ESF EUROCORES Theme Proposal - Overview

Application

Ref. Number	2 416		Submission date	01/06/2007

Proposal Details

Proposal Title	BABEL: Better Analyses Based on Endangered Languages
Acronym	BABEL
Keywords	endangered languages; linguistics (description, theory, typology); cognitive anthropology; anthropological linguistics; philosophy; indigenous knowledge; intangible heritage

Abstract

The diversity in the world's languages is on the verge of becoming dramatically reduced in the decades to come. Partly due to the attention that has been drawn to this problem, the field of linguistics has been moving to take the diversity in languages into account. The dramatic change in the amount and the nature of language data that is being analyzed has proven to have and will continue to have a profound influence on our insights into the human language faculty. A strong research input from the European Science Foundation can solidify this development and strengthen the impact of European research on linguistics as a whole. By conducting the research in close cooperation with researchers in the countries where the most linguistic diversity is found, we can accelerate the process of linguistic description, documentation and analysis of the underdescribed languages. The proposal is crucially different from existing documentation initiatives in that our emphasis lies on bringing the newly gathered data into the development of linguistic theory. The proposal is for a number of projects to gather primary data on strategically chosen minority languages, to concentrate on analysis of the material and use the results to expand and correct our insight into the structure and nature of human language. Dissemination of the data gained from these projects will be published in monographs, articles in general linguistics journals, papers at general linguistic. Exchange of experience from the projects is carried out in thematic work groups and at intensive training sessions ("summer" schools).

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1. Title:

BABEL:

Better Analyses Based on Endangered Languages

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3. Abstract. (269 words)

The diversity in the world's languages is on the verge of becoming dramatically reduced in the decades to come. Partly due to the attention that has been drawn to this problem, the field of linguistics has been moving to take the diversity in languages into account. The dramatic change in the amount and the nature of language data that is being analyzed has proven to have and will continue to have a profound influence on our insights into the human language faculty. A strong research input from the European Science Foundation can solidify this development and strengthen the impact of European research on linguistics as a whole. By conducting the research in close cooperation with researchers in the countries where the most linguistic diversity is found, we can accelerate the process of linguistic description, documentation and analysis of the underdescribed languages. The proposal is crucially different from existing documentation initiatives in that our emphasis lies on bringing the newly gathered data into the development of linguistic theory. The proposal is for a number of projects to gather primary data on strategically chosen minority languages, to concentrate on analysis of the material and use the results to expand and correct our insight into the structure and nature of human language. Dissemination of the data gained from these projects will be published in monographs, articles in general linguistics journals, papers at general linguistic. Exchange of experience from the projects is carried out in thematic work groups and at intensive training sessions ("summer" schools).

4. Key words:

endangered languages; linguistics (description, theory, typology), cognitive anthropology, anthropological linguistics, philosophy, indigenous knowledge, intangible heritage

5. Details of scientific program

5.1.   Background

Every culture represents a unique and alternative way of life. Loss of cultural diversity is a loss of experience and knowledge that has proven its potential usefulness for mankind in general. Languages, besides being part of a nation's cultural heritage, constitute a complete and complex reflection of a culture. The loss of a language thus entails the irretrievable loss of cultural heritage. The documentation of languages is a vital instrument in preserving cultural heritage and safeguarding knowledge systems.

Only a small proportion of the world's roughly 6000 known languages has been properly documented. Moreover, the majority of these 6000 languages is seriously endangered and this imminent loss of diversity is being vastly accelerated under the influence of globalization tendencies and the spread of languages of wider communication into the geographical

areas and cultural domains of these endangered languages. As a consequence of this influence, features of the languages of wider communication are taken over into minority languages, reducing the linguistic diversity even more. In this light the sense of urgency to document these languages now is ever-increasing.

Linguistics is at a crucial moment in its history. Research focus on minority languages has increased dramatically over the last decades and the insights from this research are changing our view on language. Furthermore, the growing interest in language documentation and the concern about the imminent threat to language diversity has revolutionized the research on undocumented languages in a number of ways: firstly, the need for storage of data for generations to come has triggered a reflection on data collection and storage; secondly, there is a shift towards collection of natural discourse and text data and away from the use of questionnaires and elicitation lists. This in itself has strengthened the bottom-up approach to generalisations about linguistic behaviour and is forcing linguists to have an open mind to let the data speak. Categories that are unknown or not encoded grammatically in our Western languages turn out to be quite widespread in the rest of the world. The wealth of new data is changing linguistics and will continue to change linguistics in the coming decade.

The aim of the research theme is to strengthen this revolution by bringing about a significant increase in available data on strategically chosen underdescribed languages, by accelerating the process of language description, documentation and analysis through integration of researchers from the countries involved into the process and thus an increased follow up research in those countries. But most of all by pointing out the relevance of the new insights and particularly the salient unexpected results to the wider field of linguistics and other involved sciences. Research on lesser known languages shows that there are important grammatical catagories such as evidentiality that are not expressed systematically grammatically in the Western languages. It also shows that the grammatical relations of subject and object which are so fundamental in our view of grammar play a less central role in many other languages. Parts of grammar such as information packaging are in our set views usually expressed by intonation and this has influenced the status pragmatics has in design of linguistic theory. Yet the newly collected data show many radically different means of encoding information structure.

5.2.   An assessment of the state of description of the world's languages
While more and more languages are being described at present, it remains that for the vast majority of the world's languages we have little more information than a short word list and some notes on grammar or quite often we have not more information than that the language exists. Few of those languages for which we have a description come close to the

level of description of the least-well described European languages. Despite the considerable progress that has been made over the last decennia there is still a huge task ahead of us. A solid language description consists at least of a grammar, a dictionary and an annotated text collection. The most interesting linguistic results come from in-depth analysis on this basis. It is important that we arrive at the stage of in-depth analysis and to make sure that the results have their effect on linguistic theory. Any in-depth analysis of a particular phenomenon will raise new data questions some of which can only be answered while the language is still spoken and not solely on the basis of an archived and often relatively limited database. In addition, by linking the newly acquired facts and insights to a more general thinking about the nature of language structure, more and more linguists will become interested in primary data collection and more are needed.

The following is an assessment of the need for linguistic description made by Prof. Bob Dixon in 2002 who assumes a lower total number of languages in the world than generally mentioned: We have adequate documentation for only about 15% of all languages. A very approximate count of languages (leaving aside those with a million or more speakers), with breakdown into those for which there is good documentation and those for which documentation is needed is (in italics comments from Prof. Austin):

Region / language family	number of languages spoken	good docum-entation	need for docum-entation	comment
North America: USA and Canada	200	100	100	
Meso-america	150	40	110	fair diversity; much good work done but more needed
South America	430	30	400	great diversity of languages (more than 30 distinct families plus many isolates), one of three areas in most need of study
Sub-Saharan Africa	1000	100	900	diversity in some areas, less in others (Bantu), one of three areas in most need of study
Afro-asiatic	200	20	180	one language family, but considerable diversity within it
Europe & North and Central Asia	80	40	40	work still needed
The Caucasus	40	20	20	
South Asia	100	50	50	*This is a complex region with isolates, branches of Indo-European, Dravidian, Munda, Tibeto-Burman,*

Region / language family	number of languages spoken	good docum-entation	need for docum-entation	comment
				and Andamanese. Much work needed. Number of languages is higher.
Sino-Tibetan	250	40	210	one family, medium diversity
Tai-Kadai	40	10	30	ditto
Austro-asiatic	100	20	80	one diverse family, much work needed
Philippines	150	30	120	one branch of a family, considerable similarities between languages
Indonesia	500	50	450	*Three branches of Austronesian; a lot of diversity.*
Australia	100	80	20	
Taiwan	20			*Very diverse Austronesian groups; high endanger-ment; much documenta-tion needed*
New Guinea	900	20	880	great diversity of languages (sixty distinct language families), one of three areas in most need of study
Oceania	300	60	240	one branch of a family, considerable similarities between languages, much excellent work done already
Totals	c4500	c700	c3800	

Most of the work to be done is found in Africa, the Americas and Asia. It seems logical to concentrate on those areas where Europe has traditional ties; also keeping in mind that linguistic research in North America and Australia is easier for linguists from that region from a financial and administrative perspective. The number of endangered languages in Europe is relatively low but the programme should pay due attention to those as well, emphasizing the global nature of the issue of loss of linguistic diversity and the urgent need to describe it now and in detail, in line with the European Charter for Regional or Minority Languages.

In addition to the underdescribed regional and minority languages of Europe, a number of key regions are identified where research is particularly urgent and from where projects are particularly welcomed. These are

- The wider Amazone and bordering areas including the Guyanas.

- West and Central Africa

- Ethiopia and Sudan

- The region between and including South China and Northern India.

- Papua and Eastern Indonesia

- Siberia and the polar region.

By complementing the typological comparative research within these areas with historical research we gain much insight in prehistorical dispersal and contact. In particular we would encourage projects to establish comparative dictionaries of language families of understudied languages which have proven to be extremely useful; such studies set the individual synchronic studies in a broader perspective and particularly bring to surface new knowledge of how languages change through time and interact areally.

5.3. Language documentation and reflection on data and data storage; new methodology

The emphasis in the existing endangered languages programmes is on documentation, archiving, language maintenance, and revitalization. A distinction has been made between documentation and language description emphasizing the need for documenting more and different dimensions than a traditional language description would require, i.e., documenting speech styles, and various communicative situations. The tasks for the linguist have grown beyond what is possible for one person and many of the documentation projects funded by Hans Rausing Endangered Languages Programme (HRELP) at SOAS, London and Dokumentation Bedrohter Sprachen (DoBeS); Volkswagen Foundation, work in teams. The documentation itself entails video-taping with the crucial meta-data description, translation, annotation. With regard to linguistic analysis there are two sides to this development. On the one hand the focus on documentation puts time pressure on linguistic analysis in the field and favours a work method of only collecting while in the field and analysing later outside the field situation. Such a method may have, however, detrimental consequences for the quality of the data which is directly dependent on the feedback of analysis into the data collection (impossible outside the field). On the other hand, the emphasis in documentation as different from description, as well as the realisation that all data collected, including field notes, have to be made openly available is currently influencing the process of data collection dramatically with the positive side effect of strengthening the data-driven analysis of the languages in question. More and more linguists have come away from working solely with pre-constructed questionnaires and check-lists. By necessity such tools tend to follow the current understanding of possible language structure and are insufficient to discover radically different aspects of the language under investigation. The requirement of collecting

representative natural language use has created an openness of mind to the unexpected, to the ways in which the language under study is different. However, in order to overcome the extra burden on the data collection by the linguist we need an additional and more scientifically oriented funding program that emphasises analysis in order not to go back to the times of superficial survey linguistics without analysis in combination with data collection. In this respect our proposal differs radically from the existing initiatives.

The various initiatives for documentation have started multi-media archives and the development of technical tools to store and access video and audio annotated language data. Such archives are available at DoBeS, Max Planck Institute Nijmegen, http://www.mpi.nl/DOBES, the Hans Rausing Endangered Languages Project, http://www.hrelp.org/, the Leipzig Endangered Languages Archive, http://www.eva.mpg.de, the CNRS-Lacito archives, http://lacito.vjf.cnrs.fr/archivage/index.html, the Pacific And Regional Archive for Digital Sources in Endangered Cultures in Australia, http://www.paradisec.org.au/, and others.[1] The growing amount of primary data in minority languages that are available on internet opens the option for corpus research on endangered languages. This is extremely important because without these tools these languages would be excluded from the growing linguistic approaches that rely on research on primary spoken language rather than speaker's judgements on grammaticality of utterances. The aim of the proposed theme is to go beyond adding material to the existing databases and to put the available databases to use in theory development.

5.4.   New insights from the wider data perspective

It is inevitable that more research on more languages will change our idea about languages. It changes our ideas about what is possible and about what is common. New sounds have had to be added to the International Phonetic Alphabet on the basis of findings of lesser known languages. Tone languages turn out to be common rather than the exception. We have no good understanding yet to what extent intonation plays a role in tone languages. We are so used to a final rise in pitch for questions that we are surprised to find languages in which lowering of pitch is

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[1] In addition to the on-line archives there are various projects for setting up typological databases with analysed language data such as the Typological Database project, http://www.lotschool.nl/Research/tds/, the World Atlas of Linguistic Structures, http://www.eva.mpg.de/lingua/files/wals.html, ANNIS a Linguistic Database for Exploring Information Structure at Potsdam University, http://www.sfb632.uni-potsdam.de/annis/, etc. These databases make it very explicit how little we know and how limited our dataset actually is. As a consequence they stimulate research in underdescribed languages in a number a subfields of linguistics.

characteristic of questions. We are used to languages that classify nouns in two or three classes, but it turns out that there are many languages that use many more classes and different kinds of classifications for their nouns. Widening the scope of linguistic data has revealed that languages differ significantly in what they express in their grammatical system. For example, it turns out that many languages encode in their grammatical system the source of their information whether it is something which the speaker saw, or heard, or was told about, or inferred, or assumed, etc. (evidentials). A category of evidentiality occurs in quite a number of languages from the cultural area of Amazonia. The study of these grammatical evidentials raises interesting questions about to what extend such phenomena can be correlated to cultural properties and how this same phenomenon is encoded (not grammatical and not obligatorily) in our Western languages.

Detailed and interdisciplinary studies are needed to establish the influence of "culture" on language. There seems to be extra-linguistic influence on the conceptualization and compartmentalization of space and time; cultural influence on structural aspects of lexical meaning, such as the degree of control assumed to be present in the agent subject of the verb, etc. We must stress that it is possible to find an extra-linguistic motivation for only a small part of any grammar. The fact that it is not possible to uncover an extra-linguistic connection for *every* category in a grammar has been taken to imply that it is *never* possible to find such a connection. This is effectively suggesting that each language has an arbitrary structure, which has no connection with and is in no way motivated by the nature of the society which speaks it. It is important to pay attention to the detailed semantics of the languages of cultures that are in several aspects so different from the dominant cultures of the West. Only by establishing which diversity is due to cultural and other extra-linguistic factors can we understand what is truly universal in human language.

In the organization of the sentence we are used to primary syntactic relations such as subject and object, nominative and accusative. Quite a number of languages have organized these roles differently, but more fundamental is the insight that for many of the world languages the primary organization of the syntax of the sentence is determined by how the speaker decides to encode the situation in terms of what is salient and what has to be considered as known and how the information relates to earlier discourse, rather than the roles of phrases in relation to the verb. If the phenomena themselves are not completely unknown, our idea of what is common and what is special in linguistic structure is shifting through the growing body of evidence. Research on endangered languages not only provides us with new sounds, new conceptual structures, new categories, counter-examples to hypothesized universals,

but it also shifts the balance of what we see as common or rare in the languages of the world.

5.5.   Aims of the research theme

The aim of the research theme is to strengthen research in endangered languages within the field of linguistics by financing such research and by ensuring that the results are taken into account in establishing linguistic typology and theory. The process of description of endangered languages is accelerated by luring more linguists into this enterprise and specifically researchers from the countries where the languages are spoken.

Potentially an important contribution could come from linguists from the countries where those languages are spoken. For a large part these are countries in the underdeveloped South. Too often there is a pattern that the colleagues in the South do not manage to have this impact. There are a number of causes: training in formal frameworks and the inability to keep track with developments within such frameworks, lack of training in analyzing basic data of languages in the country, involvement in issues of language policies. By executing the projects in close cooperation and involvement with local linguists, we might be able to remedy this unfortunate situation empowering the local linguists and engendering more similar research in the future in the countries involved.

Within the EUROCORES theme we aim at projects of varying size that together work towards new analytical descriptions of at least 30 endangered languages.

Since the goal is to strengthen linguistic theory, there is a need of creating models and procedures for a more direct and stronger input of empirical field research into the theoretical debate, to be achieved by allowing of a level of interaction and cross-fertilization on the basis of different disciplinary specializations: semantics working group, phonology working group, etc. These working groups will strengthen cohesion and interaction of the various projects. The groups will concentrate on topics that are likely to change our ideas about the structure of language, such as intonation in tonal languages, noun classification systems, evidentiality, organizational principles of word order, etc. The topics mentioned here serve as examples and will ultimately be established by the working groups themselves on the basis of what is offered by the languages in the selected projects. The working groups serve for cross-fertilization among the projects and to ensure reception of the results in the general field of linguistics.

Cohesion is also ensured by organizing a number of "summer" schools for training in the new techniques of data collection. These "summer" schools are open for all, and specifically including colleagues in the countries of

the endangered languages. They need not be only in the summer as for some regions this is the time to do fieldwork.

Results of the projects will be published in books and articles. The projects aim at publications that capture the attention of all linguists and contribute to the existing archives and typological databases. Rather than conferences specific to the research theme, the researchers are encouraged to report at existing general conferences.

5.6.   Social benefits

The UNESCO Universal Declaration on Cultural Diversity of 2001 describes cultural diversity as a "common heritage of humanity" and considers its safeguarding to be a concrete and ethical imperative, inseparable from respect for human dignity. Languages are vehicles of value systems and of cultural expressions and they constitute a determining factor in the identity of groups and individuals. The value of the study of endangered languages can be considered against a background of the general value of preserving existing cultural diversity. Every culture represents an experiment in survival, of a unique and alternative way of life, of solving or evading problems. Loss of cultural diversity is therefore a loss of experience and knowledge that has proven its potential usefulness for mankind in general. Languages, besides being part of a nation's cultural heritage, constitute a complete and complex reflection of it. The loss of a language thus entails the loss of cultural heritage. The documentation of languages is thus also central to ethno-botany, ethno-medicine, and the study of ritual and oral traditions.

The importance of language description has a clear ethical dimension, because the scientific interest can be seen as an expression of respect for an endangered civilization, which in turn gives it a sense of self-esteem. Often, aboriginal peoples live in poor or very poor countries, where the concept of minority status and related concepts of protection of minority rights and minority languages are not well developed. Language loss leads to a situation in which a group which cannot express itself well in the majority language, comes to assume an inferior position in the margins of the dominant culture. Language documentation offers the possibility of setting up programmes for bilingual education, which will permit people to acquire literacy in their own language, fortifying group identity and self-esteem. The prestige which is conferred upon minority languages by standardization and the development of a native language curriculum rubs off on its speakers, a highly desirable result in situations where the dominant society and the minority groups themselves often share a negative view of these minority languages. Bilingual education will, furthermore, give minorities the means to better understand the society that wants to 'assimilate' them, and will allow them to defend themselves, especially involving matters which concern their own survival (land rights,

exploitation rights to forests and other natural resources, complaints against pollution of drinking and fishing water, etc.).

While national and local policies frequently state the desirability of the protection of minority rights, including minority languages, there is often a failure to implement such policies, sometimes through lack of resources, sometimes through lack of genuine interest. In such situations, support from outside interests for a policy of bilingual and intercultural education, and for the development of language policy instruments is vital.

Scientific interest in endangered languages invariably has a positive influence on the people's self-esteem and gains them respect from neighbouring or dominant communities. This does not necessarily or automatically result in preservation of the language but it certainly creates a better climate in which activities by the community for language preservation stand a better chance. School books and literacy material can be developed if the community and the authorities choose to do do. For more than a decade the United Nations have been asking for attention for indigenous peoples and the effects are noticable; ethnic groups feel strong enough to speak out for themselves and there is a growing respect for cultural and linguistic diversity which is necessary for sustainable equality, peace, stability and development.

6. Requirement for an activity on the European level

The responsibility for the documentation and preservation of linguistic diversity is a global one. Even more so since the notion of specific national responsibilities has undesirable post-colonial undertones. In this light , the current programme invites proposals for language documentation of endangered languages irrespective of their location. The degree of endangerment and the urgency of the documentation task take priority over regional considerations.

Various national research bodies and foundations have recognized the importance of language documentation. These initiatives have been successful, and have led to the publication of a large number of grammars of hitherto underscribed languages. They have also contributed to the creation of a database infrastructure, the development of research tools, and training of a large group of linguists in using these tools. Yet most of these initiatives are now approaching their end dates, and the proportion of languages that lack a proper description is still estimated to be around 70%. There is an urgent need for a broad initiative aimed at the description of a massive number of languages, now that there is still time, and now that there is ample expertise to draw on.

A European initiative to form a group out of the existing leadership of the various national initiatives (in France, Germany, the Netherlands, and the United Kingdom) is a necessary sequel to the various national

programmes, in particular the CNRS programme (France), the DOBES programme (Germany), the NWO programme (The Netherlands) and the Hans Rausing/SOAS programme (United Kingdom) in order to strengthen the European dimension in this area of research. Recently the USA have launched a joint endangered languages program in cooperation between the National Science Foundation, the National Endowment for the Humanities and the Smithsonian Institute. The initiatives in Europe mentioned above have largely worked side by side or in competition to each other. Except in the case of the NWO programme, European endangered languages initiatives so far are outside the national funding agencies. They have made a major contribution and are world class at this point with regard to some aspects (archiving, for example; annotation technology) but are in danger of loosing their world leadership if not brought together in a European level cooperative enterprise. A broad initiative for documentation and analysis is needed now because of the urgency of endangerment and because the momentum is present, building on earlier initiatives.

Similarly, strong research traditions on minority languages in different European countries for different parts of the World (French in Vietnam and West Africa, Germans in Southwest and East Africa, etc) which have focussed on different research topics and developed different research profiles. There is a need to bring these traditions together in order to allow for a more comprehensive documentation and description of endangered languages.

The research theme is a unique opportunity to integrate researchers from Eastern Europe into the field of language description. There is a long tradition of interest in non-western languages in Eastern Europe but until recently there were no opportunity to do fieldwork.

7. Relationship to ongoing/planned activities

The present proposal differs from many of the aforementioned initiatives in its emphasis on scientific goals rather than on issues of language maintenance and revitalization.

The proposed research theme is open to all interested researchers, as it is our purpose to broaden and strengthen research on endangered languages across Europe.

The DOBES and HRELP initiatives are primarily aimed at documentation and in that sense complementary since the Eurocores theme aims at analysis and relating the research on endangered languages to linguistic theory. This proposed research theme may offer the option for researchers from these programs to continue with scientific analysis on the data collected in the documentation project. It is the expectation that there will be DOBES calls for concrete documentation projects until 2007

only. The NSF/NEH Documentation of Endangered Languages project is open for US institutions only and their fellowships are limited to US citizens or US based foreign nationals, and in that sense the US initiative is complementary with the Eurocores theme.

The theme OMLL: The Origin of Man, Language and Languages is related but different because it is concerned with historical questions. There is practically no overlap.

8. Level of funding required.
The funding is sufficient to finance up to 20 collaborative projects including at least double the amount of individual projects resulting in at least 30 new languages described. The organisation of the summer schools is in open competition and can be awarded to the best offer.

9. Ethical and legal issues
The legal and ethical issues involved are research permission by the local government, consent and cooperation of the language community, intellectual and cultural property rights. The various existing endangered languages programs have acquired ample experience in these issues including ethics guide lines to adhere to.

Appendices: I CVs and List of selected publications of proposers

Peter Austin (United Kingdom)

Professor Peter Austin holds the Märit Rausing Chair in Field Linguistics at the School of Oriental and African Studies, University of London, is director of the Endangered Languages Academic Programme of the Hans Rausing Endangered languages Programme. His research interests cover descriptive, theoretical and applied linguistics. He has extensive fieldwork experience on Australian Aboriginal languages (northern New South Wales, northern South Australia, and north-west Western Australia) and has co-authored with David Nathan the first fully page-formatted hypertext dictionary on the World Wide Web, a bilingual dictionary of Gamilaraay (Kamilaroi), northern New South Wales, as well as publishing seven bilingual dictionaries of Aboriginal languages. Since 1995 he has been carrying out research on Sasak and Sumbawan, Austronesian languages spoken on Lombok and Sumbawa islands, eastern Indonesia. His theoretical research is mainly on syntax and focuses on Lexical Functional Grammar, morpho-syntactic typology, computer-aided lexicography and multi-media for endangered languages. He has also published on historical and comparative linguistics, typology, and Aboriginal history and biography.

10 major publications in the relevant field, see also:
http://www.hrelp.org/aboutus/staff/index.php?cd=pa

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http://coombs.anu.edu.au/wwwvlpages/aborigpages/lang/gamdict/gamdict.htm

Jiwarli: a language of Western Australia
http://www.linguistics.unimelb.edu.au/research/projects/jiwarli/

Michael Fortescue (Denmark)

Michael Fortescue is Professor of General Linguistics at the University of Copenhagen (department of Nordic Studies and Linguistics). From 1979 to 2000 he was a researcher, then associate professor in the department of Eskimology, from which base he conducted field work throughout the Arctic and Sub-Arctic (Greenland, Canada, Alaska and Siberia), funded principally by the Danish Research Council for the Humanities and the Carlsberg Foundation. Apart from his special area of West Greenlandic, he has worked with a number of endangered languages and dialects, notably Polar Eskimo, Copper Eskimo, Koyukon, Chukchi, and, most recently, the Wakashan language Ditidaht. He is chairman of the *Cercle Linguistique de Copenhague* and member of its sub-committee on endangered

languages. He was co-author of the Comparative Eskimo Dictionary published by Alaska Native Language Center and sole author of the Comparative Chukotko-Kamchatkan Dictionary (Mouton de Gruyter). Both these works (and the parallel Wakashan one now under way) cover all the languages and dialects of their respective families and involved fieldwork in some of the lesser known ones.

10 major publications in the relevant field (see also under http://nordisk.ku.dk/ansatte):

Fortescue, Michael. 1983. *A Comparative Manual of Affixes for the Inuit Dialects of Greenland, Canada and Alaska*. Meddelelser om Grønland, Man and Society 4, Copenhagen.

Fortescue, Michael. 1984. *West Greenlandic*. Croom Helm, Beckenham, Kent.

Fortescue, Michael.1988. *Eskimo Orientation Systems*. Meddelelser om Grønland, Man & Society 11, Copenhagen.

Fortescue, Michael.1990. *Kalaallit atuakkiaannit: From the Writings of the Greenlanders*. University of Alaska Press, Fairbanks.

Fortescue, Michael.1991. *Inuktun: An Introduction to the Language of Qaanaaq, Thule*. Institut for Eskimologis skriftrække 15.

Fortescue, Michael & Lise Lennert Olsen. 1992. The Acquisition of West Greenlandic. In: *The Crosslinguistic Study of Language Acquisition*, vol. 3., ed. D. Slobin. Lawrence Erlbaum Associates, New Jersey: 111-219.

Fortescue, Michael & Lawrence Kaplan & Steven Jacobson. 1994. *Comparative Eskimo Dictionary with Aleut Cognates*. Alaska Native Language Center Press, Fairbanks.

Fortescue, Michael. 1997. Dialect Distribution and Small Group Interaction in Greenlandic Eskimo. In: *Archaeology and Linguistics*, eds. P. McConvell & N. Evans. Oxford University Press Australia, Melbourne: 111-122.

Fortescue, Michael.1998. *Language Relations across Bering Strait: Reappraising the Archaeological and Linguistic Evidence*. Cassell Academic, London.

Fortescue, Michael. 2005. *Comparative Chukotko-Kamchatkan Dictionary*. Mouton de Gruyter, Berlin.

Nikolaus Himmelmann (Germany)

Nikolaus Himmelmann is Professor of Linguistics at the Ruhr-Universität Bochum. In 2004/2005 he held a research professorship *Prosodic documentation in the DoBeS framework* funded by the VW Foundation. His recent projects on endangered languages include: *Documenting the People of the Centre (Peru)*; *Capacity building on a local and national level: Documenting Totoli, Central Sulawesi, Indonesia*; *Documenting Waima'a, East Timor*, a joint project with Dr. J. Bowden (ANU) and Dr. J. Hajek (University of Melbourne) which has resulted in an exemplary documentation; all funded by the VW foundation. He has done fieldwork and documentation work in Indonesia and East Timor since 1988. He is president of the Gesellschaft für Bedrohte Sprachen (German Society for Endangered Languages); and organized and participated in various summer schools on language description (1993, 1999, 2004).

10 major publications in the relevant field
   (See also http://www.linguistics.ruhr-uni-bochum.de/~himmelmann/):

Himmelmann, Nikolaus 1987. *Morphosyntax und Morphologie - Die Ausrichtungsaffixe im Tagalog*, München (Studien zur Theoretischen Linguistik Bd. 8).

Himmelmann, Nikolaus 1997. *Deiktikon, Artikel, Nominalphrase: Zur Emergenz syntaktischer Struktur*, Tübingen: Niemeyer (*Linguistische Arbeiten* 362).

Himmelmann, Nikolaus 1998. "Documentary and Descriptive Linguistics", *Linguistics* 36:161-195.

Himmelmann, Nikolaus 1998b. "Regularity in irregularity: Article use in adpositional phrases", *Linguistic Typology* 2:315-353

Himmelmann, Nikolaus & John Wolff 1999. *Toratán*, München: Lincom (Languages of the World, Materials 130) 118 pp.

Himmelmann, Nikolaus 2001. *Sourcebook on Tomini-Tolitoli Languages. General Information and Word Lists*, Canberra: Pacific Linguistics, xxii+436pp.

Hajek, John; Nikolaus Himmelmann, & John Bowden 2003. "Lóvaia: An East Timorese Language on the verge of extinction", *International Journal of the Sociology of Language* 160:155-167

Adelaar, K. A. & N. Himmelmann (eds) 2005a. *The Austronesian Languages of Asia and Madagascar*, London: Routledge, with the following contributions: "The Austronesian languages of Asia and Madagascar: Typological characteristics", pp. 110-181; "Tagalog", pp. 350-376

Himmelmann, Nikolaus & Eva Schultze-Berndt (eds) 2005b *Secondary predication and adverbial modification*. *TheTypology of depictives*, Oxford: Oxford University Press.

Gippert, J; N. Himmelmann, & U. Mosel (eds) 2006 *Essentials of language documentation*, Berlin: Mouton de Gruyter, with the following contributions: "Language documentation: What is it and what is it good for?", pp. 1-30; "The challenges of segmenting spoken language", pp. 253-274; "Prosody in language documentation", pp. 163-181.

François Jacquesson (France)

François Jacquesson has been doing extensive fieldwork in North-Eastern India for more than twelve years. These activities resulted in (a) numerous papers documenting specific details enhancing the importance of several local languages, (b) the complete description (2005) of the Deuri language, spoken by a small community in Upper Assam (c) papers describing a theoretical perspective about the relationship between demography and the speed of language change. All these aspects have been described in a number of international conferences. Moreover, he has been supporting local descriptive work by joint workshops with colleagues in Gauhati University (Assam). He is currently coordinating an ESF project (CRP01-JA18) within the OMLL scheme. and also a scientific multi-disciplinary network with geographers and anthropologists in NE India. He has also been working in Central Asia (2000, 2002).

10 major publications in the relevant field, see also http://lacito.vjf.cnrs.fr

Jacquesson, François 1998. "L'évolution et la stratification du lexique. Contribution à une théorie de l'évolution linguistique" *Bulletin de la Société de Linguistique de Paris* 93:77-136.

Jacquesson, François 1999. "L'évolution des langues dépend-elle de la densité des locuteurs ?" *Etudes Finno-Ougriennes* 31:27-34.

Jacquesson, François 2000. "Deux territoires d'histoire linguistique, le Brahmapoutre & l'Iénisséï", *Bulletin de la Société de Linguistique de Paris* 95/1:343-388.

Jacquesson, François 2001a. "Person marking in Tibeto Burman Languages, North-Eastern India", *Linguistics of the Tibeto-Burman Area* 24/1:113-144.

Jacquesson, François 2001b. "Pour une linguistique des quasi-déserts", *Etudes de linguistique générale et contrastive. Hommage à Jean Perrot*, éd. A.-M. Loffler-Laurian, Centre de recherche sur les Langues et les Sociétés, pp. 199-216.

Jacquesson, François 2002. "Les parlers karakalpaks dans leur contexte", in *Karakalpaks et autres gens de l'Aral*, Sv. Jacquesson (éd.), *Cahiers d'Asie Centrale* n°10 (Institut Français d'Etudes sur l'Asie Centrale, Tachkent), Edisud, pp. 93-137.

Jacquesson, François 2003a. "Kokborok, a short analysis", in *Kokborok Tei Hukumu Mission 10th Aniversary Volume*, Agartala (Tripura, India).

Jacquesson, François 2003b. "Linguistique, génétique et la vitesse d'évolution des langues" *Bulletin de la Société de Linguistique de Paris* 98:101-122.

Jacquesson, François 2004. F. Jacquesson, "Gallong et angami (Tibéto-birman)", in P.J.L. Arnaud (ed). *Le Nom composé : Données sur 16 langues*. Lyon : Presses Universitaires de Lyon, pp. 115-129.

Jacquesson, François 2005. *Le Deuri : langue tibéto-birmane d'Assam*, Peeters, Collection de la Société de Linguistique de Paris, 422 p.

Maarten Mous (Netherlands)

Maarten Mous is Professor of African Linguistics at Leiden University. His recent projects on endangered languages include: Stemming the tide: A study of the Dime and Zargulla Languages in South-west Ethiopia (NWO endangered languages programme), The morpho-syntax of two modal categories in Omotic languages of south-west Ethiopia (NWO endangered languages programme), A desription of Sandawe (CNWS/LUCL Leiden university). He has done fieldwork on Tunen (Bantu, Cameroon), Iraqw (Cushitic, Tanzania), Alagwa (Cushitic, Tanzania), Ma'a/Mbugu (mixed language, Tanzania), Seme (Kru, Burkina Faso), Toussian (Gur, Burkina Faso), Mbugwe (Bantu, Tanzania), Konso (Cushitic, Ethiopia), Seereer (Atlantic, Senegal). He was co-editor of the Journal of African Languages and Linguistics, member of the preparation committee on endangered languages for NWO, co-organiser of the NWO symposium on endangered languages in 2004 and of various conferences on African languages.

10 major publications in the relevant field (see also http://www.tca.leidenuniv.nl/index.php3?m=51&c=196):

Mous, Maarten 1993. *A grammar of Iraqw* (Cushitic Language Studies, 9.) Hamburg: Helmut Buske

Mous, Maarten, Martha Qorro and Roland Kießling 2002. *An Iraqw - English Dictionary* (Cushitic Language Studies,15) Cologne: Rüdiger Köppe. 200 pp.

Mous, Maarten 2003a. *The Making of a Mixed Language: The Case of Ma'a/Mbugu* Amsterdam: John Benjamins.

Kießling, Roland & Maarten Mous 2003b. *The lexical reconstruction of West Rift (Southern Cushitic)* Cologne: Rüdiger Köppe Verlag.

Mous, Maarten 2003c. "Nen". In *The Bantu languages*, edited by Derek Nurse and Gérard Philippson, pp. 283-306. London: Routledge.

Mous, Maarten 2003d. "Loss of Linguistic Diversity in Africa" In *Language Death and Language Maintenance: Theoretical, Practical and Descriptive Approaches*, ed. by Marc Janse and Sijmen Tol, pp. 157-170. Amsterdam: John Benjamins.

Mous, Maarten 2004a. *A Grammatical Sketch of Mbugwe. Bantu F34, Tanzania.* (Grammatical Annalyses of African Languages, 23.) Cologne: Rüdiger Köppe.

Kießling,Roland & Maarten Mous 2004b. "Urban Youth Languages in Africa" *Anthropological Linguistics* 46(3): 303-341.

Mous, Maarten 2005a. Yaaku and Ma'á: an Endangered Language and the Way Out. In *Creating Outsiders: Endangered Language, Migration and Marginalisation*, ed. by Nigel Crawhall and Nicholas Ostler. Bath, England: Foundation for Endangered Languages. pp. 55-58.

Mous, Maarten 2005b. "Selectors in Cushitic" In *Studies in African Linguistic Typology* , ed. by F.K. Erhard Voeltz, pp. 303-325. Amsterdam: John Benjamins.

Mauro Tosco (Italy)

Mauro Tosco is Professor of African Linguistics at the University of Naples "L'Orientale" (formerly the Oriental University Institute). His recent projects on endangered languages include: participation for recording and archiving oral corpora of Cushitic languages within the CORPAFROAS project ("Corpus Oral en Langues Afroasiatiques: Analyse Prosodique et Morphosyntaxique"; Agence Nationale de la Recherche, Paris); a description of Ongota (unclassified; Ethiopia), including collection, analysis and archiving of oral texts (University of Naples "L'Orientale" and IsIAO – Italian Institute for the Orient and Africa, Rome). He has done fieldwork on the Karre and Tunni Southern Somali dialects (Cushitic; Somalia), Garre Oromo (Cushitic; Somalia), Dahalo (Cushitic; Kenya), Ongota (unclassified; Ethiopia); Dhaasanac (Cushitic; Ethiopia) and Gawwada (Cushitic; Ethiopia). He is a native speaker of Piedmontese, an endangered Romance language of Northwest Italy, and is active in the revitalization projects concerning this language.

10 major publications in the relevant field (see also
http://cta.unior.it/HomePages/mtosco/Homepage.html):

Tosco, Mauro. 1991. *A Grammatical Sketch of Dahalo, including texts and a glossary* ("Kuschitische Sprachstudien 8"). Hamburg: Helmut Buske (xv + 179 p.).

Tosco, Mauro. 1992 "Dahalo: an Endangered Language". In: *Language Death: Factual and Theoretical Explorations* ("Contributions to the Sociology of Language 64"), ed. by Matthias Brenzinger, pp. 137-155. Berlin: Mouton de Gruyter.

Tosco, Mauro 1997. *Af Tunni. Grammar, Texts and Vocabulary of a Southern Somali Dialect* ("Kuschitische Sprachstudien 12"). Köln: Rüdiger Köppe (x + 304 p.).

Tosco, Mauro 1998. "'People who are not the language they speak:' On language shift without language decay in East Africa". In: *Endangered Languages in Africa*, ed. by Matthias Brenzinger, pp. 119-142. Köln: Rüdiger Köppe.

Tosco, Mauro 2004a. "Between zero and nothing: transitivity and noun incorporation in Somali". *Studies in Language* 28/1: 83-104.

Tosco, Mauro 2004b. "The Case for a Laissez-Faire Language Policy". *Language and Communication* 24/2: 165-181.

Savà, Graziano and Mauro Tosco 2006. "La mort des langues en domaine chamito-sémitique". *Faits de Langues* 27: 252-263.

Tosco, Mauro 2000. "Is There an 'Ethiopian Language Area'?". *Anthropological Linguistics* 42/3: 329–365.

Savà, Graziano and Mauro Tosco 2000. "A sketch of Ongota, a dying language of Southwest Ethiopia". *Studies in African Linguistics* 29/2: 59–135.

Tosco, Mauro 2001. *The Dhaasanac Language* ("Kuschitische Sprachstudien 17"). Köln: Rüdiger Köppe xiv+ 598 p.

II List of potentially interested scientists and institutes

The list is indicative of the wide range of research groups but it does not claim to be exhaustive and is not meant to exclude anybody.

Finland
Helsinki University: Tapani Salminen; Seppo Suhonen; Pirkko Suihkonen, Ekatarina Gruzdeva, Seppo Kittila

Norway
Trondheim, NTNU: Lars Hellan,

Oslo University, Dept of Linguistics: Oddrun Grønvik, Jan Erik Rekdal, Kjell Magne Yri, Even Hovedhaugen, Rolf Theil

Sweden
Goteborg University, Dept. of African Studies: Karsten Legère, Christina Thornell, Jouni Maho

Lund University: Jan-Olaf Svantesson,

Uppsala University: Evá Csató,

Stockholm: Eva Lindström,

Denmark
University of Copenhagen: Michael Fortescue, Una Canger
Aarhus University: Peter Bakker, William McGregor,

Germany
Hamburg University: Mechthild Reh, Roland Kiessling, Theda Schumann, Jutta Becher, Rainer Carle, Tatiana Oranskaia, Hans Schmidt

Kiel University: Ulrike Mosel, Geoffrey Haig, Marcia Schwartz

Bielefeld University: Dafydd Gibbon, Dieter Metzing,

Bochum University: Nikolaus Himmelmann, Frank Seifart, Claudia Leto

Cologne University: Sprachwissenschaft: Dagmar Jung, Hans-Jürgen Sasse, Fritz Serzisko, Silvia Kutscher, Katharina Haude; Afrikanistik: Gerrit Dimmendaal, Anne Storch, Matthias Brenzinger, Helma Pasch,

Berlin, Freie Universität Berlin, Linguistik: Sebastian Drude; Hans-Heinrich Lieb,

Berlin, Humboldt Universität: Institut für Afrikanistik: Brigitte Reineke, Ines Fiedler, Klaus Beyer, Anne Schwarz; Zentrum für Allgemeine Sprachwissenschaft: Manfred Krifka, Laura Downing, Paul Law,

Bonn University: Sabine Dedenbach-Salazar,

Leipzig: Max Planck Institute for evolutionary anthropology: Juliette Blevins, Bernard Comrie, Michael Cysouw, David Gil, Jeffrey Good, Martin Haspelmath, Susanne Michaelis, Donald Stilo, Sabine Stoll, Tom Gueldemann, Andrej Malchukov, Antonia Soriente, Uri Tadmor, Søren Wichmann, Sven Grawunder

Leipzig Universität: Balthasar Bickel, René Schiering, Institut für Afrikanistik: Ekkehard Wolff, Doris Löhr, Gerald Heusing,

Mainz University: Insitut für Allgemeine und Vergleichende Sprachwissenschaft: Walter Bisang, Anneli Sarhimaa, Joachim Crass; Insitut für Ethnologie und Afrikastudien: Raimund Kastenholz, Wolfram Full, Ullrich Kleinewillinghöfer, Seminar für Orientkunde: Hendrik Boeschoten, Chrisitane Bulut, Martine Robbeets, Ronny Meyer, Andreas Wetter,

Münster University: Wolf Dietrich

München: Wolfgang Schulze

Erfurt University, Sprachwissenschaft: Christian Lehmann, Johannes Helmbrecht

Frankfurt: Instiut für Afrikanistik: Rainer Vossen, Rudolf Leger, Henning Schreiber, Rose-Juliet Anyanwu, Christa König, Christa Kilian-Hatz, Abdourahmane Diallo, Institut für Orientalische und Ostasiatische Philologien: Franz Schindler, Marcel Erdal, Elisabetta

Ragagnin, Irina Nevskaya, Bernd Nothofer, Vergleichende Sprachwissenschaft: Jost Gippert, Manana Tandaschwili, Martin Petrus, Sonja Fritz,

Bayreuth: Arabistik: Jonathan Owens, Afrikanistik: Gudrun Miehe, Dymitr Ibrizimow, Manfred Von Roncador, Kerstin Winkelmann, Eva Rothmaler, Gabriele Sommer

Poland
Warsaw: Insitut of Orient Studies: Nina Pawlak, Iwoma Kraska-Szlenk, Eugeniusz Rzewuski, Stanisław Godziński

Netherlands
Leiden University: African languages: Felix Ameka, Maarten Kossmann, Constance Kutsch Lojenga, Maarten Mous, Thilo Schadeberg, Harry Stroomer, Azeb Amha, Maud Devos, Christian Rapold, Nancy Chongo Kula, Leston Buel; Amerindian languages: Willem Adelaar, Hélène Brijnen, Eithne Carlin, Simon van de Kerke, Sérgio Meira, Grazyna Rowicka, Søren Wichmann, Michael Swanton; South-East Asian languages: Aone van Engelenhoven, Marian Klamer, Don van Minde, Ruben Stoel, Wim Stokhof; Asia: George van Driem, Holger Gzella, Frits Kortlandt, Elisabeth de Boer, Uwe Bläsing, Cecilia Odé, Heleen Plaisier, Arlo Griffiths, A.G. Menon, Katia Chirkova, Jeroen Wiedenhof, Rint Sybesma,

Nijmegen University : Kees Versteegh, Pieter Muysken, Mily Crevels, Hein van der Voort, Rik van Gijn, Katja Hannss, Ger Reesink, Angela Terrill,

Nijmegen, Max Planck Institute for Psycholinguistics: Stephen C. Levinson, Penelope Brown, Melissa Bowerman, Asifa Majid, Gunter Senft, Nick Enfield, Michael Dunn, Tanya Stivers,

Amsterdam, Free University: Leo Wetzels, Lourens de Vries,

Amsterdam university: Kees Hengeveld, Umberto Ansaldo, Lisa Lim, Miriam van Staden, Adam Saulwick, Cecilia Ode, Rafael Fischer, Jorge Gomez Rendon

Switzerland
Zürich: Seminar für Allgemeine Sprachwissenschaft: Karin Ebert, Philippe Maurer, Silvia Zaugg, Sasha Völlmin, Lukas Neukom,

Austria
Graz: Institut für Sprachwissenschaft: Eva Schultze-Berndt, Bernhard Hurch, Dieter Halwachs,

Vienna: Institut für Sprachwissenschaft: Wolfgang Dressler, John Rennison, Jean Lowenstamm; Institut für Afrikanistik: Norbert Cyffer, Erwin Ebermann, Georg Ziegelmeyer,

France
CNRS-CELIA (Centre d'Etudes des Langues Indigènes d'Amérique): Claudine Chamoreau, Marie Noëlle Chamoux, Jon Landaburu, Isabelle Leglise,Marie France Patte, Sybille De Pury, Francesc Queixalos, Françoise Rose, Nicole Tersis, Marc Thouvenot, Laurence Goury, Odile Renault-Lescure, Sophie Alby, André Cauty (Université De Bordeaux I), César Itier (Inalco), Michel Launey (Paris 7)

CNRS-LACITO (Laboratoire des langues et civilisations à tradition orale): Zlatka Guentcheva, Samia Naïm, Christiane Pilot-Raichoor, Evangelia Adamou, Luc Bouquiaux, Isabelle Bril, Jean-Pierre Caprile, Jean-Michel Charpentier, Anne Daladier, Véronique De Colombel, Alexandre François, François Jacquesson, Micheline Lebarbier, Isabelle Leblic, Martine Mazaudon, Boyd Michailovsky, Claire Moyse-Faurie, Françoise Quinsat, Christiane Pilot-Raichoor, Marie-Françoise Rombi, Catherine Taine-Cheikh, Jacqueline M.C. Thomas; Raphaël Kabore (Paris 3), Jean-De-Dieu Karangwa (Inalco), Alain Lemarechal (Paris 4), Jacqueline Leroy (Paris 5), Bertrand Masquelier (Univ. De Picardie), Sylvie Mougin, Appasamy Murugaiyan, Odile Racine-Issa (Inalco), Georges Rebuschi, Elisabeth Sethupathy, Nicolas Tournadre (Paris 8), Alice Vittrant, Margeret Dunham, Aimée Lahaussois.

CNRS-LLACAN (Langage, Langue et Culture de l'Afrique Noire): Emilio Bonvini, Raymond Boyd, Pascal Boyeldieu, Bernard Caron, Fathi Debili, Marcel Diki Kidiri, Yves Moñino, Didier Morin, Elsa Oreal, Nicolas Quint, Alain Ricard, Claude Rilly, Stéphane Robert, Paulette Roulon-Doko, Mc. Simeone-Senelle, Henry Tourneux, Martine Vanhove, Ursula Baumgardt (Inalco), Jean Derive (Univ. de Savoie), Gérard Dumestre (Inalco), Sylvie Grand'eury (Nancy 2), Jean-Charles Hilaire, Cécile Leguy (Bordeaux 2), Aliou Mohamadou (Inalco),

Sylvester Osu (Univ. Tours), Konstantin Pozdniakov (Inalco), Michel Lafon, Pierre Nougayrol, Guillaume Segerer,

Lyon: CNRS-DDL (Dynamique du Langage) AALLED: Denis Creissels, Colette Grinevald, Sophie Manus, Jean-Marie Hombert, Gérard Philippson, Lolke Van der Veen, Antoine Guillaume, Patrick Mouguiama-Daouda, Sylvie Voisin-Nouguier

Belgium
Tervuren, Belgium, MRAC-dept lingusitics: Jacky Maniacky, Koen Bostoen.

Leuven: Jean-Christophe Verstraete

Ireland
Dublin, University College Dublin, Department of Linguistics: Bettina Migge, John Saeed. Linguistic Institute of Ireland; Donall o Baoill

Hungary, Univ. Pécs: Gabor Székels.

Czech Republic: Charles University of Prague: Petr Zima

Lithuania: Vilnius University: Dovid Katz

Italy
Naples: L'Orientale: Mauro Tosco, Giorgio Banti, Jocelyne Vincent, Maurizio Gnerre

Trieste: Marcello Lamberti

United Kingdom
London, SOAS & HRELP: Peter Austin, Frederike Lüpke, Leora Bar-el, Oliver Bond, Gail Coehlo, Birgit Hellwig, Anthony Jukes, David Appleyard, Graham Furniss, Philip Jagger, Lutz Marten, Nhlanhla Thwala, Wynn Chao, Monik Charette, George Hewitt, Justin Watkins

Manchester: Martina Faller, Kristine Hildebrandt, Yaron Matras, Jeanette Sakel

University of Surrey: Greville Corbett, Bill Palmer, Dunstan Brown

Portugal: Coimbra, : John Holm, Hugo Canelas Cardoso

Spain: Valencia Angel Lopez Garcia

III List of 15 most important scientists and institutes in the field:

Australia: Melbourne: La Trobe University, Melbourne: David Bradley, Randy LaPolla, Research Centre Linguistic Typology: Bob Dixon, Sasha Aikhenvald; University of Melbourne: Nick Evans, Rachel Nordlinger, Lesley Stirling, Nick Thieberger, John Hajek, Michael Ewing, Sander Adelaar; Monash University: Margaret Florey, Simon Musgrave; University of Sydney: William Foley, Jane Simpson, Michael Walsh; Canberra: Australian National University: Andrew Pawley, Bowden, Malcolm Ross, Wayan Arka.

USA: UC Berkeley: Larry Hyman, James Matisoff, Ian Maddieson, Leanne Hinton, Louisa Maffi, Andrew Garrett; UC Santa Barbara: Marianne Mithun, Wallace Chafe, Susanna Cumming, Bernard Comrie, John W. Du Bois, Carol Genetti, Matthew Gordon, Charles Li, Sandra Thompson

University of Texas at Austin: Nora England, Joel Sherzer, Anthony Woodbury, and the The Archive of the Indigenous Languages of Latin America;

University of Oregon: Doris Payne, Spike Gildea, Greg Anderson;

Others in the US: Dartmouth College: Lindsay Whaley, Lenore Grenoble; Rice University: Claire Bowern, Matt Shibatani; Swarthmore College: David Harrison; Jeffrey Heath, University of Michigan; Boulder: Zygmunt Frajzyngier; Arienne Dwyer, University of Kansas

Canada: University of British Colombia, Vancouver, Keren Rice, University of Toronto.

India: Anvitta Abbi, Jawaharlal Nehru University, New Delhi

Japan: The University of Tokyo: Kazuto Matsumura, Tasaku Tsunoda, Tooru Hayashi; Institute for the Study of Languages and Cultures of Asia and Africa, Tokyo University of Foreign Studies: Shigeki KAJI

Brazil: Museu Paraense Emílio Goeldi: Denny Moore, Raquel Guirardello-Damian; University of Rio de Janeiro: Bruna Franchetto

CNRS, France: CELIA, DDL, LACITO, LLACAN groups: Claudine Chamoreau, Marie Noëlle Chamoux, Jon Landaburu, Isabelle Leglise, Marie France Patte, Sybille De Pury, Francesc Queixalos, Françoise Rose, Nicole Tersis, Marc Thouvenot, Laurence Goury, Odile Renault-Lescure, Sophie Alby, André Cauty , César Itier, Michel Launey; Zlatka Guentcheva, Samia Naïm, Christiane Pilot-Raichoor, Evangelia Adamou, Luc Bouquiaux, Isabelle Bril, Jean-Pierre Caprile, Jean-Michel Charpentier, Anne Daladier, Véronique De Colombel, Alexandre François, François Jacquesson, Micheline Lebarbier, Isabelle Leblic, Martine Mazaudon, Boyd Michailovsky, Claire Moyse-Faurie, Françoise Quinsat, Christiane Pilot-Raichoor, Marie-Françoise Rombi, Catherine Taine-Cheikh, Jacqueline M.C. Thomas; Raphaël Kabore, Jean-De-Dieu Karangwa, Alain Lemarechal, Jacqueline Leroy , Bertrand Masquelier , Sylvie Mougin, Appasamy Murugaiyan, Odile Racine-Issa, Georges Rebuschi, Elisabeth Sethupathy, Nicolas Tournadre, Alice Vittrant, Margeret Dunham, Aimée Lahaussois; Emilio Bonvini, Raymond Boyd, Pascal Boyeldieu, Bernard Caron, Fathi Debili, Marcel Diki Kidiri, Yves Moñino, Didier Morin, Elsa Oreal, Nicolas Quint, Alain Ricard, Claude Rilly, Stéphane Robert, Paulette Roulon-Doko, Mc. Simeone-Senelle, Henry Tourneux, Martine Vanhove, Ursula Baumgardt, Jean Derive , Gérard Dumestre, Sylvie Grand'eury, Jean-Charles Hilaire, Cécile Leguy, Aliou Mohamadou, Sylvester Osu, Konstantin Pozdniakov, Michel Lafon, Pierre Nougayrol, Guillaume Segerer; Denis Creissels, Colette Grinevald, Jean-Marie Hombert, Gérard Philippson, Lolke Van der Veen, Antoine Guillaume, Patrick Mouguiama-Daouda, Sylvie Voisin-Nouguier

SOAS, London: Peter Austin, Frederike Lüpke, Leora Bar-el, Oliver Bond, Gail Coehlo, Birgit Hellwig, Anthony Jukes, David Appleyard, Graham Furniss, Philip Jagger, Lutz Martin, Nhlanhla Thwala, Wynn Chao, Monik Charette, George Hewitt, Andrew Simpson, Justin Watkins

Nijmegen: Max Planck Institute, DoBeS: Stephen C. Levinson, Penelope Brown, Melissa Bowerman, Asifa Majid, Gunter Senft, Nick Enfield, Michael Dunn, Tanya Stivers, Felix Ameka

Leipzig, Max Planck Institute: Juliette Blevins, Bernard Comrie, Michael Cysouw, David Gil, Jeffrey Good, Martin Haspelmath, Susanne Michaelis, Donald Stilo, Sabine Stoll, Tom Gueldemann, Andrej Malchukov, Antonia Soriente, Uri Tadmor, Søren Wichmann, Sven Grawunder

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