

# Beginning with one word at a time

Lecture 4

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**Workshop on**

**Field Linguistics**

**Tezpur University, 2018**

# Equipment in the field

1. Solid State Recorder (It needs external microphone, but a good one) OR
2. Recorder with in-built microphones such as:
  - Olympus LS-11
  - Tascam DR07 MKH
  - Olympus LS-05
  - Zoom H2n
3. Field and studio microphones (Shotgun (super hyperbolic mic))
4. Headset microphone for analysis of data
5. Video Camera with 60f
6. Laptop with good storage facility (laptop should be uploaded with dictionary programs, IPA symbols and various testing tools.

# Basic Word List

- After 30 words, start making phonetic chart of the sounds elicited.
- Start marking words by grammatical category.
- Start separating words for body parts. Do you see anything unusual? The word for 'body' or word for 'human' or a 'pronoun' preceding the term?
- Did you notice any thing funny while collecting words for kinship such as 'father'?
- Did you get any homonyms?
- Did you get any polysemous words?

# Putting words together

- You may now start putting nouns and adjectives together to check the ordering of elements. Is it N + AD or AD + N.
- You may also check whether V comes after or before the N?
- You may be able to separate the final syllable of a verb that you elicited. This is because generally consultant gives the imperative or infinitive form.

## 100 words onwards

- You may now start making the phonotactic chart for vowels and consonants.
- Make a separate list/chart of consonant clusters.
- Those who are good in running acoustic programs can also test the problematic sounds on Praat or Audacity.
- Note down separately any affixation if found.
- Note down separately any morphophonemic changes to establish allophonic relationship.
- Note down any other grammatical information

# Establishing phonemes

- Look for suspicious pairs of sounds, i.e. phonetically similar sounds.
- Try to find them in contrastive environments. If they do exist in contrast they surely are two distinct phonemes. Minimal pairs
- Try to find sub-minimal pairs of sounds. These may occur near-contrasting environment.
- If not try to identify phonetic environment, morphological environment or any other situation responsible for the variation.
- Isolate sounds that are in free variation.

# Make two-words and three-word phrases

- From the data collected make small phrases of two words and three words to check:
- Word order
- Ordering of modifier and modified
- Affixes
- Inflection and derivation
- Any tonal differences when words are conjoined
- Collocational restrictions
- Variation

# Word Formation Processes

1. Derivation
2. Compounding
3. Reduplication
4. Inflection
5. Any other, e.g. expressive morphology