Enduring Voices Field Report

South America, August – September 2011

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LIVING TONGUES
Institute for Endangered Languages

My fieldtrip to South America had the following goals:

1) to work on the Yanesha Oral History Archives, an Amazonian indigenous language conservation project,

2) meet with several designated Language Technology Kit (LTK) recipients in Peru and Chile and provide them with Flip video cameras,

3) find a South American location for the 2013 Enduring Voices media skills workshop in Chile, and network with local specialists,

4) work with Andres Ozuna, an Yshyr (Chamacoco) language activist from Paraguay, on his trilingual Yshyr dictionary project.

Mapuche cultural event. From left to right, María Inéz Huenuñir (Mapuche poet), Giovana Tabila (Mapuche healer), A.L. Daigneault. Photo by A. Salazar.

1) The Yanesha Oral History Archives (Lima, Peru)

This ongoing digital archiving project involves digitizing, editing and cataloguing over 600 hours of audio recordings and video footage from the Yanesha people of the central Peruvian Amazon. The recordings, which were made by Yanesha cultural expert Espiritu Bautista and anthropologist Richard Chase Smith between 1968 and 2005, contain many interviews and endangered cultural material such as Yanesha music, epic narratives, and sacred chanting. Under the direction of Dr. Smith, I have been collaborating on this project at the Instituto del Bien Común in Lima since 2008. We made a lot of progress this year, and part of the collection is now available online at www.yanesha.com. Please help support this project by donating through the Archives website.

Portrait of Yanesha elder Jorge B. in the Yanesha Archives. Photo by A.L. Daigneault

2) Language Technology Kit Recipients

Espiritu Bautista (Yanesha, South-Central Amazon, Peru)

I spent several weeks working with Espiritu on the Yanesha Archives Project. He is a highly respected Yanesha language activist and cultural expert who, with Dr. Richard Chase Smith, has co-produced ten educational maps detailing the traditional Yanesha sacred landscape. He has also recorded over 300 hours of interviews with Yanesha elders in remote Amazonian communities since 1985. Espiritu has many writings that he would like to publish, including a book of Yanesha creation stories. His two eldest sons, Elmo and Eder Bautista, plan to continue their father's work by producing Yanesha songbooks and creating an indigenous language radio program in the Peruvian Amazon. Elmo will be attending the 2013 media skills workshop along with his father. When given the Flip HD video camera, Espiritu happily began listing the cultural projects he would document on camera, including the upcoming building of a Yanesha temple in his community, Loma Linda, located in the central Peruvian Amazon.

During the Flip Camera training, Espiritu Bautista and his son Eder Bautista learn to use their new tripod. Photo by A.L. Daigneault.

Anselmo Nuyado Ancapichun (Tse-Sungun, Osorno, Chile)

Greg Anderson and K. David Harrison worked with Anselmo during their January 2011 expedition to Chile. Recognized as a keeper of Mapuche Tse-Sungun knowledge, Anselmo is a promoter of his language and culture, and has recently begun teaching traditional ceramics workshops in Tse-Sungun communities. I met up with Anselmo and his son Jonattan in the town of Temuco, in southern Chile, and we had a wonderful time working with their new Flip video camera. Anselmo has already outlined preliminary scripts for at least four Mapuche cultural documentary projects that he would like to produce with Enduring Voices, in his language: 1) The Story of Canillo, the Mapuche god of sustenance; 2) The Mapuche Concept of Beauty, a film focusing on Mapuche fertility symbols and the concept of *peoma*, which means well-being in both mind and body; 3) The Mapuche Concept of Justice: A Culture Without Prisons; 4) The Mapuche Cosmology, detailing the relationship between humans, nature, time and space.

Jonattan Loaiza Colipai and his father Anselmo Nuyado Ancapichun with their new HD Flip camera and tripod. Photo by A.L. Daigneault.

María Inés Huenuñir Antihuala (Mapuche, Santiago de Chile)

A Mapuche poet and kindergarten teacher, María is on her way to becoming a cultural icon in Chile. I spent a hectic week with her in Santiago de Chile going to various meetings, Mapuche language courses, school events, as well as cultural and municipal inaugurations. Her poetry, which she recites in Mapudungun (the language of the Mapuche people) and Spanish, describes the life of urban Mapuche women, the struggle to reclaim native lands in rural areas, the beauty of nature, and the joys and sorrows of being indigenous in Chile. When I saw her speak to crowds, saw how she inspired hope among Mapuche women, who often struggle to have their voices heard, and experience hardship paying for education. When I showed her how to use the new Flip video camera and how to upload videos to Youtube, she realized that she could start creating video poems in her language, which made her very enthusiastic. She is also interested in producing materials for the Mapudungun language courses she teaches, and she will document the cultural events in the Mapuche kindergarten where she is a beloved teacher and organizer.

María Inéz Huenuñir Antihuala reciting her poetry at an Indigenous Women's Day event in Lo Espejo, Chile. Photo by A.L Daigneault.

Judith Condori Gavilan (Quechua, Ayacucho dialect, Peru)

I met Judith at the Yachay Wasi Quechua Academy, located in El Callao, Lima, Peru. Judith is a Quechua instructor there, and she is also the assistant of Demetrio Tupac Yupanqui, one of the most famous Quechua language instructors in Peru. As a young and dedicated language activist, Judith is a great candidate for the Enduring Voices media skills workshop in 2013, and she is eager to participate. She has many ideas for developing more learning materials for Quechua students and sees the great need to promote Quechua language and culture in Peru. She is also willing and skilled to collaborate on digital software projects.

A.L Daigneault, Demetrio Tupac Yupanqui, and Judith Condori Gavilan. Photo by Alejandra, a local Quechua student.

3) A Location for the 2013 Enduring Voices Media Skills Workshop

I met with Chilean audio-visual specialists Luis Godoy Saavedra and Julio Martinez, who work at UTEM, the Universidad Tecnológica Metropolitana, in Santiago de Chile. Over the last few years, they have worked with a Mapuche indigenous community to produce several schoolbooks and one short documentary film, and would like to do more projects of that kind. They have good facilities, an excellent staff and enthusiastic students who would be willing to collaborate with our media skills workshop in 2013. They have offered to let us host the workshop at the UTEM at a low cost and provide us with instructors as well as local indigenous students who can teach digital skills to the endangered language speakers who attend the workshop.

Luis Godoy Saavedra and Julio Martinez, UTEM administrators and audio-visual specialists. Photo by A.L Daigneault

4) The Yshyr (Chamacoco) Dictionary Project

I have been working with Paraguayan language activist Andres Ozuna and helping him edit and format his Yshyr dictionary, which contains many ancient Yshyr terms that are now becoming endangered in his language. The final dictionary will be in Yshyr, Spanish and English. Andres has been collaborating with Enduring Voices since 2009, and has also worked on the Chamacoco Talking Dictionary Project online. Thanks to the LTK he received, he became the first person from his tribe to publish a book containing medicinal knowledge and stories in his language. Andres has also recently compiled other Yshyr myths that I am presently translating into English, and these stories will also appear alongside his dictionary, which we plan to publish in 2012.

B

Bahlut, *bahlut*, ***grande***

Bahat bahat, precio

Bahluwa, *õr bahluwa* ***jefe***

Bahrike, *barhiki* ***fallecido***

Basibike ***nombre de cacique***

Boshecho ***boshesh, niño***

Excerpt from the Yshyr Dictionary by Andres Ozuna..

Other Activities

Meeting with fifteen teachers who work in Mapuche, Aymara and Rapanui schools in Chile; they are doing great work revitalizing their languages and cultures.

"Wixage Anai" (Awaken) Mapuche Radio interview with hosts Elizabeth and Jose Huenchual.

I also sent a new color laser printer to Hugo Antipani, an indigenous teacher and language activist in a Mapuche Huilliche Sungun community in southern Chile, so he could produce and print learning materials in his language. Photo by a Chile Express employee.