

A French Flair on Worldwide Archiving Methods

Despite the great number of European (Delaman, ELAP¹, DOBES) and American (AILLA²) archiving and documentation centres, France is still looking for improvement in this sector³. Even though resources are numerous, the complex academic organisation prevents the sharing of knowledge.

In the face of such an areal dichotomy, one needs to think differently one's archiving methods- in a more pluridisciplinary approach. How to bring back resources to the native communities? What do researchers and local students benefit from it?

Today, thanks to C.Grinevald & L.vand Der Veen⁴, Junior and Senior fieldwork linguists - specialized on endangered linguistic and different geographic areas - gathered.

After several brainstorming sessions when anecdotes were recurrent, the AALLED team⁵ wrote scientific articles compiled in a collective work dealing with the speaker/ linguist relationship and the restitution of feedback datas. This book⁶ is not the only backup to the restitution of datas and their analysis. Indeed, a DVD was added as an annex to respond to a more problematic need for restitution and exchange of datas⁷.

This DVD becomes thus the final element of the linguistic chain - working from the field, through the documentation and description to end on archiving.

Therefore, in this circular system, this annex becomes a linguistics tool for local linguists and for native communities. Both have access to a reliable feedback of documentation on their own languages or the one they focus on.

Finally, this annex will contribute to linguistic communities' reflexion on how to go beyond archiving and producing materials of potential utility.

Bibliography:

Gippert, J., Himmelman, P & U. Mosel, 2006, *Essential of Language Documentation*. Mouton TextBook. Mouton de Gruyter. Berlin - New York.

Grinevald, C., 2007, "Encounters at the brink: linguistic fieldwork among speakers of endangered languages" in *The Vanishing Languages of the Pacific Rim*. Miyaoka, O., Sakiyama, O., Krauss, M. (eds), Oxford University Press, Oxford pp.35-76

¹ A.Guillaume (AALLED-DDL-CNRS) archives datas on reyesano – Tacanan languages – Bolivia – for ELAP.

² « Rama Project » with C.Grinevald and M.Kaufmann

³ African Linguistics have still little concern for archiving.

⁴ “Dynamique Du Langage” research team (AALLED – African Latin America Endangered Languages)

⁵ in collaboration with M.Bert (ICAR CNRS)

⁶ written in French and English

⁷ according to the specific request emerging from a fieldwork expert J.Meyer ((Laboratori d'Aplicaciones Bioacustiques, Barcelone) - specialised on whistle languages and on the difficulty of transcribing whistle on a sheet of paper