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Penge
do Po
языко
langues en valeur Partner in der Spracharbeit Mitra dalam
an Bahasa 언어 개발의 협력자 Parceiro no Desenvolvimento
Lingüístico Партнёры по развитию национальных
orando en el desarrollo de los idiomas autóctono



Learning that Lasts

Thirty men sat on rows of wooden benches. Some were capable readers; most were not. Peter was teaching them to read Ejagham, their mother tongue, by transferring the skills they had learned for reading English.

Two vehicles roared up to the classroom with a group of regional officials. They had heard men were learning to read Ejagham. After a short greeting, they sat next to me to watch.


Later the Cameroonian political leader stood up next to Peter. "I am glad to see an Ejagham man teaching this class," he stated. "When I see Peter teaching, I know this program can succeed because it can last beyond the presence of foreigners." I left 30 years ago, but that leader knew what would make the program last—Ejagham teachers.

Africans training Africans continues to be effective. In August 2007 in Burkina Faso, SIL African and international literacy consultants taught advanced literacy principles to 24 educational leaders from nine francophone countries. The three-year curriculum,* divided into annual month-long classes, is equipping the participants to train others in language program development and education. The curriculum was translated from a similar course in Kenya conducted in English.

Throughout the world, we continue to promote and provide training for ethnolinguistic minority communities as they develop the skills and expertise needed to conduct and sustain their own language development and education programs. This update highlights a number of opportunities we had in 2007 to work alongside local and international trainers. It also shows contributions we have been able to make in developing leading-edge language-analysis software. Our hope is that in this and every generation, minority language communities will increasingly be able to equip their own people through learning that lasts.

"I am thirsty to see these participants join us...so that together we can contribute to significantly reducing illiteracy rates in Africa."

Gédéon Tatchum Noussi, one of the course instructors* and a literacy coordinator for the SIL regional training center in Maroua, Cameroon


John R. Watters, Ph.D.
Executive Director, 2000-2007



The Board of Directors has appointed Fredrick A. Boswell, Ph.D. candidate, to succeed John Watters as SIL Executive Director beginning January 2008.

www.sil.org/sil/roster/boswell_fredrick.htm

* *Théorie et Pratique d'Alphabétisation (Literacy Theory and Practice):*

www.sil.org/sil/news/2007/literacy-course.htm



Malaysian Indigenous Peoples' Conference on Education

More than 200 official delegates representing 21 language communities across Malaysia took part in a one-week conference in April. Several thousand people attended the opening ceremony of the conference held in Kota Belud, Sabah. International and local speakers addressed the benefits of establishing multilingual education (MLE) programs. The conference was co-sponsored by two local language foundations and SIL to promote an ongoing process of dialogue.

The initiative for the conference came from several Malaysian language communities. They recognized that a strong educational foundation in their mother tongues provides an effective bridge to learning Malay and international languages.

The final three days offered workshops on how to start MLE programs in ethnolinguistic minority groups. Delegates were interested in providing opportunities to their own language communities for lifelong learning and participation in the rich and colorful tapestry of Malaysian life.

www.sil.org/sil/news/2007/post-mipce.htm



Deputy Minister of Education Y.B. Dato' Hon Choon Kim greets conference participants.

SIL Contributes to UNESCO Literacy and Education Booklets

UNESCO Asia and Pacific Regional Bureau for Education recently released the *Advocacy Kit for Promoting Multilingual Education: Including the Excluded*. The collection of five booklets provides information and ideas for making education systems more responsive to communities not fluent in the language of schooling.

These booklets, with accompanying DVD, are the result of a partnership effort between UNESCO and SIL. Numerous education specialists contributed their research findings and experiences in multilingual education (MLE). Several SIL specialists in MLE were involved in the creation of the *Advocacy Kit*, with Dr. Susan Malone, as the main author.

www.sil.org/sil/news/2007/unesco-sil-mle-publications.htm



UNESCO has distributed the Advocacy Kit to 45 countries.

Multilingual Education Workshop in Thailand

Eighty-five education professionals from 25 nations participated in a workshop, Multilingual Education Programs—Focus on Teaching and Learning Materials. The two-week workshop held in Bangkok in August covered principles of implementing strong and sustainable mother-tongue-based multilingual education (MLE) programs. Mahidol University, UNESCO, UNICEF, SEAMEO and SIL sponsored the event. Workshop facilitators included SIL International MLE consultants.

Among the participants were mother-tongue speakers of 35 languages. "It is helpful to learn how MLE is working in other countries. This encourages us to feel that we can do it, too, in our country," said one of the participants.

www.sil.org/sil/news/2007/mle-workshop-bangkok.htm





New DVD: *Kisim AIDS—Kisim Taim*

A DVD drama, *Get AIDS—Get Trouble*, dramatizes how HIV/AIDS impacts the whole family when one member has HIV/AIDS. It also provides practical HIV/AIDS education. Produced and performed in Melanesian Pidgin by SIL workers in Papua New Guinea (PNG), the DVD has also been translated into several local languages.



Nukna people celebrate the translation of the HIV/AIDS storybook.

PNG is vulnerable to HIV/AIDS. In the next 10 to 15 years, the infection rate is projected to skyrocket. Low literacy rates and lack of access to reliable information mean that many face this “new sickness” with misconceptions.

An accompanying booklet, *HIV and AIDS Information*, clearly describes the causes, preventive measures, consequences and care needed for victims. Translations have been completed and made available in more than 30 PNG languages. Funding from the National AIDS Council of PNG has helped cover printing and distribution costs.

www.sil.org/sil/news/2007/png-aids-dvd.htm

Burkina Faso awards *Chevalier de l'Ordre des Palmes Académiques*

During celebrations for International Literacy Day, First Lady Chantal Compaoré decorated representatives of two organizations with *Academic Laurels* for literacy. Receiving the awards were Director André Aguila on behalf of SIL Burkina Faso and General Director Boureima Ouedraogo on behalf of the *Association Nationale pour la Traduction de la Bible et l'Alphabétisation* (ANTBA).

SIL works in Burkina Faso under an agreement with the High Level Education and Research Ministry and has conducted linguistic research in 19 of its 66 languages.

www.sil.org/sil/news/2007/burkina-faso-award.htm



SIL and ANTBA Directors received awards for literacy contributions on behalf of their respective organizations.



Bilingual *Kriol-English Dikshineri* Published in Belize

The Belize Ministry of Education and the National Institute of Culture and History celebrated the release of a new dictionary by giving copies to each school, library and media organization in Belize. They funded the printing of 1,000 copies of the 465-page dictionary and hosted an official celebration.

Sir Colville Young, a linguist and now Governor General of Belize, invited SIL in 1993 to serve in Belize. He was honored for his vision for Kriol language development at the official unveiling ceremony. The dictionary's official debut highlighted the partnership between ministry officials, The National Kriol Council and SIL linguists.

This dictionary provides an authoritative, affordable reference guide to Kriol—a language spoken by the majority of Belizeans, who are proud of their culture and language. The 5,000-entry dictionary includes parts of speech, English definitions, sample sentences in Kriol and English, word origins and a guide to Kriol grammar and spelling.

www.sil.org/sil/news/2007/kriol-english-dictionary.htm

"The vocabulary of our Kriol language [has] at last been adequately recognized," declared Governor General Sir Colville Young in the Foreword.



ISO 639-3 Language Codes Formalized with SIL as Registration Authority

In February the International Organization for Standardization formally released ISO 639-3, issuing a three-letter code to designate each language on earth, whether written, spoken or signed.

Global communication requires international standards that uniquely identify any given language. For many of the world's minority languages, the standard serves not only to grant unquestionable recognition for its speakers, but also to provide an authoritative crosscheck for researchers.

ISO 639-3 provides unique three-letter codes for over 7,500 human languages, whether living, extinct, ancient, historical or artificial. The new standard greatly expands the 478 language codes formerly provided. As the Registration Authority, SIL International processes annual updates of registered language codes and distributes information on the latest version of the ISO 639-3 standard.

www.sil.org/iso639-3

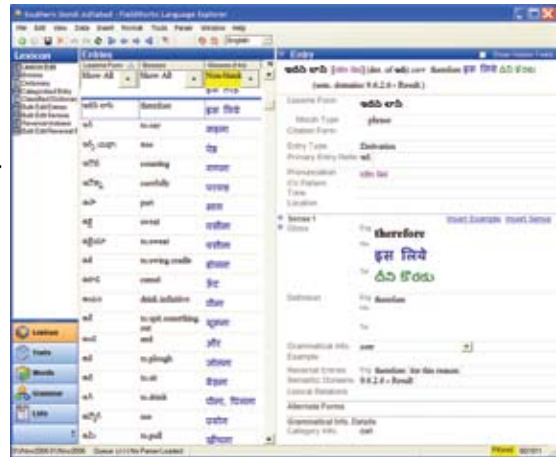
ISO 639-3

Cultural and Language Research Software—*SIL FieldWorks*

SIL FieldWorks is a software suite that helps scholars to manage cultural and language data from the initial collection stage to the publication of dictionaries, text collections and grammars. Version 5.0 offers enhancements to software already acclaimed by field researchers and used in small- to medium-sized dictionary projects at several universities.

Innovative features include a mode to rapidly collect vocabulary by semantic domain and then to perform early dictionary edits by bulk manipulation tools. Distributed as freeware, *SIL FieldWorks* has support for Unicode, complex scripts, multi-user networking and both stem-based and root-based dictionaries from a single database.

www.sil.org/computing/fieldworks



Software for Speech Investigation

In 2007 SIL developed new and more versatile versions of software applications that assist linguists in phonetic transcription, acoustic analysis and phonological analysis.

- *Phonology Assistant 3.0* performs phonological analysis, enabling linguists to test hypotheses of the sound systems and patterns of the world's lesser-known languages. It allows the investigator to search a data corpus for phonetic patterns within specified environments in order to produce consonant and vowel inventory charts.

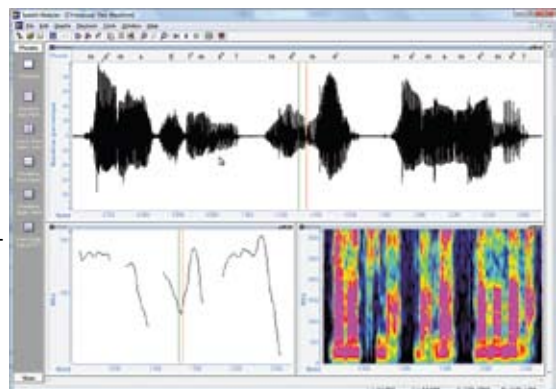
www.sil.org/computing/pa

- *Speech Analyzer 3.0* is a tool for recording, transcribing and analyzing speech sounds. Linguists, ethnomusicologists and language learners use it to investigate, mimic and annotate the acoustic sounds of human language.

www.sil.org/computing/sa

- *IPA Help 2.1* provides extensive phonetic charting and phonological querying capability. This program helps researchers learn to hear, transcribe and produce the sounds of the International Phonetic Alphabet.

www.sil.org/computing/ipahelp



Officers and Administration



About SIL International

SIL International is a faith-based nonprofit organization committed to serving language communities worldwide and building capacity for sustainable language-based development by means of research, translation, training and materials development.

As a nongovernmental organization, SIL has special consultative status with the Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC) of the United Nations and with the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO).

SIL offers training in applied linguistics at many institutions around the world. Course topics include phonetics, phonology, grammar, linguistic research, cultural anthropology, sociolinguistics, literacy, translation and program planning.

SIL operates on contributions from individuals and organizations interested in various aspects of language-based development. Major contributors include affiliated member organizations of Wycliffe International.

SIL makes its services available to all without regard to religious belief, political ideology, gender, race or ethnic background.

SIL Statistics

6,912	Languages spoken in the world as cited in the <i>Ethnologue</i>
2,394	Total languages researched (over 1.7 billion speakers)
1,415	Active language projects (568 million speakers)
over 1,000	Active literacy programs
over 2 million	Number of readers trained
29,753	Published works
over 6,000	Active personnel
over 60	Nationalities of SIL staff

These statistics offer the most current estimates available.

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www.sil.org/sil/news/archives.html

Language-related resources:
www.ethnologue.com

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