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Collaborative Language Planning Project in Montana

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Collaborative Language Planning Project in Montana

Mizuki Miyashita (University of Montana) • Susan Penfield (University of Montana/University of Arizona) • Richard Littlebear (Chief Dull Knife College) • Alyce Sadongei (American Indian Language Development Institute) • Leora Bar-el (University of Montana) • Irene Appelbaum (University of Montana)

Stabilizing Indigenous Language Symposium
June 7th, 2018
Motivation: where it all started

- University of Montana has been selected to host the **Institute on Collaborative Language Research (CoLang)** in summer 2020.
Motivation: where it all started

CoLang

• OFFERS

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Week 1</th>
<th>Week 2</th>
<th>Week 3</th>
<th>Week 4</th>
<th>Week 5</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>workshops on documentation and revitalization</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>practicum (field methods)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

• FOR language activists, teachers, linguists, and students

• TO obtain hands-on skills in technology, basic linguistic skills, and learn about various practices in language documentation and revitalization

  • language survey
  • community work
  • Archiving
  • grant writing
  • orthography design
  • interdisciplinary documentation
  • collaborative research
  • Project planning
  • language and well-being
  • language pedagogy
  • teaching material creation
  • …

• CREATES multi-dimensional networks
  community language workers, language teachers, academics, students
Since 2008, CoLang occurs every two years

Motivation:
where it all started

CoLang 2020
CoLang 2020 in Montana

Goals
- Build on previous CoLangs
- Incorporate Native perspectives (increasing interest)
- Increase Native scholar instructors and participants

Strategy
- Cohosting - University of Montana and Chief Dull Knife College
- Learn what communities in Montana are doing and find their interests
- Participate in Natives4Linguistics workshop (2018 LSA)

Development of CLPP
- Build collaboration across Montana
Collaborative Language Planning Project (CLPP)

Funding:

- NSF planning grant/Collaborative research grant

University of Montana
(DEL – Documenting Endangered Languages)
  - PI: Mizuki Miyashita
  - Co-PI: Susan Penfield

Chief Dull Knife College
(DEL & TCUP – Tribal Colleges and Universities)
  - PI: Richard Littlebear
The Collaborative Language Planning Project (CLPP) is a collaborative effort aimed at language planning and revitalization. The project is led by a diverse group of organizers who bring expertise from various academic and linguistic backgrounds.

**Organizers**

- **Richard Littlebear** (Chief Dull Knife College)
- **Leora Bar-el** (University of Montana)
- **Susan Penfield** (University of Montana; University of Arizona)
- **Irene Appelbaum** (University of Montana)
- **Mizuki Miyashita** (University of Montana)
- **Alyce Sadongei** (American Indian Language Development Institute)

**CLPP overview**

The Core Members

[Image of the organizers]
CLPP overview
Invitations

• Reach out to a language teacher, coordinator, or activist from each college

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Participants</th>
<th>Affiliation</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Sean Chandler</td>
<td>Aaniih Nakoda College</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Iva Croff</td>
<td>Blackfeet Comm. College</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Aspen Decker</td>
<td>Salish Kutenai College</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Helen Parker</td>
<td>Stone Child College</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Michael Turcotte</td>
<td>Fort Peck Comm. College</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Steve Small</td>
<td>Chief Dull Knife College</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mina Seminole</td>
<td>Chief Dull Knife College</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
There are various language revitalization activities/efforts in MT
- White Clay Immersion School
- Nkwsum Salish Immersion School
- Cuts Wood Blackfoot Immersion School
- Northern Cheyenne Language Immersion Daycare
- Cree Language Immersion Camp
- Adult language classes

But ...

CLPP’s immediate collaborators are TCUs
- CoLang targets language researchers/documenters
- Funding agency – NSF’s DEL and **TCUP**
- TCUs – qualifies the collaborators
Collaborative Language Planning Project (CLPP)

Plan for the funded period (2018-2019)

- First meeting at University of Montana, May 2018
- Trips to visit TCUs in Montana
- Videoconference meetings
- Second meeting at University of Montana (May 2019)
TCU representatives and CLPP core members meet
CLPP core members travel to each TCU
CLPP

Onsite meeting example
CLPP
First meeting
May 17, 2018

Location

- University of Montana
  - co-hosts
    University of Montana
    Chief Dull Knife College

- Session topics
  - Introductions
  - Current issues in TCUs
  - Overview of CoLang & AILDI
  - Brainstorm future goals
CLPP project
First meeting
May 17, 2018
### Conversation: TCU Language Activities

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Language endangerment stage? Number of speakers?</th>
<th>What languages are taught: at TCUs? at UM?</th>
<th>Position of languages at TCUs and UM?</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Goals of language classes?</td>
<td>Resources?</td>
<td>Language teacher trainings?</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Current/future language activities – besides courses?</td>
<td>Connection to communities’ language activities?</td>
<td>Other activities? Other issues?</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
What is happening at TCUs:
samples

• Which languages are taught, which languages aren’t taught
  • Multiple languages on some reservations

• Language requirements at TCUs

• Resources available (funding, curriculum, and training)
  • Access to state funding (Montana Indigenous Language Project)
  • ANA funding

• “Class 7”
  • Native American Language and Culture Educator Licensure
  • Positive and negative consequences
CLPP Meeting outcomes

- Meeting participants who have similar goals
- Talking and listening to each other
- Gathering people with multiple backgrounds and roles at their TCU
  - College president
  - Language teachers
  - Program coordinators
  - Project coordinator
  - Recent graduate
- Representing 6 out of 7 TCUs in Montana
- Identifying their interests and issues in language activities
Challenges Ahead

- More discussion on Class 7
- Determining how to best share materials and ideas outside of these meetings
- How to reconcile the large gap between typical language documentation training and what TCUs need
  - How can trainings in language documentation contribute to language revitalization and language reclamation?
  - How can the trainings be extended and improved?
- How to pave the way for TCUs to participate in CoLang
  - Incorporate Native Perspectives
  - Language teaching and licensure are very important issues among the communities
  - Find or an existing workshop (e.g. Language Activism) in CoLang that relates to their interests (e.g. Class 7) or propose a new workshop
Next steps

- Plan for this summer
  - Survey participants
  - Finalize the meeting report
  - Share reports

- On-site visits
  - Develop onsite meetings collaboratively with the hosting TCU representatives
  - Invite other community language workers
  - Determine discussion topics and workshops for each onsite visit
Acknowledgments

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