National Science Foundation
Workshop for
Documenting Endangered Languages

October 14 - 17, 2007

The New England Center,

University of New Hampshire,
Durham, NH

Hans Rausing Endangered Languages Project, SOAS

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Endangered Languages Project
Because every last word means
another lost world...

HRELP

- funded by Arcadia (formerly Lisbet Rausing Charitable Fund) with a commitment of £20,000,000 (approx. $40 million), originally over a 10 year period 2002-2012

- *ELDP* – distributes around £1million per year in 5 types of large and small grants; currently funds 110 teams of researchers around the world documenting languages and cultures

- *ELAR* – digital archive at SOAS

- *ELAP* – academic programme for training MA, PhD, post-doctoral researchers

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Other activities

- Publishing: journal (*Language Documentation and Description*, CD-ROMs, website, multimedia research projects (eg. Dawes, Jewish Iraqi life histories)

- Workshops, seminars, public lectures, exhibitions

- 'Endangered Languages Week' public outreach and Open House

- Training courses – one and two day specialist courses (eg. XML day, sound recording and archiving), grantee training (6 days intensive for all ELDP grantees)

- International collaborative projects – BABEL Eurocores, Delaman, 3L summer school (Leiden-London-Lyon), European MA

- Advice on technology, research methods, grant applications, publication, endangered languages generally

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ELDP projects 2003-2005

**Peter Austin
HRELP**

**NSF Documenting Endangered Languages Workshop,
Durham, New Hampshire, 2007**

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Example: 18 Endangered Austronesian language projects

- ❖ Rau, *Yami*, Taiwan
- ❖ Macdonald, *Palawan,* Philippines
- ❖ Hattori, *Pingilapese*, Micronesia
- ❖ Jukes, *Toratan*, Indonesia
- ❖ Bowden, *Helong*, Indonesia
- ❖ Arka, *Rongga*, Indonesia
- ❖ Florey et al, 4 *Central Maluku languages*, Indonesia
- ❖ van Engelenhoven, *Maku'a*, East Timor
- ❖ Sercombe, *Eastern Penan*, Malaysia
- ❖ Rendina, *Numee*, New Caledonia
- ❖ Guerin, *Maafea*, Vanuatu
- ❖ Hyslop, *Vures*, Vanuatu
- ❖ Budd, *Biriebo*, Vanuatu
- ❖ Johnson, *Seke*, Vanuatu
- ❖ Barbour, *Neverver*, Vanuatu
- ❖ Schmidt, *Qatareu*, Vanuatu
- ❖ Raymond, *Kubakota*, Solomons
- ❖ Voica, *Blablanga*, Solomons

- ❖ *MA in Language Documentation and Description* - one year degree, for recruitment purposes must be available to students with no previous expertise in linguistics; two pathways: *Field Linguistics* (for students with linguistics BA degrees) and *Language Documentation and Support* (for all students) – currently 17 enrolled, 44 graduates

- ❖ *PhD in Field Linguistics* - three or four year degree, pre-requisite of MA in Linguistics or LD&D or related area, requires at least one year of fieldwork – currently 18 enrolled, 1 about to graduate

❖ *Core courses* (most 1 term, 10 weeks) - principles of linguistic analysis, issues in LD&D, technology and LD&D, applied LD&D, fieldmethods

❖ *Options courses* (each 1 term, 10 weeks) - array of choices, eg. typology, historical, sociolinguistics, phonetics, multimedia and language support, structure of language X, syntax, phonology, semantics, etc.

❖ *Research training seminar*

❖ *Dissertation* (10,000 words)

❖ *Recommended* attendance at department seminars, workshops (1 per term) and training courses

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The core

❖ *Principles of Linguistics Analysis* – basic linguistic theoretical and analytical techniques

❖ *Issues* - project design, research ethics, IPR, researchers and communities, grant application, world language ecology, endangered and minority languages, language contact, ethnographic methods,

❖ *Technology* - IT and media basics, recording and editing techniques, data analysis and design, data formats and standards, archiving issues, software tools (Transcriber, Shoebox ~ Toolbox, ELAN, Praat, IMDI)

- ❖ *Applied* - orthography design, literacy, lexicography, translation, language teaching pedagogy, curriculum design, language policy, advocacy
- ❖ *Fieldmethods* - work with speaker of unknown language (Khorchin, Dida, Sylheti) to exercise skills
- ❖ *Research training seminar* - fortnightly meetings to explore research methods and skills, tools (EndNote, Powerpoint), presentation and reporting skills (presentation dry runs), teamwork skills, cohort development
- ❖ *Dissertation* - 10,000 word essay on a research topic, sometimes the fieldmethods language but frequently a sociolinguistics or applied topic

- ❖ *Year 1* - advanced training in linguistics and LD&D. At end of year upgrade from MPhil to PhD via core chapter, bibliography, public presentation. Application for fieldwork funds
- ❖ *Year 2* - fieldwork overseas
- ❖ *Year 3* - thesis write-up and short follow-up fieldwork
- ❖ *Year 3.5 or 4* - thesis submission for examination

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PhD training

❖ *Advanced level* seminars in documentation theory and practice, eg. grammar writing, poetics and rhetoric, TAM systems, LFG, advanced fieldmethods

❖ *Research Training* seminar in research methods and skills, teamwork, presentation, grant writing

❖ *Research seminar* - work in progress presentations by PhD students, post-doctoral fellows and staff

❖ *Departmental seminar* - attendance at weekly seminar

❖ Other workshops, seminars and training courses at SOAS and other Univ of London departments