



# DOCUMENTARY LINGUISTICS I

prof. Nicole Nau, UAM winter 2018/2019



**First lecture**  
02 October 2018

# 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](http://elldo.amu.edu.pl/?page_id=549)

# PROJECTS WHERE ELLDO STAFF WAS/IS INVOLVED

**INNET** Innovative 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 disciplines?

# 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

## Von dem Teutschen Landt.

## Notiz

Ein andere Statt in Lyfflandt mit nammen Derpst/hat ire Kauffmanschafft mit den Die Statt Derpst. Keuel. Keussen. Keuel aber ist weiter gegen Mitnacht zu dem Ostsee gelegen/gebraucht sich nicht weniger der Kauffmanschafft als Riga/ist auch schier derselb brauch da. Sie haben Lübeckische Recht/welcher sich die andern Stettlein auch gebrauchen. Es sind viel Sprach in Lyfflandt/deren sich keine mit der andern vergleicht. Zu Keuel vnd zu Derpst reden sie ein Sprach/heißt Estensch/vñ vmb Riga braucht man Lnuisch/da ist die rechte Lyffländische Sprach/vnd betten daselbst die Bawren/so Gottes Wort berichtet haben/auff folgende weiß ihr Vatter vnser:

Vatter vnser der du bist in Himmeln/ geheiliget werd dein Name/ zutomm vns dein  
Lābes mus kas tu es eckshan debbessis/ Schwetis tows waark/ enack mums tows  
Reich dein will geschehe wie in Himmeln also auff Erden. Vnser täglich  
walstibe/ tows praats bus ka eckshan Debbes/ta wursan semmes. Musse denische  
Brot gib vns heut vergib vns vnser schuld als wir vergeben vnsern  
Māyse düth mums schodeen/ pammate mums musse grāke. kames pammat musse  
Schuldigern/ nicht eynfähr vns bösen versuchung sonder behüt vns vor allem bösen.  
parradueken/ Ne wedde mums louna badeckle/ pett passarga mums ni wüsse loune.

Dis alles oder zum größern theil/hab ich von dem erfarnen Johann Hasentödter/ so manich jar in Lyfflandt an den Herren Höfen vñ Cansleyen gewesen/vñ viel erfahre hat.

# A 17TH CENTURY DICTIONARY OF NAHUATL

## VOCABULARIO <sup>pag</sup> PALABRAS DE LUTACION.

**D**IOS sea en- Mato Tecuiyo Dios nican  
esta casa. amochantzincó moyetzte.  
Dios sea con todos Mato Tecuiyo Dios amo-  
tlan moyetzte.  
Dios sea con tigo- Ma Dios motlá moyetzte.  
enorabuena esteis- má ihuianpaccaxie.  
como te va- quen tinemi.  
mucho ha- ye huecauhtica-  
que no te é visto- in ahmo nimitzitta

## VOCABVLARIO MANUAL

DE LAS LENGVAS Rare Boo  
Castellana, y Mexicana. 497.201

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

*Enmendado en esta ultima impressiõn.*

Compuesto por Pe-  
DRO DE ARENAS.

(+)  
+ + + + +

*Impresse con licencia, y Aprobacion.*

EN MEXICO

EN LA IMPRENTA DE LA VIUDA DE  
Bernardo Calderon. Año de MDCCLXXXIII.

GRAMMAR OF  
AN ESTONIAN  
DIALECT  
PUBLISHED IN  
1863

MÉMOIRES  
DE  
L'ACADÉMIE IMPÉRIALE DES SCIENCES DE ST.-PÉTERSBOURG, VII<sup>e</sup> SÉRIE.  
TOME VII, N<sup>o</sup> 8.

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VERSUCH  
UEBER DEN  
WERROEHSTNISCHEN DIALEKT.

Von  
**F. J. Wiedemann.**  
Mitgliede der Akademie.

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Gelesen am 4. December 1863.

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

A remarkable 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

PUBLICATIONS  
of the American Ethnological Society  
Edited by FRANZ BOAS

VOLUME XIV Univ. of CALIFORNIA

DAKOTA TEXTS

BY

ELLA DELORIA

## 1. Iktó'mi Conquers the I'ya.

1. Hé'c'es Iktó'mi ka'k'ena tok'e'-ec'a'c'a<sup>1</sup> oma'ni-ya'hq sk'e'e.<sup>2</sup>  
Paha' wq ka'k'el-iyahikta ha'l I'ya i's-eya<sup>3</sup> uma' ec'i'yatahqa  
iya'hq c'ake' Iktó' li'la nihic'iyi na — É! apé'tu-le'c'ecaka c'a e'  
vat'ikta huše, — ec'i'-hig.la sk'e'e. 3. Mak'a'-b.lu icu' na sic'a<sup>4</sup> k'  
'klila kpawiyakpa na leya' sk'e'e, — Huhuhê, misu', nai's c'iyé'.  
has+, i's tukte'-uma' t'ou'kap'api huwo'?) — eya' sk'e'e. 4. K'e'yaš  
'ya c'awi' oki'niya c'a'sna Iktó' yace'kcek icu'<sup>nu</sup>; c'ake' k'oki'p'e'hc'  
q, — Wq, misu', nai's c'iyé', ak'o'wap'a na'zi ye'. Mi's-eya' wac'i'  
q'tahqš yat'a'hena ic'i'cukte lo', — eya' sk'e'e. 5. K'e'yaš I'ya  
yu'ptešni yuk'a' heha'l ak'e' — Ho, it'o' misu', nai's c'iyé' (has+,  
š tukte'-uma' t'ou'kap'api c'a!), to'huwel nit'u'pi huwo'? — eya'  
k'e'e. 6. Yuk'a' — Eya' ma'pi'ya na mak'a' ki'lena' t'oka'-ka'gapi

## Literal Translation.

1. And so / Iktomi / into yonder direction / at random / to travel  
e was going, / they say. 2. Hill / a / the instant he was about to  
reach the top / then / Iya / he too / other (side) / from / he reached the  
top / so / Iktomi / very / he was frightened / and / "Ah! / this sort  
of day / such / in / I shall die / evidently," / suddenly he thought,  
they say. 3. Dust / he took / and / thigh / the / very-very / he pol-  
ished his own / and / said this / they say / "Well, well, well, / my  
younger brother, / — or else / my elder brother, / — (Has! / then,  
which of two / we are the elder / I wonder?") / he said / they say  
But / Iya / trunk / he breathed into his own / (he breathed  
again) / then each time / Iktomi / jerking, causing to stagger / he  
looked 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](http://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/>