DOCUMENTARY LINGUISTICS I
prof. Nicole Nau, UAM winter 2018/2019

First lecture
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TOPICS OF THE DAY

❖ About me and you

❖ What is Documentary Linguistics?
   What is language documentation?

❖ How was language documentation done in earlier times?

❖ What will we learn this semester?

❖ What do you have to do for the credits?

ABOUT ME

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MA program **Empirical Linguistics and Language Documentation**

(ELLDo): http://elldo.amu.edu.pl

=> find the course homepage there under **Classes**, or go directly to:

http://elldo.amu.edu.pl/?page_id=549

PROJECTS WHERE ELLDO STAFF WAS/IS INVOLVED

INNET Innovatve Networking in Infrastructure for Endangered Languages (2011-2014). One result: Educational platform Languages in Danger: http://languagesindanger.eu/

Poland's Linguistic Heritage. Documentation Database for Endangered Languages (2012-2014). http://inne-jezyki.amu.edu.pl

COLING Minor Language, Major Opportunities. Collaborative Research, Community Engagement and Innovative Educational Tools (2018-2022). https://colingproject.wordpress.com/

DOCUMENTARY LINGUISTICS

❖ a new field of linguistics (since the 1990s)

❖ concerned with language documentation (sometimes synonym)

❖ interdisciplinary

Why in the 1990s?

Why interdisciplinary? Which disciplins?

DOCUMENTARY LINGUISTICS IS RELATED TO:

- concern about language endangerment
- corpus linguistics
- speech technology
- ethnography
- …

«Documentary linguistics takes up a vision of the integration of the study of language structure, language use, and the culture of languages.» (Hill 2006)

«Documentary Linguistics [..] is concerned with the making and keeping of records of the world's languages and their patterns of use.»
(Woodbury 2003)

QUESTIONS

What **records** are there of the English language?

Imagine nobody speaks English anymore. What could someone **learn** about English from the existing records?

How is the situation for the other ~ 7000 languages of the world?

HOW ARE ENDANGERED LANGUAGES DOCUMENTED?

Let' s watch and (critically) discuss the trailer of the film «The linguists»

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=HInOD7VrCdY

Is this how language documentation looks like?

«PREHISTORY» (LANGUAGE DOCUMENTATION BEFORE DOCUMENTARY LINGUISTICS)

16th – 18th/19th century, for example

❖ European travelers and scholars collect the Lord's Prayer in various languages

❖ Spanish missionaries in Latin America write grammars and dictionaries of indigenous languages

❖ German and Russian scholars describe languages of Russia / Siberia

Why do they do that?

THE LORD'S PRAYER IN LATVIAN IN SEBASTIAN MÜNSTER'S *COSMOGRAPHIA* 1588

A 17TH CENTURY DICTIONARY OF NAHUATL

VOCABULARIO pa[r]
PALABRAS DE S[A]
LUTACION.

DIOS sea en- | Mato Tecuiyo Dios nican
esta casa. | amochantzinco moyetztie.
Dios sea con todos | Mato Tecuiyo Dios amo-
| tlan moyetztie.
Dios sea con tigo- | Ma Dios motlá moyeztie.
enorabuena esteis- | ma ihuianpaccaxie.
como te và- | quen tinemi.
mucho ha- | ye huecauhtica-
que no te é visto- | in ahmo nimitzitta

VOCABVLARIO
MANUAL
DE LAS LENGVAS
Castellana, y Mexicana.

EN QVE SE CONTIENEN LAS
palabras, preguntas, y respuestas mas comunes,
y ordinarias que se suelen ofrecer en el
trato, y comunicacion entre
Españoles, è Indios.

Enmendado en esta vltima impression.

Compuesto por Pe-
DRO DE ARENAS.
(✝)

Impresso con licencia, y Aprobacion.

EN MEXICO

EN LA IMPRENTA DE LA VIUDA DE
Bernardo Calderon. Año de M.DC.LXXXIII.

GRAMMAR OF AN ESTONIAN DIALECT PUBLISHED IN 1863

MÉMOIRES

DE

L'ACADÉMIE IMPÉRIALE DES SCIENCES DE ST.-PÉTERSBOURG, VIIᵉ SÉRIE.

TOME VII, N° 8.

VERSUCH

UEBER DEN

WERROEHSTNISCHEN DIALEKT.

Von

F. J. Wiedemann.

Mitgliede der Akademie.

———

Gelesen am 4. December 1863.

HISTORY: LANGUAGE DOCUMENTATION IN THE LATER 19TH AND THE 20TH CENTURY

A remarcable scholar and person:

Franz Boas (1858-1942)

education in physics and geography

pioneer of modern anthropology

founded a standard for documenting languages: **text collection + dictionary + grammar**

? why is this (not) enough ?

DAKOTA TEXTS, EDITED BY BOAS' STUDENT ELLA DELORIA 1932

1. Ikto'mi Conquers the I'ya.

1. Hé'c'eṡ Ikto'mi ka'k'ena tok'e'-ec'a'c'a¹ oma'ni-ya'hą ŝk'e'e.¹ . Paha' wą ka'k'el-iya'hįkta hą'l I'ya i'ṡ-²eya'³ ųma' ec'i'yatąhą iya'hą c'ąke' Ikto' li'la nihį'ciyį ną — Ĕ! ąpe'tu-le'c'ecaka c'a e' at'į'kta huṡe, — ec'į'-hig.la ŝk'e'e. 3. Mak'a'-b.lu icu' ną sic'ą'⁴ kį 'klila kpawi'yakpa ną leya' ŝk'e'e, — Huhuhê, misų', nąi'ṡ c'iye' haṡ+, i'ṡ tukte'-ųma' t'oų'kap'api huwo'?) — eya' ŝk'e'e. 4. K'e'yaṡ 'ya c'uwi' oki'niya c'ą'ṡna Ikto' yace'kcek icu'ⁿ; c'ąke' k'oki'p'ehc ą, — Wą, misų', nąi'ṡ c'iye', ak'o'wap'a na'żį ye'. Mi'ṡ-²eya' wac'į q'tąhąṡ yat'a'hena ic'i'cukte lo', — eya' ŝk'e'e. 5. K'e'yaṡ I'ya yu'pteŝni yųk'ą' hehą'l ak'e' — Ho, it'o' misų', nąi'ṡ c'iye' (haṡ+ ṡ tukte'-ųma' t'oų'kap'api c'a!), to'hųwel nit'ų'pi huwo? — eya k'e'e. 6. Yųk'ą' — Eya' mahpi'ya ną mak'a' kį lena' t'oka'-ka'ĝap

Literal Translation.

1. And so / Iktomi / into yonder direction / at random / to trave e was going, / they say. 2. Hill / a / the instant he was about tc each the top / then / Iya / he too / other (side) / from / he reached the op / so / Iktomi / very / he was frightened / and / "Ah! / this sor f day / such / in / I shall die / evidently," / suddenly he thought ney say. 3. Dust / he took / and / thigh / the / very-very / he pol hed his own / and / said this / they say / "Well, well, well, / my ounger brother, / — or else / my elder brother, / — (*Haṡ!* / then hich of two / we are the elder / I wonder?") / he said / they say

But / Iya / trunk / he breathed into his own / (he breathec eeny) / then each time / Iktomi / jerking, causing to stagger / he ot him; / so / he feared him very much / and / "Why, / my

LANGUAGE DOCUMENTATION IN THE 21ST C.

«language documentation is the creation, annotation, preservation and dissemination of transparent records of a language» (Woodbury 2011)

More next week!

COURSE PROGRAM FOR THIS SEMESTER

Language documentation: principles and goals; language archives (3 lectures after the introduction, 9.10.-23.10.)

Data acquisition: fieldwork, recording, elicitation techniques, ethic and legal aspects, basic data management; (4 lectures, 30.10.-20.11.)

Data annotation (4 lectures, 27.11.-18.12.)

Interpretation and applications: e.g. orthography development, dictionary making, development of teaching material; case studies; students' project presentations (January)

ORGANIZATIONAL MATTERS AND HOMEWORK

Find the **homepage** of this class at the site elldo.amu.edu.pl

➢ Tasks & Text
  contains homework – reading

For course credits: three assessment tasks, due:

➢06.11. on language documentation and archives

➢27.11. on data acquisition

➢08.01. on annotation (or related topic)

Assessment tasks will be given three weeks before they are due.

BONUS: LET'S EXPLORE SOME WEBSITES WITH DOCUMENTS/MATERIALS FROM VARIOUS LANGUAGES!

❖ Rosetta project: https://archive.org/browse.php?field=subject&mediatype=texts&collection=rosettaproject

❖ Endangered Languages project: http://endangeredlanguages.com/

❖ Language Landscape: http://www.languagelandscape.org/