

National Science Foundation  
Workshop for  
**Documenting Endangered  
Languages**



October 14 - 17, 2007  
The New England Center,  
University of New Hampshire,  
Durham, NH

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# Endangered Language Fund

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Durham, New Hampshire, October 2007

# Mission

- The scientific study of endangered languages.
- The support of native efforts in maintaining endangered languages.
- The dissemination, to both native communities and the scholarly world, of the fruits of these efforts.



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# Mechanisms

- Small research grants.
  - Currently about \$25,000 per year.
- *Native Voices Endowment: A Lewis & Clark Legacy.*
  - For tribal members or colleges along the Lewis & Clark route exclusively.
  - Currently about \$75,000 per year.



# Outreach

- Presentations to classes.
- Small archive.
- Newsletter.



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# Small Grants

- Over 100 projects over the past 11 years.
- Over \$140,000 in grant money.
- Short and unbureaucratic application procedure, though the grants are highly competitive (ca. 14% success rate).
- Many grants were made to individuals or groups who had never received (or, in many cases, applied for) grant money before.
- Approximately half of the grants are based in native-speaker communities.



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# Areal Coverage

- About half the grants have been for work in North America.
- The rest have been spread throughout the world.
- Although the coverage varies from year to year, it is always representative of the applications received.



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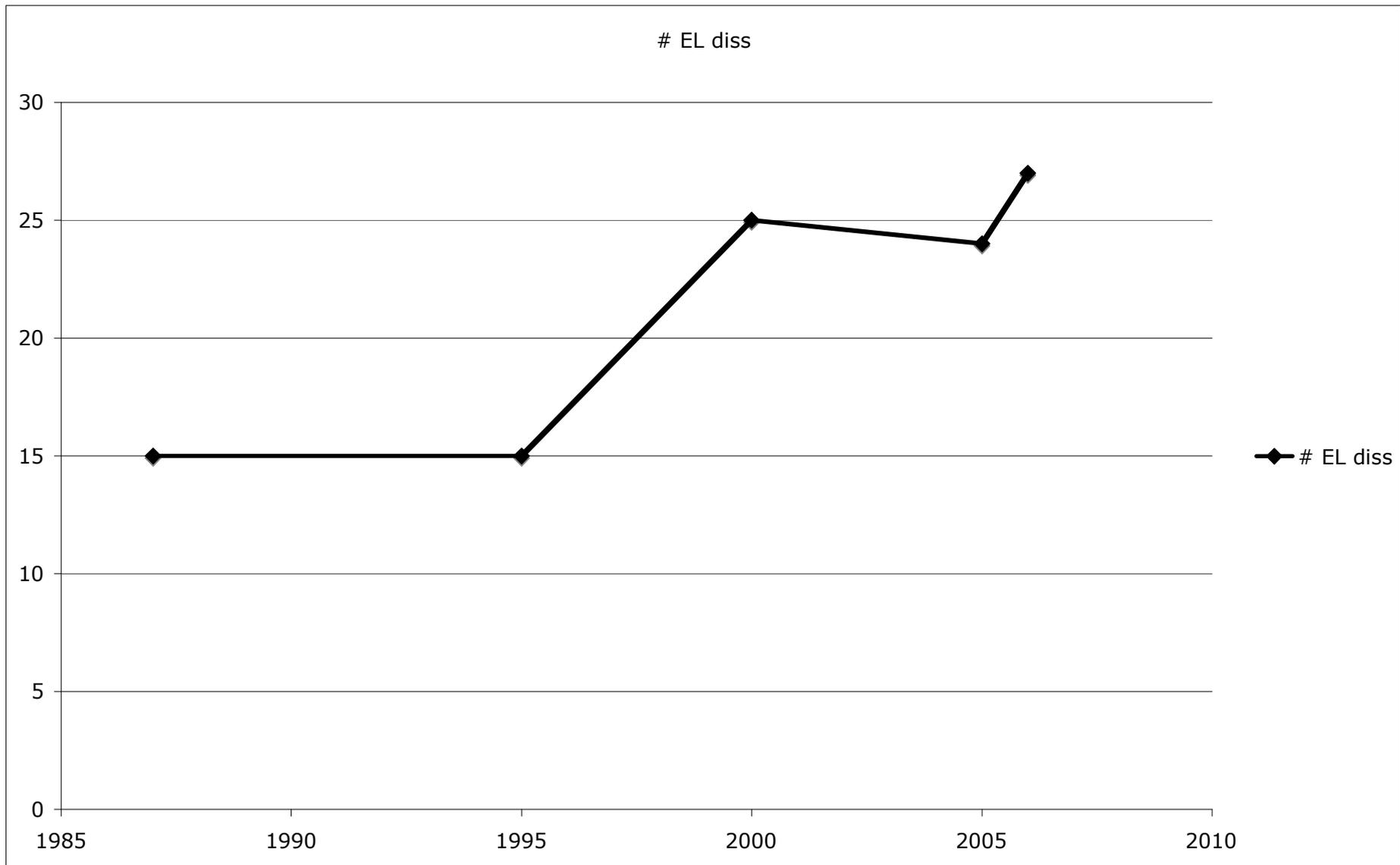
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# Results from the Grants

- Many hours of recordings & annotations.
- Many grateful acknowledgments.
- Many recipients have moved on to other grants.  
NSF, HRELP, and private foundations.
- One MacArthur Fellow  
Ofelia Zepeda, University of Arizona



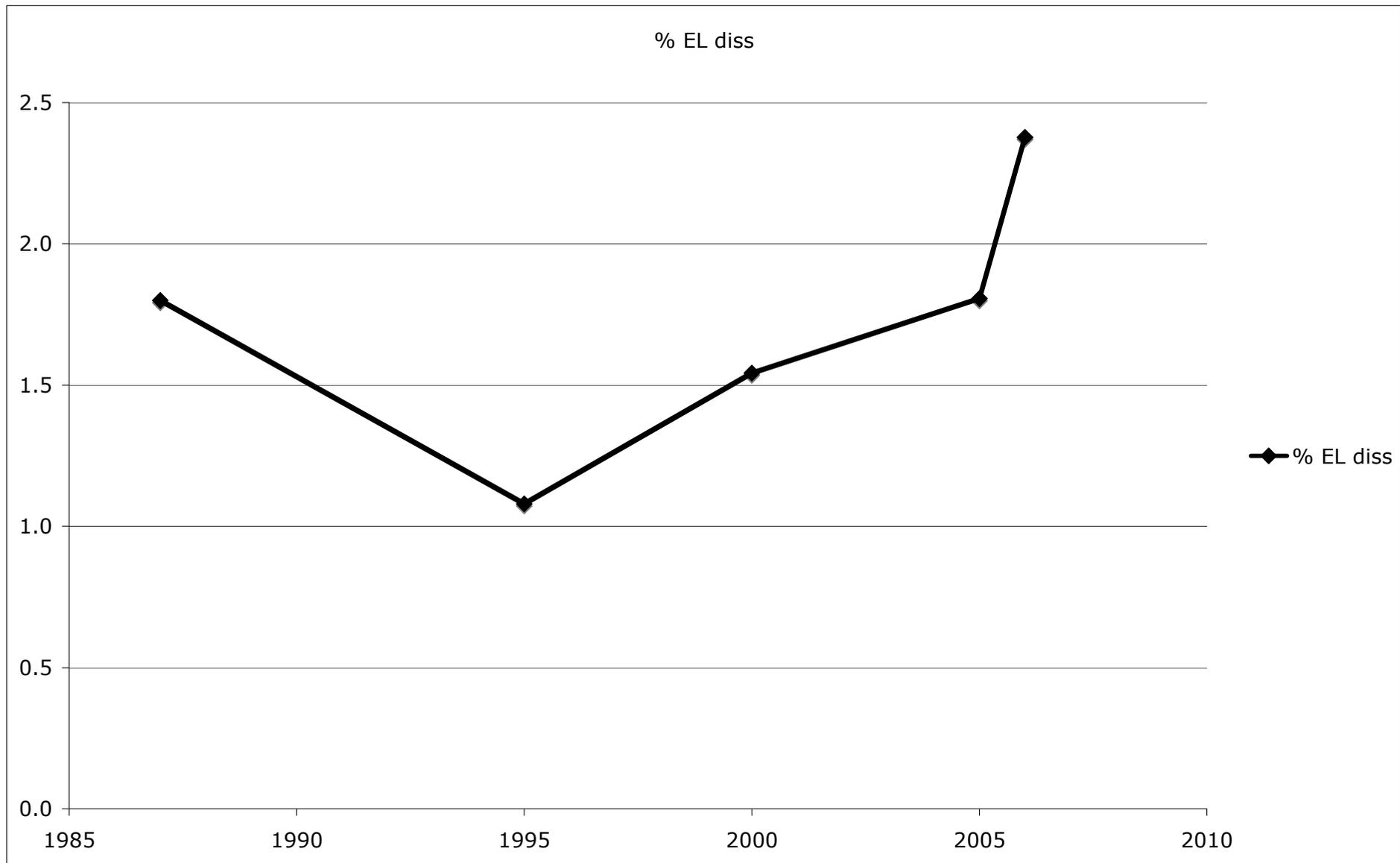
The number of linguistic dissertations on endangered languages has doubled.



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In recent years, this represents a doubling in terms of percentage as well.

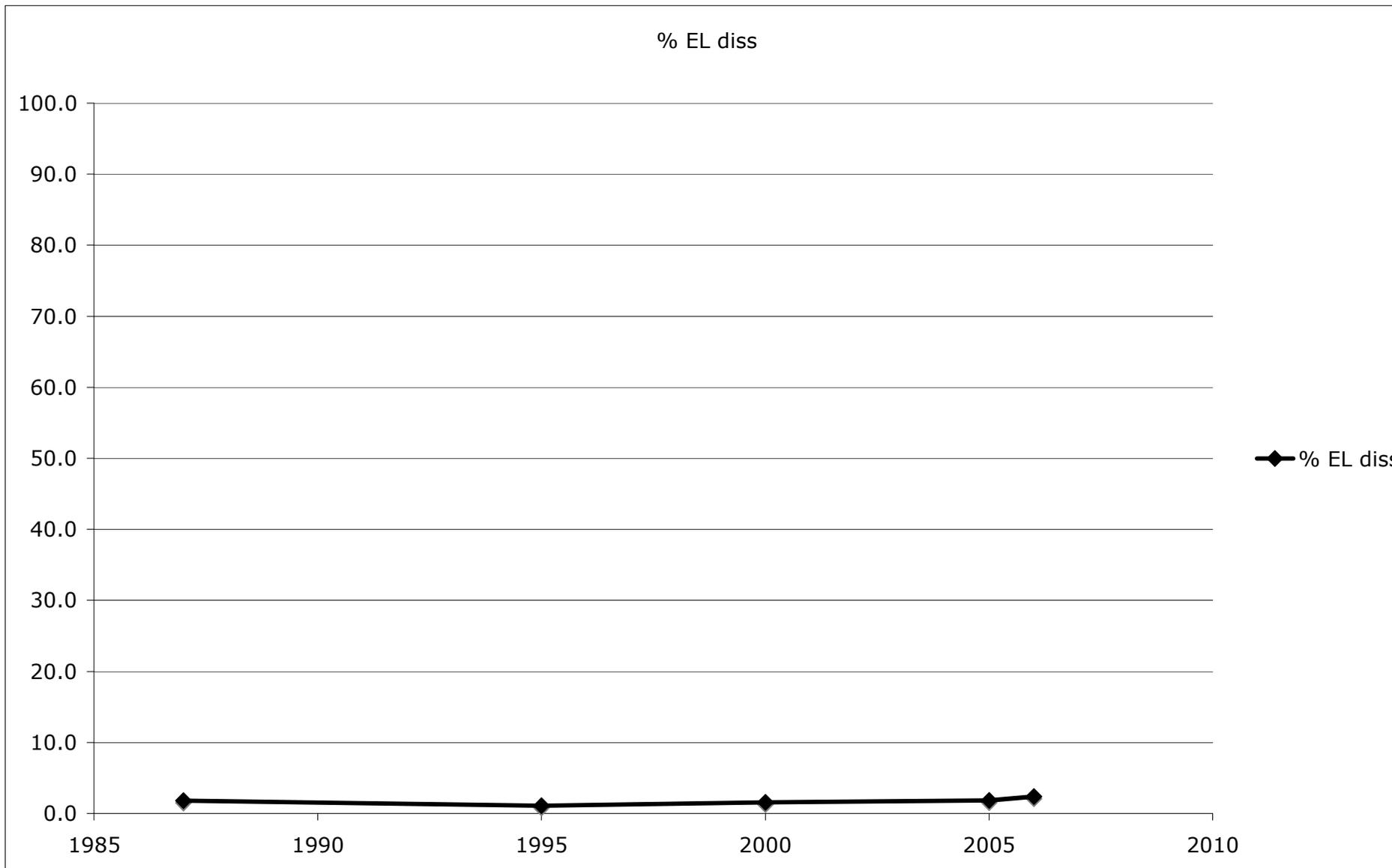


the  
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However, the percentage itself is miniscule.



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# ELF's Future Challenges

- Finding sustainable funding for small grants program.  
(as is the Native Voices Endowment)
- Expanding archiving offerings.
- Consistent outreach efforts.



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