ELF Funds 10 Grants in Second Year

The following ten projects were selected for support out of a strong field of 70 total submissions. Many worthy projects were sadly left unfunded, and most of the funded projects were at a lower level than requested. As our financial resources continue to grow, we hope that more of these excellent proposals will be funded. The continued support of our members is crucial in this effort.

Ronald Geronimo - Illustration of a Tohono O'odham Text for Children

The foot race has a time-honored position in Tohono O'odham culture, and Ronald Geronimo of the University of Arizona is planning to use it as a basis for a story in his native language. The text is intended for young readers, though it is hoped that older O'odham speakers will find it of interest as well. The final work will include not only the written version of the story, but specially designed illustrations. A cassette recording will also accompany the text, and will additionally include a small set of songs that were used by traditional foot racers from various O'odham villages. Geronimo hopes that this work will help stop the deterioration of the O'odham language by appealing to young readers and other members of their family.

Nile R. Thompson - Twana Language Use in Songs

As the pressure of European expansion in Washington State increased in the 1800s, the 12 or so aboriginal Twana communities began settling on the Skokomish Reservation, leading to a loss of dialect diversity and, eventually, of the language itself. Currently, the Tribe’s collective knowledge of its own language has come to reside in a few individuals who know a few common words and, more importantly, a set of traditional songs. For the current project, Nile Thompson of Dushuyay Research, Seattle, will record two elders who remember the Twana songs. These records serve two purposes: First, it will make it possible for the Twana to continue to weave the traditional songs into their daily lives and continue to pass them to their descendants. Second, the possible use of language switching within the songs, an important linguistic indication of group identification, will be available for study.

Suzanne Wash - The Last Speakers of Northern Sierra Miwok

Of the ten or so speakers of Northern Sierra Miwok still alive, the fluent ones are all at least 60 years of age. For records that will be essential to any future revival effort, and for the immediate value that such a linguistic legacy brings, Suzanne Wash of the University of California, Santa Barbara, received support from the Fund. Her work began in 1992 and has continued with support from the Phillips Fund. Apart from the value of the language artifacts to the descen-

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Karl V. Teeter Joins Board of Directors

We are pleased to announce the appointment of Karl V. Teeter to our board of directors. Karl began his work in linguistics by studying Wiyot, an Algonquian language of California. Wiyot was, at the time, one of those most endangered languages, being down to a single speaker. Between the time of the field work and the writing, this speaker passed away, making Karl’s work the last best record of the language. During his years as a professor of linguistics at Harvard University, he continued to work on Algonquian languages, especially Maliseet/Passamaquoddy. Though he has been emeritus since 1989, he is as active as ever, working on several books and organizing the recent 30th Algonquian Conference in Boston. Karl’s expertise and dedication to endangered languages will serve the Fund well, and we are grateful for his participation.
Our Board of Directors:

Douglas H. Whalen, President/Founder
Linguist, Haskins Laboratories, New Haven, CT

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Linguist, University of California, Berkeley, CA

Karl V. Teeter
Anthropologist, Harvard University, Cambridge, MA

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dants of the speakers, Northern Sierra Miwok presents an
unusual pattern among languages: It uses both metathesis
(exchanging consonants or vowels) and quantitative ablaut
(lengthening of both consonants and vowels).

Timothy Thornes - Documentation of Burns Paiute

The Northern Paiute language is the northern-most
member of the Uto-Aztecan family, currently spoken by about
400 people in Nevada, Oregon, California and Idaho. The
project undertaken by Timothy Thornes of the University of
Oregon examines one of these communities, the one in Burns,
Oregon. A wide range of texts will be recorded, including
traditional tales, descriptions of culturally significant areas
and the activities associated with them, family histories, au-
tobiographical information of the elders, and natural con-
versation in the language. Each of these text types serves as
a reservoir for different aspects of the language, the culture,
and the history of the Burns Paiute community, and will be
preserved and used for years to come.

Darrell R. Kipp - Immersion Learning of
Blackfoot

The Piegan Institute, headed by Darrell Kipp, began
building a school immersion program for Blackfoot in 1994.
Since that time, two schools have been in operation, hosting
forty children from pre-school through grade four. While
the school buildings are functioning nicely, there is a lack of
language material for the children and teachers to work with.
With assistance from the Endangered Language Fund, Kipp
plans to produce such material with the help not only of el-
ders who grew up with the language but also from teachers
who have become quite fluent in it. This community effort is
beginning to bear fruit, with interest in the language in-
creasing throughout the tribe.

Aklilu Yilma - Recording the Last Speakers of
Ongota

Although Ethiopia is a linguistically diverse country,
even there languages are becoming extinct. The small com-

munity of the Ongota, only 78 strong, have come to realize
the predicament their language is in and have asked for help
in preserving it. Aklilu Yilma, of Addis Ababa University,
has received assistance from the Fund to provide that help.
He has found that the language is so little known that its
correct language family is not even known. His initial ef-
forts, then, will be as full a description of the phonology,
morphology and syntax as can be accomplished in the time
he has available. Since most of the speakers are elderly, his
work will be essential for any decision that is made by the
community about the future of the language.

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Request for Proposals, 1999

Please share the following with any parties who might be interested. Further information can be obtained through our web site or by contacting us via regular or electronic mail.—Ed.

The Endangered Language Fund provides grants for language maintenance and linguistic field work. The work most likely to be funded is that which serves both the native community and the field of linguistics. Work which has immediate applicability to one group and more distant application to the other will also be considered. Publishing subventions are a low priority, although they will be considered. The language involved must be in danger of disappearing within a generation or two. Endangerment is a continuum, and the location on the continuum is one factor in our funding decisions.

Eligible expenses include travel, tapes, films, consultant fees, etc. Grants are normally for one year periods, though extensions may be applied for. We expect grants in this round to be less than $2,000 in size. A researcher can be primary researcher on only one proposal.

HOW TO APPLY

There is no form, but the information requested below should be printed (on one side only) and FOUR COPIES sent to the ELF mailing address given on page 2. The street address for express mail services is:

The Endangered Language Fund
Department of Linguistics, Yale University
320 York Street
New Haven, CT 06520

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Monica Macauley - Menominee Language and Linguistics

Of more than 7,000 enrolled members of the Menominee Nation in Wisconsin, only 36 claim the ancestral language as their mother tongue, and a small group list it as their second language. In 1997, the Menominee Legislature passed a bill requiring the use of Menominee for tribal purposes whenever possible and the teaching of the language on the reservation. Unfortunately, despite Leonard Bloomfield's major work on the language half a century ago, very little has been done since and so there is much that needs to be known for a practical language teaching program to be developed. Monica Macauley of the University of Wisconsin has been asked to work with the Tribal College in developing these materials, and will use the grant from the Fund to do the necessary work with the remaining fluent speakers. The goal is a computerized language learning system that will be effective in retaining Menominee for the use of its community.

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Applications must be mailed in. No e-mail or fax applications will be accepted. Please note that regular mail, especially from abroad, can take up to four weeks. If you have any questions, please write to the same address or email to: elf@haskins.yale.edu.

REQUIRED INFORMATION

COVER PAGE:
The first page should contain:
TITLE OF THE PROJECT
NAME OF LANGUAGE AND COUNTRY IN WHICH IT IS SPOKEN
NAME OF PRIMARY RESEARCHER
ADDRESS OF PRIMARY RESEARCHER
(include phone and email if possible.)
SOCIAL SECURITY NUMBER (if U.S. citizen)
PLACE AND DATE OF BIRTH
PRESENT POSITION, EDUCATION, AND NATIVE LANGUAGE(S).
PREVIOUS EXPERIENCE AND/OR PUBLICATIONS THAT ARE RELEVANT.

Include the same information for collaborating researchers if any. This information may continue on the next page.

DESCRIPTION:
Beginning on a separate page, please provide a description of the project. This should normally take two pages or less, single spaced. Be detailed about the type of material that is to be collected and/or produced, and the value it will have to the native community (including relatives and descendants who do not speak the language) and to linguistic science. Give a brief description of the state of endangerment of the language in question.

BUDGET:
On a separate page, prepare an itemized budget that lists expected costs for the project. Estimates are acceptable, but they must be realistic. Please translate the amounts into US dollars. List other sources of support you are currently receiving or expect to receive and other applications that relate to the current one.

LETTER OF SUPPORT:
Two letters of support are recommended, but not required. Note that these letters, if sent separately, must arrive on or before the deadline (April 20th, 1999) in order to be considered. If more than two letters are sent, only the first two received will be read.

DEADLINE
Applications must be received by APRIL 20th, 1999. Decisions will be delivered by the end of May, 1999.
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**Eve Chuen Ng - The Structure of Passamaquoddy**

Passamaquoddy is an Eastern Algonquian language of northeastern Maine, with a closely related dialect, Maliseet, spoken in New Brunswick. Almost every speaker is over the age of 40, and those who are considered by their communities to be truly fluent are typically in their late 50s or older. There are fewer than 100 speakers of Passamaquoddy (and not more than 350 Maliseet speakers) making this a language in danger of being lost within the next one or two generations unless efforts at language maintenance are successful. Fortunately, many projects are under way, including this one by Eve Ng of the State University of New York, Buffalo. She will be collecting texts and providing linguistic analysis which will be incorporated into language preservation efforts.

**Daniel Aberra - Morphological Analysis of Shabo**

The Shabo language of Ethiopia (also called Shaqqa or Mekeyir) is puzzling to linguists because it is distinct from both the Afro-Asiatic and Nilo-Saharan families, the only two language families in Ethiopia. Even more remote families in Africa do not offer an obvious relationship. Daniel Aberra, of Addis Ababa University, has received a grant to do the necessary work to make the relationship of this language clear. The number of speakers is dwindling rapidly, and there is a large degree of language shift to one of the more prestigious neighboring languages, Majang or Shakicho (Mocha).

**Mary Louise Defender Wilson - Broadcasting in Dakota on KLND**

When children are riding the bus to events on a Saturday afternoon, their driver can tune in to KLND. Little Eagle, South Dakota, and hear Dakota language programming. They hear legends, talk, and even discussions of food. Teenagers are excited to hear things of interest to them in their own language, and older people say that they never expected to hear stories in their language again. It makes them feel good, and the younger people remark about how they never realized the wisdom and teaching in the stories. The grant from the Endangered Language Fund will allow Mary Louise Defender Wilson to travel and record more such stories and conversations so that Dakota can continue to live on the airwaves of South Dakota.