

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

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# 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 your 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> and <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.

oolbox - [Great Andamanese Unicode Dictionary.txt]				
File Edit Database Project Tools Checks View Window Help				
<div>               <input type="text" value="[no filter]"/> </div>				
\\x Lexeme	arajulu			
\\xs Lexeme in Script	आराजूलू			
\\hm Homonym number	1			
\\mr Morphology	ara-julu			
\\et Etymology				
\\so Source	Abhishek/Boa Sr/08-01-2006/MD-?.Gr-?/I-71			
\\ps Part of speech	N			
\\pn Part of speech (H)	सं			
\\ge Gloss (E)	ornaments			
\\gn Gloss (H)	आभूषण			
\\de Definition English	ornaments made of shell that are worn just below the knee			
\\dn Definition Hindi	सीपी से बना हुआ आभूषण जिसे घुटनों के ठीक नीचे पहना जाता है			
\\xv Example in phonetic				
\\sd Semantic domain	costume & adornment			
\\sds Semantic Domain	आभूषण एवं श्रृंगार			
\\snd Sound File				
\\pic Picture File	C:\\AUP\\Instruments.devices.jewelleries.utilities\\ornament_aRajulu.JPG			
\\ee Encyclopedic info. (E)	In modern times, the word is also used to mean 'clothes'.			
\\en Encyclopedic info. (H)	आजकल वस्त्र या परिधान के लिए भी प्रयुक्त होता है।			
\\cf Cross-reference	arajulu2			
\\ce Cross-ref. gloss (E)	tail, of a bird			
\\cn Cross-ref. gloss (n)	पूंछ, किसी पक्षी की			
\\cs Cross-ref script	आराजूलू2			
\\dt Date (last edited)	10/Jul/2016			
	\\x arajulu	\\xv	115/4350	Great Andamanese.prj

\x Lexeme	\xs Lexeme in Script	\ps Part of speech	\pn Part of speech (H)	\ge Gloss (E)	\gn Gloss (H)	\xv Example in phonet	\sd Semantic domain	\sds Semantic Domain
k <sup>h</sup> idertɔe	खीदेरटौए	N	सं	coconut shell	नारियल का खोल	*empty*	flora	फूल-पत्ती
k <sup>h</sup> idertɔŋ	खीदेरटौङ	N	सं	coconut tree	नारियल का पेड़	t <sup>h</sup> ot no tot šoŋol	flora	फूल-पत्ती
k <sup>h</sup> idertutk <sup>h</sup> idj	खीदैरतूतखीडी	N	सं	round coconut	गोल नारियल	*empty*	edible item	खाद्य सामग्री
k <sup>h</sup> idi	खीदी	DEIXIS	डीक्सीस	this (proximate,	यह (निकटस्थ) ; र	k <sup>h</sup> idi t <sup>h</sup> ot-no be	space	अन्तरिक्ष
k <sup>h</sup> idir	खीदीर	V	क्रि	cook ; roast (on	पकाना ; भूनना (र	*empty*	cooking & food	खाना-पीना
k <sup>h</sup> ie	खीए	V	क्रि	fall	गिरना	ut-k <sup>h</sup> ie	motion	गति सम्बंधी
k <sup>h</sup> iel	खीएल	DEIXIS	डीक्सीस	here	इधर	k <sup>h</sup> iel aome	space	अन्तरिक्ष
kijire	कीजीरे	V	क्रि	wander ; play ;	घूमना ; भटकना ;	no-kijire-k-om	activity & event	कार्यकलाप
k <sup>h</sup> ile	खीले	V	क्रि	help	मदद करना	*empty*	activity & event	कार्यकलाप
k <sup>h</sup> ilu	खीलू	V-TR	स क्रि	wake someone	जगाना, किसी को	t <sup>h</sup> er k <sup>h</sup> ilu bim a	activity & event	कार्यकलाप
kim	कीम	N	सं	fish	मछली	*empty*	fish	मछली
k <sup>h</sup> imil	खीमील	ADJ	वि	warm or hot	गर्म	*empty*	attribute	विशेषता
k <sup>h</sup> imil	खीमील	N	सं	friends of youth	दोस्त, जवानी के ;	akauno uk <sup>h</sup> e at <sup>l</sup>	relationship	सम्बंध
k <sup>h</sup> imile	खीमीले	N	सं	wife's sister's h	साढ़ू	*empty*	kin term	सम्बंधी वाचक शब्दाव
k <sup>h</sup> imiljo	खीमीलजो	N	सं	turtle-eating cer	कछुआ खाने का उ	*empty*	ritual	रीति-रिवाज़
k <sup>h</sup> imiltal	खीमीलताल	N	सं	name, by which	नाम, जिससे लड़वे	*empty*	ritual	रीति-रिवाज़
k <sup>h</sup> imilterceke	खीमीलतेरचेकेरूलूत	N	सं	sunken-eyed pe	धंसी हुई आंखों वा	*empty*	people	लोग
k <sup>h</sup> ino	खीनो	N	सं	trap	फंदा	*empty*	tool	औज़ार
k <sup>h</sup> ino	खीनो	N	सं	rope	रस्सी	k <sup>h</sup> inobale	hunting & gatherin	शिकार एवं संचय सम्


- Elicit all kinds of information of local objects as can be seen under *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.

balat

a β φ d ε h i n  
 ŋ ɔ ɾ ʃ t :

barij - N सं.  
 barmalao - N सं.  
 bat - N सं.  
 batatamik<sup>h</sup>u - ADV  
 bate - V क्रि.  
 batel - ADV क्रि वि.  
 bat<sup>h</sup>etɛc - N सं.  
 baterkel - N सं.  
 batil - N सं.  
 bato - N सं.  
 batterbel - ADV क्रि वि.  
 batom - N सं.  
 -be - V क्रि.  
 beio - V क्रि.  
 bek<sup>h</sup>a - ADJ वि.  
 be:l - N सं.  
 belcacmo - N सं.  
 belcatmo - N सं.  
 belcitmo - N सं.  
 bele - V क्रि.  
 belei - N सं.

## belcitmo

belcitmo   
 बेल्चीत्मो

N सं.

- Hawabill bird; Andaman Edible-nest Swiftlet

हवाबील चिड़िया

*Aerodramus esculenta*

SD: bird, पक्षी



NT: 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.

स्ट्रेट द्वीप में रहने वाली चिड़िया जो घोंसला बनाने में पांच दिन लगाती है और तीन से ज़्यादा अण्डे नहीं देती। इसका घोंसला बाज़ार 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’.

Sort from End GA\_in\_Script

English Hindi Part of Speech

GA Categories Search

+ activity & event  
 + address term  
 + animal  
 + attribute  
 + bird  
 + boat related  
 + body part term  
 + body product  
 + conjunct  
 + cooking & food  
 + costume & adorn  
 + cultural item  
 + death  
 + direction  
 + edible fruit  
 + edible item  
 + emotion  
 + fire  
 + fish  
 + flora  
 + geometric shape  
 + grammar  
 + habitat  
 + household  
 + hunting & gatherin  
 + illness  
 + intensifier  
 + interrogative  
 + kin term  
 + life

calemo<sub>1</sub>calemo<sub>1</sub> 

चालेमो

N.

• Moray eel

एक प्रकार की मछली

SD: fish, मछली



Found in freshwater.

मीठे पानी में पाए जाने वाली मछली जो सांप की तरह दिखती है।

SEE:

calemo<sub>2</sub> snake सांप

## The Meta data

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....

# LIST OF AVIAN SPECIES FOR WHICH GA NAMES WERE RECORDED

- **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

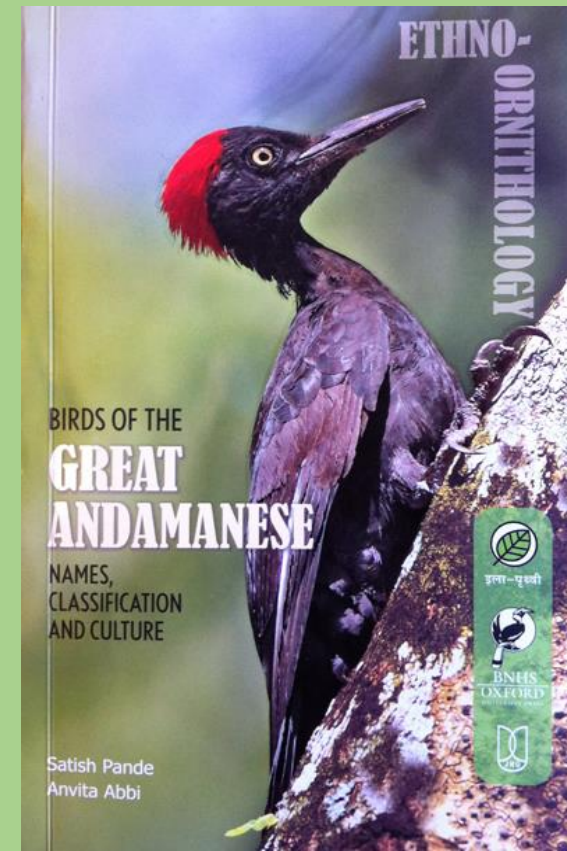
- Do not harm the safety, dignity, or privacy of the subject
- The local community practices and beliefs should be respected
- The governmental help and information should be sought as and when required.
- The Linguist's responsibilities to the community of linguists should be kept in mind.
- Do not 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.

Read the following:

- 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.*  
By Satish Pande and Anvita Abbi. 2011. Oxford University Press and BNHS, India.







18 8:55AM

**A Manual of Linguistic  
Field Work and Structures  
of Indian Languages**

**Anvita Abbi**

LINCOM EUROPA  
LINCOM Handbooks in Linguistics 17