Indigenous Languages Translation Commons Projects

Ludmila Golovine, Craig Cornelius
Indigenous Languages: University Events
Ludmila Golovine
Social – Civil society partner

TC - IYIL Projects

- Language Technology Development
- University Events for Indigenous Languages
- Social Media Campaign

"No language and no linguist ever left behind."
Why Indigenous Languages?

Broadband Commission Report, 2019

- The ITU estimates for each 10% increase in the penetration of digital services a country can expect 1.3% growth on GDP per capita.
- By 2022 another 1.2 billion users will be coming online
- In Africa 60% of young people are not yet online and the least developed countries globally at least 70% of young people are not online
University Events

We have asked universities around the world to host classroom presentations, lectures, workshops and conferences during Fall 2019 to discuss cultural diversity, focusing on indigenous languages.

Create awareness through university events and further outreach
University Events - Gathering Information

**Internship:**
Translation Commons and MasterWord partnered with the Village School, a Nord Anglia School

- 6 Students
- Benefits
- Take away and feedback
University Events - Gathering Information

659 Under & Post Graduate Intern countries of origin
University Events - Gathering Information

Guidelines

IYIL 2019 University Events

- Why are as many as half of all languages considered to be endangered languages, at risk of extinction by the end of the century? Why is there a global counter current that is causing a resurgence of interest in indigenous and linguistic minority cultures on every continent, especially in their languages and writing systems?
- What is the relationship between language and identity? Language and the spread of technology, especially digital technologies? Language and economic globalization? Language and human rights? Language and art? And above all...
- Why do indigenous languages matter to everyone?

As you can see, these are not simply language or linguistics issues: a thoughtful multi-disciplinary discussion of the Year of Indigenous Languages touches on the entire range of the humanities, and even business and information technology. Our hope is to inspire informed, campus-wide discussion - to start a fermentation of ideas that your own faculty can continue to feed both in and out of the classroom.

Class Event (50 - 90 minutes)

You can choose to dedicate one of your regular classes during October 2019 by creating activities to present IYIL2019. Normally
University Events - Gathering Information

Resources

- Videos
- Articles
- Blogs
- Websites
- Visuals

This section contains resources that can be used in preparation for the event. Feel free to use them as well as to research on your own!

If you know of other resources, please let us know so we can add them to our list.

Video and Audio Materials

1. Online Indigenous Film Festival [Multilingual Play list]
2. Video/audio: Rare audio of Indigenous languages saved a century later
3. Indigenous Australian languages are dying: sleeping languages; new language is arising: wellbeing and identity - article with good videos
4. Dimas speaking Osing
5. Chirpits speaking Tatar
6. A Catalog of Every Language in the World
7. Global News Canada: Indigenous Languages: articles and videos
Examples

- 50 or 90 min class
- 3 h workshop
- conference

Class Event Example (90 minutes)

Theme: Cultural heritage and diplomacy

Outcomes: after the event, the participants will demonstrate:
- understanding of the concept of equality of languages
- cultural identity imbued in languages

Objectives:
- familiarize participants with the concept of equality of languages
- learn about cultural identity imbued in languages

Please note that the suggested timing should be set at the instructor’s discretion.

Pre-class activities: assign all your students to read selected articles and watch videos on indigenous languages. Assign a group of students to prepare a presentation.
University Events - Campaign Creation

Audience:

● Pilot: 60 professors
● Main campaign: 650 universities

Campaign Elements:

● Newsletters
● Social media

Organize a Classroom Event

and let us know by filling this form

2019 INTERNATIONAL YEAR OF
Indigenous Languages
University Events - Campaign Launch

- Events added to the UNESCO IYIL site
"Empoderar a las lenguas indígenas mejora el intercambio universal de conocimientos" Translation Commons es una ONG cuyo lema es "Ningún idioma ni ningún lingüista se queda atrás". Este año, TC colabora con la UNESCO para celebrar el Año Internacional de las Lenguas Indígenas e invita a todas las universidades a organizar eventos para crear conciencia sobre la importancia de estas lenguas. Háganos saber acerca de su próximo evento completando el siguiente formulario (en inglés) al menos dos semanas antes del evento: https://sites.google.com/.../university-.../october.2019.events... Una vez que nos haya informado, nos aseguraremos de que su evento se publique en el sitio web oficial de la UNESCO IYIL2019 y en el sitio web de CT. Nuestro equipo estará encantado de ayudarlo con las redes sociales y el marketing.

See more
Indigenous Languages: Zero to Digital

Craig Cornelius
Creating a guide for language communities

- **Evaluate** their language’s situation with respect to digital support
- **Suggest approaches** to develop basic digital language support
- **Encourage practical usage** of language tools, even without formal language documentation, grammar, and educational standards
- **Point indigenous communities to available tools** and techniques to build digital capabilities.
- **Engage community members** in decisions and process
- **Connect communities to standards** and technology professionals
What it’s not...

- Not a set of formal requirements for documenting
- Not academic research project
- Not a complete list of what can be done
- Not a guarantee of full support for all digital tools and services

And now that you don't have to be perfect, you can be good.

- John Steinbeck
Basics: determining status

- A flowchart of Yes / No questions for evaluating current situation
- Concrete actions for each response
- A guide to perform specific tasks
- Pointers to resources and tools
- Suggestions for next steps
Some of the questions

- Is the language currently used actively by a community of speakers?
  - Yes: go to IS_LANGUAGE_WRITTEN
  - No: go to LANGUAGE_REVITALIZATION

- IS_LANGUAGE_WRITTEN: Does your language have a written form?
  - Yes: go to WRITTEN_LANGUAGE
  - No: go to ORAL_LANGUAGE

- WRITTEN_LANGUAGE:
  - ...

- ORAL_LANGUAGE...
  - ...
Practical advice and references

Tools for using language online:
● Fonts
● Keyboards
● Webfont technology

Pointers to tools to implement:
● Free font editors
● *How-to-use* mobile fonts
● Keyboard development tools
● *How-to* guides for language-friendly sites
How to standardize

- **Language tags - don’t guess**
  - Tags and standard practices, e.g., BCP-47

- **Unicode support**: [unicode.org/](http://unicode.org/)
  - Unicode probably supports writing already
  - Otherwise, create a proposal for Unicode standardization

- **Common Locale Data Repository (CLDR)**
  - How-to for adding a language and resources
  - [http://cldr.unicode.org/](http://cldr.unicode.org/)
What Translation Commons is doing today

- The team: passionate volunteers and professionals
- The document:
  - “Indigenous Languages: Zero to Digital”
  - translationcommons.org

Next:
- Our request for feedback on the guide
- Help us connect to indigenous communities
Enable indigenous communities to use internet technology

- Employ modern media in their preferred languages, oral / written
- Engage speakers and especially young learners in appreciating and honoring their languages and culture
- Identify technology for educating in indigenous languages
- Encourage speakers to create content and community through digital tools and standards
- Provide sustainable job opportunities and training through language translation
Join us

for a world where all people have equal opportunities in their own language

by

enabling communities in emerging countries to use and benefit from internet technology

translationcommons.org