

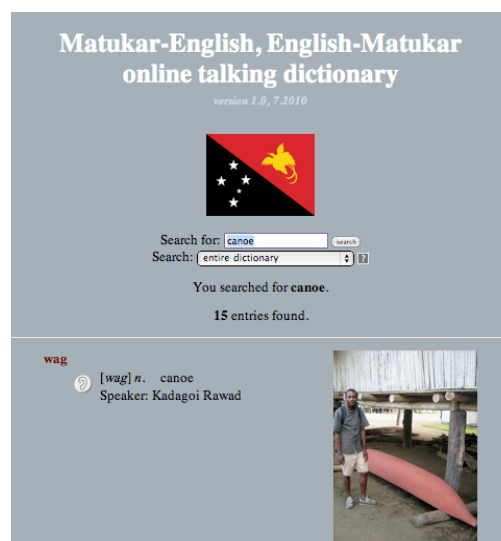
Living Tongues Institute Newsletter 2010

Dear Supporter of Living Tongues!

2010 was a busy year for Living Tongues. Institute Directors Dr. Gregory D. S. Anderson and Dr. K. David Harrison were appointed National Geographic Fellows. They are continuing their work with National Geographic to identify and map the world's "Language Hotspots", make recordings of the most endangered languages, and support community-led efforts at language revitalization.

Papua New Guinea

Following a preliminary visit by Drs. Anderson and Harrison in 2009, Living Tongues Institute Fellow Danielle Barth conducted fieldwork in Matugar village, Papua New Guinea, between February and April 2010 and collected several thousand words from which a preliminary version of a Matugar Panau Talking Dictionary has been produced. This is the first attempt to systematically document the Matugar language.



Left: Living Tongues Institute Fellow Rudolf Raward in Matugar, PNG.
Right: The Matugar talking dictionary, www.matugar.swarthmore.edu.

Language Revitalization

A revitalization workshop under the auspices of the Enduring Voices Project—our joint-initiative with National Geographic Society's Mission Programs—held in Santa Fe, New Mexico and hosted by the Indigenous Language Institute dominated Spring 2010. This 2-week training session instructed participants in how to turn audio, video and photo resources made possible by our *Language Technology Kits* into usable revitalization materials. Participants came from indigenous communities in Paraguay (Chamacoco), India (Ho, Khasi, Santali) and Papua New Guinea (Matugar Panau), along with representatives from the Sac and Fox of Oklahoma and Winnemem Wintu of California. They produced a range of print books, digital storybooks, and short videos.

India

In June, we began our project "Documentation of the Remo (Bonda) language of Orissa, India" funded by a small one-year grant from National Science Foundation under the Documenting Endangered Languages program. Field trips conducted in September-October and December involved the collaboration of language activists from the Remo (Bonda) and Gta' (Diday) communities of Orissa, aided by the assistance of Sora language activist Opino Gomango, and the Mundari scholar Bikram Jora, an advanced PhD student in Linguistics at Delhi University.



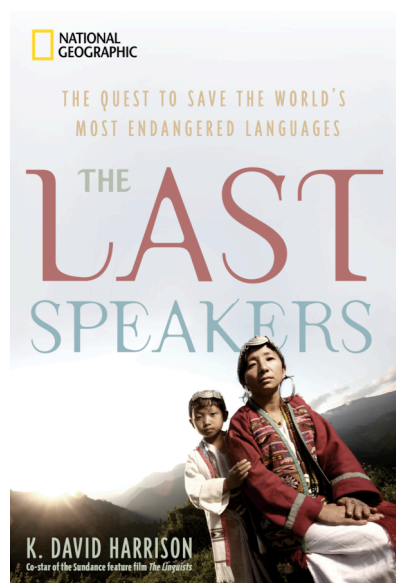
L to R: Gta' consultant Budra Raspeda, Remo consultants Sudarsan Dangada-Majhi and Sania Dangada-Majhi, Greg Anderson and Sora activist Opino Gomago working in Orissa. Photo by Mundari scholar Bikram Jora.

Fieldwork in PNG and Paraguay

In July and August, Living Tongues Institute Fellow Don Daniels carried out fieldwork in Panim, village, Madang Province, Papua New Guinea and collected a number of words and grammar materials. This is providing a solid framework for the documentation of this endangered language and the foundation of a Panim Talking Dictionary. In this same time, fieldwork on Chamacoco/Yshyr was conducted in Paraguay and several thousand words were recorded, following up on the field trip in summer 2009. From this, a preliminary version of the Chamacoco/Yshyr Talking Dictionary has been developed.

The Last Speakers

In September, National Geographic Books published Dr. Harrison's book, *The Last Speakers: The Quest to Save the World's Most Endangered Languages*. This includes many stories and photos relating to the work of Living Tongues.



Vanishing voices on YouTube

In October, the Enduring Voices YouTube channel (www.youtube.com/enduringvoices) was launched. This provides a single location for all digital resources from Living Tongues projects to be housed and disseminated to the widest possible audience. Samples of the materials from past projects of Living Tongues as well as from the projects done at the Revitalization workshop in the spring are featured there. The channel has had over 50,000 visits since its launch.

Hidden language

October also saw the announcement throughout global media outlets of the work being done under the auspices of the Enduring Voices Project by Dr. Anderson, Dr. Harrison, Santal language activist Ganesh Murmu and Koro community member Sange Degio on the 'hidden' Koro language of Arunachal Pradesh. We have been doing a documentation of the Koro language since early

2008. More fieldwork was carried out on Koro in another trip to Arunachal Pradesh in November 2010. A portion of the materials from this trip can be seen on the Enduring Voices YouTube channel.

Native American languages

Throughout 2010 work has continued on the Siletz Dee-Ni Talking Dictionary Project. More than 6,000 words have been loaded to date, and we are planning on expanding this as well as adding video and photo content throughout 2011.

Bud Lane, the last fluent speaker and member of the Siletz Tribal Council, remarked **“The Talking dictionary is and will be one of the best resources we have in our struggle to keep Siletz Athabaskan alive.”**

Your role in language survival

Thank you for your interest and support of Living Tongues. None of these projects are possible without your generous donations. Without this support we cannot continue to document and help support indigenous efforts at revitalization of the world’s vanishing linguistic diversity. Please consider Living Tongues in your charitable donations this year. You can truly help make a difference. Without your support this work is impossible.