Exploring and Documenting Lexicons of Moribund Languages particularly with reference to Great Andamanese

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2018
Getting started

• Know your consultant and his/her background
• Know the topography of her/his village/dwellings
• Start with Basic Word list (BWL)
• Greetings and other phrases

1. Check recorders
2. Make ‘to do list’
3. Decide what to ask first depending upon the nature of the consultant.
Ways of greetings people

• How to introduce yourself –
• Asking about the health of your consultant and their family
• What you should call you consultant(s) and their family
• ‘One more time (please)’
• ‘What is that?’; ‘What is <insert unfamiliar word>’
• ‘How do you say X (in the language)?’
• Apologies
Various Methods

• Observation Method.

• Interview Method [Read 4.2 from the Manual]

• Sending Questionnaire Method.

• Documentary Source Method

• Videoing of unstructured events

• Audio recording of unstructured events

• Combinations of observation, interview and questionnaire.
How to transcribe and record?

• Sound recording and transcription should be simultaneous
• Analysis and transcription goes hand in hand
• Interlinear translation has to be as fine as possible
• Remarks are not to be considered trivial
• Recording Source of the data is very significant
Transcription

• Broad or Narrow

• IPA or American

• Assigning script to the unwritten language

• Any other [in conjunction with phonetic transcription]
• Translating words and sentences
  
i. Problems related to generic words, e.g. ‘father’

ii. Locational pronouns

iii. Locative marker such as ‘in’

iv. Polysemous contact language words ‘before’, ‘at’
Other techniques

- Substitution (paradigmatic and syntagmatic)
- Associative Interrogation (widen semantic field)
- Paraphrase technique (to check word order)
- Cross interrogation (to correct errors in data)
- Stimulus interrogation (to check hypothesis)
- Examples and illustrations (lexicon and dictionary)
- Getting narration/s [grammar, lexicon, archive forms, narrative strategies, discourse patterns]
Elicitation from the context: Semantic and grammatical fields

1. Kinship terms
2. Address terms
3. Pronouns
4. Profession names
5. Household items
6. Seasons, weather, time
7. Celestial bodies
8. Pain, illness and diseases
9. Body parts [also elicit in phrase a ‘X’s….’]
Contd....

10. Numerals and other ways of measurement

11. Adornment, Costumes etc.

12. Flora and Fauna

13. Edible items

14. Expressives

15. Games, toys and sports

16. Cooking terms
To prepare a multilingual interactive dictionary

- Download Toolbox from SIL website. It is a data management and analysis tool, easily exportable to Lexique Pro with all kinds of audio and video files. Use the links [http://www-01.sil.org/computing/toolbox/downloads.htm](http://www-01.sil.org/computing/toolbox/downloads.htm) and [http://www.lexiquepro.com/index.htm](http://www.lexiquepro.com/index.htm)
• Recommended fields should be filled in all the languages that the multilingual dictionary is envisaged for. Consult handout for details.

• Screen shot of an individual entry from the Toolbox looks like the following slide…[sample from Great Andamanese ]

• The slide next to it give a browse view when one can see all the entered entries.
arajulu

आराजुलु

1

ara-julu

Abhishek/Boa Sr/08-01-2006/MD-?./Gr-?/I-71

N

यं

ornaments

आमूरण

ornaments made of shell that are worn just below the knee

सीपी से बना हुआ आमूरण जिसे घुटनों के ठीक पीछे पहना जाता है

costume & adornment

आमूरण एवं धूपार

C:\AUP\Instruments\devices\jewelleries\utilities\ornament_arajulu.JPG

In modern times, the word is also used to mean ‘clothes’.

आजकल वर्तमान में इस शब्द का उपयोग किया जाता है।
arajulu2
tail, of a bird

पूंछ, किसी पक्षी की

arajulu2

10/Jul/2016
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Sanskrit</th>
<th>Script</th>
<th>Part of speech</th>
<th>N</th>
<th>H</th>
<th>Gloss (E)</th>
<th>Gloss (H)</th>
<th>Example in phonet</th>
<th>Semantic domain</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>kʰiḍer🔗ko</td>
<td>बीडेरडीए</td>
<td>N</td>
<td>सं</td>
<td>सं</td>
<td>coconut shell</td>
<td>नारियल का खोल</td>
<td>ʰot no to ʃonol</td>
<td>flora</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>kʰiḍer🔗kọ</td>
<td>बीडेरडीक</td>
<td>N</td>
<td>सं</td>
<td>सं</td>
<td>coconut tree</td>
<td>नारियल का पेड़</td>
<td>ʰot*</td>
<td>flora, space</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>kʰiḍertut🔗kíd</td>
<td>बीडेरतुट्टीडी</td>
<td>N</td>
<td>सं</td>
<td>सं</td>
<td>round coconut</td>
<td>गोल नारियल</td>
<td><em>empty</em></td>
<td>edible item</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>kʰiḍi</td>
<td>बीडी</td>
<td>DEIXIS</td>
<td>डीक्सिस</td>
<td>डीक्सिस</td>
<td>this (proximate)</td>
<td>यह (निकटस्थ)</td>
<td>ʰot-no be</td>
<td>space</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>kʰiḍir</td>
<td>बीडीर</td>
<td>V</td>
<td>क्रि</td>
<td>क्रि</td>
<td>cook ; roast (on)</td>
<td>पकाना ; भूलना</td>
<td><em>empty</em></td>
<td>cooking &amp; food</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>kʰie</td>
<td>बीए</td>
<td>V</td>
<td>क्रि</td>
<td>क्रि</td>
<td>fall</td>
<td>गिरना</td>
<td>ut-kʰie</td>
<td>motion</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>kʰiel</td>
<td>बीएल</td>
<td>DEIXIS</td>
<td>डीक्सिस</td>
<td>डीक्सिस</td>
<td>here</td>
<td>इंद्र</td>
<td>kʰiel oome</td>
<td>space</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>kʰijire</td>
<td>बीजिरे</td>
<td>V</td>
<td>क्रि</td>
<td>क्रि</td>
<td>wander ; play ; help</td>
<td>गृहना ; मटकना ; मदद करना</td>
<td><em>empty</em></td>
<td>activity &amp; event</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>kʰile</td>
<td>बीले</td>
<td>V</td>
<td>क्रि</td>
<td>क्रि</td>
<td>help</td>
<td>गृहना ; मटकना ; मदद करना</td>
<td><em>empty</em></td>
<td>activity &amp; event</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>kʰilu</td>
<td>बीलू</td>
<td>V-TR</td>
<td>क्रि</td>
<td>क्रि</td>
<td>wake someone</td>
<td>जागाना, तिरी को</td>
<td><em>empty</em></td>
<td>activity &amp; event</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>kim</td>
<td>किम</td>
<td>N</td>
<td>सं</td>
<td>सं</td>
<td>fish</td>
<td>मछली</td>
<td><em>empty</em></td>
<td>fish</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>kʰimil</td>
<td>किमिल</td>
<td>ADJ</td>
<td>वि</td>
<td>वि</td>
<td>warm or hot</td>
<td>गर्म</td>
<td><em>empty</em></td>
<td>attribute</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>kʰimil</td>
<td>किमिल</td>
<td>N</td>
<td>सं</td>
<td>सं</td>
<td>friends of youth</td>
<td>दोस्रो, जवानी के</td>
<td><em>empty</em></td>
<td>relationship</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>kʰimile</td>
<td>किमिले</td>
<td>N</td>
<td>सं</td>
<td>सं</td>
<td>wife’s sister’s husband</td>
<td>दादू</td>
<td><em>empty</em></td>
<td>kin term</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>kʰimiljo</td>
<td>किमिलजो</td>
<td>N</td>
<td>सं</td>
<td>सं</td>
<td>turtle-eating centipede</td>
<td>कुरुआ खाना का उपाय</td>
<td><em>empty</em></td>
<td>ritual</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>kʰimiltal</td>
<td>किमिलताल</td>
<td>N</td>
<td>सं</td>
<td>सं</td>
<td>name, by which</td>
<td>नाम, जिससे लड़े शंकी हुई आँखों वा</td>
<td><em>empty</em></td>
<td>ritual</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>kʰimirceke</td>
<td>किमिर्चेके</td>
<td>N</td>
<td>सं</td>
<td>सं</td>
<td>sunken-eyed pe</td>
<td><em>empty</em></td>
<td><em>empty</em></td>
<td>people</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>kʰiño</td>
<td>किनो</td>
<td>N</td>
<td>सं</td>
<td>सं</td>
<td>trap</td>
<td>फंडा</td>
<td><em>empty</em></td>
<td>tool</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>kʰiño</td>
<td>किनो</td>
<td>N</td>
<td>सं</td>
<td>सं</td>
<td>rope</td>
<td>kʰinobale</td>
<td><em>empty</em></td>
<td>hunting &amp; gathering</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
• Elicit all kinds of information of local objects as can be seen under \textit{NT} (notes) in the following slide of bird.

• Lexique Pro gives us fantastic search engine to not only look for a particular word but also switch on to different languages by mere a click of a mouse.

• The entry in Lexique pro will appear like the following slide.

• Any of the terms given on the upper left of the screen can be searched by a click of a mouse.
belcitmo  
बेल्चितमो  

N सं.
- Hawabill bird; Andaman Edible-nest Swiftlet
  ठवाबिल चितिया
  *Aerodramus esculenta*

SD: bird, पक्षी

It is found in Strait Island. It takes at least five days to make its nest which sells well in the market. It never lays more than three eggs at a time.

स्ट्रैट द्वीप में रहने वाली चितिया जी पौंछ किन लगाती है और तीन से तीन अष्ट.widget नहीं देती। इसका पौंछा बाजार में बहुत महंगा बिकता है।
• Semantic fields, as discussed above can be very elaborate and inclusive as can be seen by the extreme left column under ‘categories’.
calemo,

N.
- Moray eel
  एक प्रकार की मछली

SD fish, मछली

Found in freshwater.

SEE:
calemo, snake सांप
The non print version gives additional information as each entry is marked for its source as well as for the name of the investigator, the date it was collected, the location of the recordings on a particular Mini Disk, track and group number specified, as well as the page number of the notebook it was written on by the investigator.
Metadata: Make table or use excel sheet

• Biographical information (log)
• Content of the interaction (descriptive)
• Personal impressions (diary)
• First interpretations (analytic notes)
• Dates of recording
• Names of the investigator
• Location and Time of elicitation
• Details of recording, MD, track, video details, page number etc.
Variation

Researchers have to try to find out whether variation in speech between informants they consult are the result of elicitation techniques or whether they truly reflect linguistically interesting variables in the data.
Some Interesting Statistics

- Birds related 107 names
- Fish related 131 names
- Flora related 369 names
- Illness 56 kinds
- And many more information....
• 109 species of birds belonging to 14 Orders and 38 families.

• 25 species are endemic and 31 species are migrants.

• Out of the 24 species that are threatened 2 are Vulnerable, 1 is Data Deficient, 10 are Near Threatened.

• The ethno-ornithological classification and modern zoological taxonomy show high level of correspondence at folk generic level.
Every time a language dies, we have less evidence for understanding patterns in the structure and function of human language, human prehistory and the maintenance of the world’s diverse ecosystems.
ATTRIBUTES / DESCRIPTION SIMILAR TO PRESENT ORNITHOLOGICAL DESCRIPTION

APODIDAE

taracha-jobu : nest an- ornament

PICIDAE

Koi : woodpecker
**Ethics and Linguists**

Areas of responsibility for linguists:

- Consider your subject with TLC
- Do not harm the safety, dignity, or privacy of the subject
- The local community practices and beliefs should be respected
- The governmental help and information should be sought as and when required.
- The Linguist's responsibilities to the community of linguists should be kept in mind.
- Do not accept gift or anything from the consultant
• To prepare a good dictionary, try to collect extra linguistic information about the object and activities.

• Never forget to include culture-specific word-meanings.

• Take ample pictures and videos

• Try each word to have audio file

• Try each example sentence to have audio file.
Field linguistics meets biology: how to obtain scientific designations for plant and animal names

Authors: David W. Fleck. In The journal Language Typology and Universals (Sprachtypologie und Universalienforschung (STUF)). Special issue on linguistic Fieldwork.

Volume: 60 | Issue: 1/2007
• Try to read the book on Ethno-Ornithology. *Birds of the Great Andamanese. Names, Classification and Culture.*

A Manual of Linguistic Field Work and Structures of Indian Languages

Anvita Abbi

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