag** Kwarandzyey is a Songhay language spoken in the oasis of Tabelbala in southwestern Algeria near the Moroccan border. Lameen discussed Kwarandzyey and what it can tell us about Saharan history. He explained why, over the past few decades, the people of Tabelbala have stopped speaking Kwarandzyey to their children, and demonstrated some common phrases in the language.

**Kubokota by Mary Chambers** Kubokota is spoken on the northern half of Ranongga Island in the Solomon Islands, by 2500 people. Children in the Kubokota community still learn Kubokota as their first language, but when they reach school age, they are taught in Solomon Islands Pijin and English. Mary’s work on providing Kubokota literacy materials for a vernacular kindergarten has not only enabled children to acquire literacy skills in Kubokota, but is also helpful when they learn to read and write in English. Mary discussed language maintenance efforts, and taught attendees some basic Kubokota words and phrases.

**Manx by Adrian Cain** Adrian Cain is Language Development Officer on the Isle of Man and introduced his audience to Manx Gaelic, one of six Celtic languages, the others being Irish, Scots Gaelic, Welsh, Breton and Cornish. As a result of well-organised community-based initiatives over the past few years coupled with targeted Manx Government support the language has seen an upsurge: Manx is now available in schools, there is a network of playgroups and nurseries for pre-school children, and at the Bunscoill Ghethag primary school 65 children learn all of their school curriculum through Manx Gaelic. There are also a growing number of classes for adults. Manx is a very visible marker of Manx identity in the Island: not bad for a language recently described by UNESCO as “extinct”.

**Workshop** A one-day workshop on ‘Endangered Languages, Endangered Knowledge and Sustainability’ was held to discuss a range of topics on the general themes of endangerment and sustainability, including:

- in what ways communities can sustain languages and linguistic ecologies
- links between language maintenance and sustainable human development
- preservation of traditional knowledge and indigenous paradigms of teaching, learning, and research
- making the outcomes of our research sustainable and
- whether sustaining languages and knowledge is something that researchers can contribute to, or is solely the responsibility of communities and speakers.

The seven presentations at the workshop:

- ‘On Thin Ice: Language, Culture and Environment in the Arctic’ Lenore Grenoble (University of Chicago)
- ‘Sustaining the Fieldworker’ Friederike Lupke (SOAS)
- ‘Linking Biodiversity and Language Loss in Africa: Toward a holistic framework for community-based conservation in Uganda’ Muhumza Moses and Annette Isle (Mountains of the Moon University, Uganda)
- ‘Language Identity Change and the Loss of Linguistic Diversity in the North Caucasus’ Liudmila Pravikova (Pyatigorsk State University, Russia)
- ‘It’s about time: skills and sustainability in endangered language fieldwork and documentation’ David Nathan (SOAS)
- ‘Building Language Habitats: connecting Language Planning and Land Planning for Sustainable Future’ Christine Schreyer (UBC Okanagan)
- ‘Social Change and Language Revitalization in the Isle of Man’ Gary Wilson (University of Northern British Columbia)
Endangered Languages
Academic Programme (ELAP)

ELAP is in its seventh year of operation and enrolled 11 MA Language Documentation and Description students in September 2010. The new students came from a mixture of backgrounds. Some had previously completed BA degrees in linguistics, languages, and translation, while some came from teaching backgrounds and others had worked in industry.

One of our PhD students, Lameen Souag, completed his studies in 2010. Lameen’s thesis describes the ‘Grammatical Contact in the Sahara: Arabic, Berber, and Songhay in Tabelbala and Siwa’. Kwarandzyey, the language of Kwarandzyey, and uncovers the first detailed description of paradigmatic sets of words or phrases containing them. In 2009 plus additional papers on practical advice on applying for research grants and the role of audio in linguistics and language documentation.

Rachel Watson completed her MA in Language Documentation and Description in 2010 and has received AHRC funding for her PhD. She will be working on Mlomp, a Diola language spoken in southern Senegal, focusing on aspects of nominal and verbal derivational morphology.

Tracey Caro Noya is working on Chamacoco, a Zamucoan language spoken in the Paraguayan Chaco. The Chamacoco are known for their rich and complex system of mythological and cultural representations, shaping their identity and social organisation. Their language, however, remains underdescribed. Tracey will research aspects of the verbal morphosyntax of Chamacoco.

Yun-Hsin Chang also completed her MA in Language Documentation and Description in 2010 and starts her PhD this year working on an undocumented Nigerian language.

Nana Ama Agyeeman holds an ELOP scholarship and will be working on Complex Predication in Effulu, spoken on the coast in southern Ghana.

Tom Owen-Smith is a former ELAP MA student and holds an ELOP scholarship and will be researching Tamang, a Tibeto-Burman language spoken predominantly in the central hills of Nepal. He plans to investigate aspects of geographical variation within Tamang, which is spoken over a large and sparsely populated upland area. His research will extend to the role of the language as a vehicle of traditional knowledge relating to agriculture, animal husbandry, ethnobotany, economy and livelihood in an alpine environment.

Volume 7 of Language Documentation and Description (LDD) was published in spring 2010, and is a special issue containing lectures on topics in language documentation and description from the 3L Summer School held at SOAS in 2009 plus additional papers on practical advice on applying for research grants and the role of audio in linguistics and language documentation.

Other Activities
The Department of Linguistics and ELAP ran a series of seminars throughout the period covered by this report, which were coordinated by Julia Sallabank. They included the following presentations dealing with issues related to endangered languages:

9 February ‘The role of the individual in a multi-level approach to code switching’ Penelope Gardner-Chloros (Birkbeck)
23 February ‘ELAR online: negotiating access to endangered language materials’ Edward Garrett (ELAR, SOAS)
2 March ‘Phonology-morphology domain (mis)matches in Huave (Mexico)’ Yuni Kim (Manchester)
9 March ‘Long-distance dependencies and the syntax-prosody interface’ Louise Mycock (Somerville College, Oxford)
16 March ‘Nouns as adjectives and adjectives as nouns’ Irina Nikolaeva (SOAS) & Andrew Spencer (Essex)
11 May ‘Semantic Universals’ Emmon Bach (SOAS)
1 June ‘Developing bilingual pedagogies to support the learning of community languages’ Chaiman Kenner (Goldsmiths)
8 June ‘The Digital Museum Project for the Documentation of Endangered Languages: The Case of Ikema Ryukyu’ Yukinori Takubo and Tamaki Motoki (Kyoto University)
22 June ‘When an Endangered Language Goes Global: the Case of Chimwiini’ Brent Henderson (University of Florida)
19 October ‘The spread of urban vernaculars and their impact upon African language policies’ Mark Gibson (SIL/Africa International University, Kenya)
26 October ‘Prosodic encoding of some information structure and sentence type phenomena in Jaminjung, a language of Northern Australia’ Candide Simard (Manchester and SOAS)
4 November ‘Direct versus inverse in Languages of the Lower Sepik Family, Papua New Guinea’ Bill Foley (University of Sydney)
16 November ‘How do words change their meanings (in Khmer)?’ John Haiman (Macalister college, St. Paul, USA)
7 December ‘The discursive system of Ciqip’ Stuart McGill (SOAS)
14 December ‘Information structuring in Finno-Ugric, from oral to written languages’ Jocelyne Fernandez-West (C.N.R.S. - Universités Paris 3 and Paris 4)

Guernsey Trip 2010
Julia Sallabank and a group of 7 MA students participated in a two-week fieldtrip to Guernsey documenting Ogeneresiais (see page 5).

Workshop: Endangered Languages, Endangered Knowledge & Sustainability 2010
A one day workshop organised by ELAP on Saturday 27 February. The keynote speaker was Lemore Grenoble, University of Chicago (see page 17).
component of the project’ 13th Congress of the Pan African Association of Archaeology (PANAAA) & 20th Meeting of the Society of Africanist Archaeologists (SAFN), Dakar, Senegal, 1-6 November 2010.


Stuart McGill


‘Determiners and third-person agreement in Cicipu: remnant or innovation?’ Workshop on loss and gain in grammar, with a special focus on Jukunoid and its close relatives, Cologne, 25 October 2010.

Julia Sallabank


12th International Conference on Language and Social Psychology (ICLASP), panel by Task Force on attitudes towards endangered languages Brisbane, Australia, 16-19 June 2010.


‘La standardisation de l’orthographe à Guernesey par contraste à la polynomie.’ Invited guest lecture, Centre de Recherche sur la Diversité Linguistique et Littéraire de la Francophonie, University of Rennes 2, France. 12 February 2010.


‘What are the aims of language revitalization? A critical review of the situation in Guernsey (Channel Islands)’. Foundation for Endangered Languages annual conference, University of Wales, Trinity Saint David, Carmarthen, Wales. 13-15 September, 2010.

‘Ideological clarification and ‘joined-up thinking’: language planning on small islands around the British Isles’. Sociolinguistics Symposium 18, Southampton, 1-4 September 2010.

‘Standardisation, prescription and polynomy: can Guernsey follow the Corsican model?’ Association for French Language Studies, Cambridge, 1-3 September 2010.


Staff awards

Peter K. Austin

Visiting Professor, Research Centre for Linguistic Typology, La Trobe University, Australia, 1 March to 15 June 2010.

Humboldt Research award, Frankfurt University Germany, 1 October to 31 December 2010.

Friederike Lüpke

DoBeS (Dokumentation Bedrohter Sprachen) programme (Volkswagenstiftung): Documentation project ‘Pots, plants and people: a documentation of Bainouk knowledge systems’. Primary investigator; co-applicants: Dr. Moustapha Sall and Dr. Mathieu Gueye, Université Cheikh Anta Diop Dakar, Senegal.

Research assistant: Alexander Cobbina, SOAS. Award: €246,500, October 2010-September 2013.

Julia Sallabank

ELDP small grant for Indigenous Language Documentation in Guernsey, Channel Islands (with Jan Marquis) Award: £10,000. Awarded a British Academy travel grant to present conference papers at ICLASP 12 in Brisbane and ICA 2010 in Singapore.

Friederike Lüpke, Julia Sallabank, Itesh Sachdev and Noriko Iwasaki received £15,000 from the SOAS Knowledge Transfer Fund to conduct a survey of the needs of African language teachers in a number of West African countries and develop a training package for teacher trainers in partnership with the African Academy of Languages (ACALAN). It will be piloted with teacher trainers for the West African vehicular cross-border languages Hausa, Manding and Fullulde.

Deutsche Forschungsgemeinschaft (DFG): Funding for the Workshop West Africa as an area of language contact at the Académie du Point Sud (Bamako, Mali). Co-applicant: Dr. Itesh Sachdev, Humboldt-Universität Berlin. Award: €577,000. February 2010.

SOAS faculty seedcorn grant for the preparation of a proposal for an European research Network on ‘WACA – West Africa as a contact area’ (submission pending the fusion and reorganisation of ESF with EURHORCS). Award: £2,000. February 2010.

Agence Nationale de Recherche (ANR), (Frankreich): European partner for the project Sénélanguages (Documentation and description of Senegalese languages). Project coordinator: Dr. Stéphane Robert, CNRS LLACAN, Paris, France. Within the project responsible for the documentation angle and the languages Jalonke and Bainouk Gunyaxalmo. Total award: €382,000; allocated amount: ca. €10,000. September 2009-August 2013.

DoBeS programme (Volkswagenstiftung): Pilot funding for the development of a major documentation project on Bainouk. Primary investigator: co-applicants: Dr. Moustapha Sall and Dr. Mathieu Gueye, Université Cheikh Anta Diop Dakar, Senegal.

Itesh Sachdev

Received £10,000. February 2010.

Julie Sallabank

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Materials received by ELAR 2010

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Depositor</th>
<th>ELDP grants</th>
<th>Project Language(s)</th>
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<tr>
<td>Linda Barwick</td>
<td>MDP0139</td>
<td>Western Anhem Land</td>
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<td>Tucker Childs</td>
<td>MDP</td>
<td>Krim and Bom</td>
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<td>Connie Dickinson</td>
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<td>Elena Indjawa</td>
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<td>Carina Jhanji</td>
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<td>Jinliang Li</td>
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<td>Hunter Luckwood</td>
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<td>Felicity Mekins</td>
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<td>Garindi Kriol</td>
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<td>Tam Nguyen</td>
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<td>Malin Petozell</td>
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<td>Glauber Romling da Silva</td>
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<td>Shengkai Zhang</td>
<td>Independent</td>
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The Endangered Languages Archive provides digital archiving and associated services for ELDP grantees, ELAP staff and students, and others working with endangered languages.

We aim to provide:

- Security - keep electronic endangered language materials safe
- Preservation - store electronic endangered language materials for the long term
- Discovery - help the wider world to find out about materials
- Protocol - respect and implement sensitivities and restrictions
- Sharing - provide access to materials, where appropriate
- Acknowledgement - create citable acknowledgment of research
- Mobilisation - help to create usable language materials for communities
- Quality and standards - give advice for creating materials of high quality and robust standards

We also offer auxiliary services including:

- Training
- Facilities for digitising media and documents
- Practical resource development (on a project by project basis)

Candide Simard
Candide is Senior Teaching Fellow in Language Documentation and Description. Her research interests are prosody of Jaminjung, an Australian Aboriginal language, and the role of prosody in language documentation.

Support staff
Alison Kelly
Alison is the Administrator for the Endangered Languages Academic Programme. Her main responsibilities include: dealing with enquiries from students and the general public, producing course handbooks and other materials, editing the HRELP website, minutes meetings, assisting with the ELAP budget and providing administrative support to the Acting Director.

Dr. Friederike Lüpke
Friederike Lüpke is Lecturer in Language Documentation and Description and Acting Director of the Endangered Languages Academic Programme. Her research interests are argument structure and the syntax-semantics interface, Mande linguistics, contact phenomena between Mande and Atlantic languages, theory in description and documentation, and the role of Arabic-based scripts for writing African languages.

Dr. Stuart McGill
Stuart McGill is a post-doctoral fellow in endangered languages. His research project, ‘NegTyp’, aims to contribute to a broader understanding of the properties of negation in language by capturing the properties of negation in the documentation of their morphosyntactic/ prosodic realisation and the formal/semantic-pragmatic distinctions encoded.

Professor Tania Kuteva
Tania Kuteva is Professor of English Linguistics at the Heinrich-Heine-University of Duesseldorf, Germany and Fedor-Lynen Visiting Professor (funded by Alexander von Humboldt Foundation) between October 2009 and March 2012. She works on grammaticalization, language contact, grammatical typology, and language evolution.

Dr. Julia Sallabank
Julia Sallabank is Lecturer in Language Support and Revitalisation. Her research interests are primarily sociolinguistic, focussing on language revitalisation, motivating young generations, Guernesiais, literacy practices in endangered languages, and their implications for language policy, materials and other literature.

Academic staff
For full staff profiles please visit the website www.hrelp.org/aboutus/staff

Professor Peter K. Austin
Peter Austin is Marit Rausing Chair in Field Linguistics. His research interests are language documentation and description, syntactic theory (Lexical Functional Grammar), morpho-syntactic typology, Australian Aboriginal languages, and languages of eastern Indonesia.

Dr. Oliver Bond
Oliver Bond is post doctoral fellow in endangered languages. His research project, ‘NegTyp’, aims to contribute to a broader understanding of the properties of negation in language by capturing the properties of negation in the documentation of their morphosyntactic/ prosodic realisation and the formal/semantic-pragmatic distinctions encoded.

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ELAR in 2010

The key event for ELAR in 2010 was the release on 30th June of our new archiving system, built on Web 2.0 (aka social networking) principles. ELAR is now providing access to language documentation data and providing several facilities for supporting depositors and users. See pp 10-11 for more details. Our development team consists of Tom Castle, Ed Garrett and David Nathan. We also drew on foundational work by Robert Munro and input from Peter Austin and other HRELP staff.

ELAR continued its involvement in documentation training. As in previous years, we played a major role in developing and delivering grantee training, which was held at ELAR in 22-26 March and from 1-8 September. Our staff participated in documentary linguistics workshops in Tokyo, Japan and in Winneba, Ghana. At SOAS, we participated in local and international workshops (see list of events below).

In October-November, David undertook a speaking tour to publicise and receive feedback on ELAR’s new online archive system. He gave talks in New York (CUNY), Berkeley (UCB), Canberra (Australian National University), Melbourne (La Trobe), and Singapore (Nanyang Technical University), also taking the opportunity to meet and assist 15 ELDP grantees across these locations.

Throughout the year, David, Ed, Tom and Bernard advised ELDP grantees and others about equipment and preparing data for archiving, and advised on the selection, purchase and allocation of equipment for ELAP staff and students. David assisted the ELDP Selection Panel with assessing grant applications, advising on matters related to equipment and documentation methodology. Tom taught classes on audio recording to ELAP students to prepare them for the Guernsey fieldtrip (see page 5).

Tom manages and maintains the Raising Room, an area adjacent to ELAR which we have allocated for use by ELAP clients, ELAP staff and students, and other visitors and trainees. It is equipped with five new workstations with specialised hardware and software for various linguistics, documentation and archiving tasks. Media devices such as audio digitising units and scanners are also available. There is a small but growing library of books on topics such as audio, video, designing web pages, XML etc. Many scholars used the facilities of our Visitor’s Room, including Eli Timan, Sabah Aldhish, Meli Fan, and Eva Kershaw. The Raising Room has been of considerable benefit to HRELP’s training activities and ELAP’s teaching programme.

ELAR contributed to HRELP’s publishing activities thanks to the design skills of Tom Castle, who has designed the Endangered Languages Week and Open Day Exhibition materials, film posters, and this Annual report. In April, David Nathan retired as editor of the HRELP website, after having led its creation and co-ordinated its content and technical upkeep since 2004. The website contains over 3,300 documents, ranks highly in search engines, and receives an average of 200,000 hits per month.

ELAR staff participate actively in the academic community. David published papers and gave lectures, presentations and training at national and international events (see list below), including the keynote lecture at the conference “Alive and Digital” in New York (see below).

Staff news

ELAP PhD student Louise Ashmore was employed part time as an assistant curator. After she left to conduct her fieldwork, Jenny Marshall (ELAP MA graduate) continued in the role and played a significant part in developing a new curation workflow. Jenny left ELAR to take up a position at the Cardiff University researching the effectiveness of Welsh language teaching. Alex Clouter of the SOAS network team continues as a consultant assisting in the maintenance of our server and data storage systems.

Publications


Conference presentations and lectures

Ed Garrett ‘Working with THL’s Spoken Tibetan Corpus’ 16th Himalayan Languages Symposium, School of Oriental and African Studies, 4 September 2010

David Nathan ‘New trends in documentary linguistics’. Plenary lecture, Tokyo University of Foreign Studies, 2 February 2010

‘It’s about time: skills and sustainability in endangered language fieldwork and documentation’. Presentation at Workshop Endangered Languages, Endangered Knowledge and Sustainability. 27 February 2010


Lectures on Audio, Video and Data Management. West African Summer School on Documentary Linguistics, University of Education, Winneba, Ghana. 16-30 July 2010

‘Archiving for the future, today: the Endangered Languages Archive at SOAS’. Lecture at University of California at Berkeley. 8 October 2010

‘Marshalling Documentation at the Endangered Languages Archive’. Lecture at Australian National University. 15 October 2010

‘Publish or Cherish? Marshalling Documentation at the Endangered Languages Archive’. Lecture at the Research Centre for Linguistic Typology, La Trobe University. 4 November 2010

‘The Endangered Languages Archive at SOAS: A New Paradigm for Archiving and Publishing in Documentary Linguistics’. Lecture at Nanyang Technical University, Singapore. 9 November 2010


‘Archive access and accessibility: a progress report on social networking at work’. Presentation at Archiving Orality and Connecting with Communities, World Oral Literature Project. 10 December 2010

Training events

ELAR staff participated in the following training events:

Documentary Linguistics Workshop, AA-Ken, Tokyo University of Foreign Studies, 25 February 2010

Audio training for the MA students’ Guernsey Trip. SOAS. 17 March 2010
ELAR Staff

For full details of ELAR staff members interests see www.hrelp.org/aboutus/staff

David Nathan,
Director
With 20 years experience in educational and computing support for endangered languages, especially Aboriginal languages, David has taught computing, linguistics, cognitive science, multimedia, and language documentation and archiving. His publications include the textbook Australia’s Indigenous Languages, and papers on archiving, language documentation, audio, multimedia, lexicography, and the internet. He has produced multimedia CDs for a number of languages, established and runs several web sites, and was co-author (with Peter Austin) of the first hypertext web dictionary. Currently he is interested in the connections between language documentation, language support and linguistic research, and how these connections can be supported through innovative media technologies.

Thomas Castle,
Digital Technician
Tom studied Three Dimensional Design at Kingston in Surrey, completing a BA (Hons) in 1977. He worked in the theatre - as a designer/maker, sound and lighting technician and as a performer with many experimental, political or community groups - including ‘Welfare State International’, Gay Sweatshop, Action Space, The Drill Hall and Jail Warehouse. Tom developed skills working with video, photography and sound for live performance and ‘multi-medium’ events. In 1982 he moved to Hoxton Hall in the East End of London, designing, teaching, performing and providing technical support for community projects, drama classes, youth groups and professional performance companies. In 1990, he became a volunteer counsellor and obtained a Postgraduate Diploma in Psychodynamic Counselling from Birkbeck, University of London. In 1992 he left Hoxton Hall, and became a freelance technician, designer and production manager, touring with contemporary dance groups, performance art companies, Kathak dancers, rock bands and experimental puppeteers. In 2004, he completed an MA in Sonic Arts from Middlesex, having turned his attentions back to experimenting with music, sound, technology, performance and art. Tom is a member of ELAR’s online system development team, he manages data transfer, back-up systems and the Rausing Room, and he contributes to data curation and training activities.

Edward Garrett,
Software Developer
Ed Garrett is developing software enabling linguists, community members, and others to query, access, deposit to, and administer the collection of the Endangered Languages Archive. Before arriving at SOAS in May 2008, Ed spent several years working on technical and linguistic aspects of the Tibetan and Himalayan Digital Library’s language initiatives based at the University of Virginia. Ed has long been interested in Tibetan language. In 2001, he completed his PhD thesis entitled Evidentiality and Assertion in Tibetan. Ed co-maintains the Altiplano (Eastern Michigan University Linguistics Lab) website, and has contributed to various open source software projects in linguistics, including Tools for Field Linguistics (a website devoted to the collaborative creation of tools, protocols and procedures for field linguistics and language analysis, focusing on tools for annotating or manipulating text, audio and video based language archives) and THDL Tools (language software, mainly for the use of those working with Tibetan language materials).

Bernard Howard,
Technical Officer
Bernard Howard started work at SOAS as the Phonetics Lab Technician. He manages the Linguistic Resources Room and provides technical support to assist staff and students with recording and digitising. He also writes reviews of the latest recording equipment and helps with equipment support for ELAP fieldwork students and ELAR and ELDP training events.

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This document is the eighth annual report of the Hans Rausing Endangered Languages Project (HRELP). It outlines the structure of HRELP and its activities for the year. All photographs by David Nathan, Tom Castle & Bernard Howard except where stated otherwise. Cover background photograph: the Oasis of Tabelbala in south western Algeria by Dr Lameen Souag. HRELP, Linguistics Department, SOAS, University of London, Thornhaugh Street, Russell Square WC1H 0XG Tel: +44 (0) 20 7898 4578 Email: elap@soas.ac.uk Web: www.hrelp.org Designed by Tom Castle Printed by SOAS Printroom