

DOBES—— 如何記錄和保存全球瀕危語言

DOBES——世界の消滅危機言語をいかに記録・保存するか

DOBES——전 세계 사멸 위기의 언어 기록

About DOBES: How to Document and to Preserve the Endangered Languages Worldwide

文 | Ilka Wild

漢語翻譯 | 陳穎柔



本文作者 Ilka Wild。

語言多樣性的現狀與未來情況

我們的世界充滿不同語言，這樣的多樣性讓語言世界豐富、多彩又有趣，根據聯合國教科文組織特設的瀕危語言專家小組的2003年報告，世界上約有6千種不同語言，然而，今後數十年間，這世界將會改變，我們將無法保住這樣的多樣性，據估計，在21世紀結束前，只有5成甚至更少語言會繼續存在。



以下引自聯合國教科文組織特設的瀕危語言專家小組的2003年報告：

「語言多樣性對人類文化遺產是不可或缺的，每一種語言體現了一個民族的獨特文化智慧，失去任何一種語言就會是所有人類的損失。雖然仍有約6千種語言存在，但許多正遭受威脅，現在迫切需要語言記錄、新的政策計畫和新教材，以增進這些語言的活力。」

因此我們有責任盡力協助記錄和保存許多語言。

The current and future situation of language diversity

Our world is full of different languages. This diversity makes the linguistic world rich, colorful and interesting. According to the UNESCO ad hoc Expert Group of Endangered Languages (2003) there are approximately some 6,000 different languages in the world. However, within the next few decades this world will change. For whatever reason, we won't be able to retain this diversity of some 6,000 languages in the world, it is estimated that by the end of the 21st century only one half, maybe even less, will continue to exist.

To cite the UNESCO ad hoc Expert Group of Endangered Languages (2003):

“Language diversity is essential to the human heritage. Each and every language embodies the unique cultural wisdom of a people. The loss of any language is thus a loss for all humanity. Though approximately six thousand languages still exist, many are under threat. There is an imperative need for language documentation, new policy initiatives, and new materials to enhance the vitality of these languages.”

Therefore we have the responsibility to do the best we can helping to document and to preserve as many languages we can.

Worldwide there are many researchers and

全世界各地有許多研究人員和實地工作者在調查和記錄瀕危語言上有優異表現，範圍幾乎遍及全世界各區，他們的任何努力對於保存語言多樣性這樣的人類文化遺產是有價值的一環，成果不只正式記錄了語言，更促使對人類語言本質和人類語言與思想之關聯有更多的發現。

假設說，動物行為學、心理語言學或一般語言學的研究者將已經做過的田調之結果集合，他們可以利用這些案例做為其理論、比較或假說的例子。但真的那麼容易？想想看，這些研究團隊有不同形式、方法、語言或傳統，我們可以假定，所有不同田調的結果都有所不同，因此要做對比就不容易。

因此需要一個普遍且全世界各地可用的架構。理想上，所有研究團隊都使用某一套方法、依嚴格定義的基本原則進行研究、以相同語言出版研究成果。

已經有人在努力建立這種架構，最有名也最成功的架構之一就是DOBES架構。



DOBES計畫

德國的「福斯汽車基金會」在2000年啟動一項旨在記錄瀕危語言的計畫，名為DOBES計畫（是德文「瀕危語言記錄」的縮寫）。DOBES一開始有7個記錄田調團隊和1個建檔團隊，欲想出如何有效記錄語言的建議，並欲找出收藏成果資料的最佳方法。現在每年會選出幾個團隊展開新的記錄計畫，DOBES計畫至今已資助逾50個記錄計畫。

DOBES計畫資助的記錄工作之主要目標如下：（1）協助保住或復振被記錄的語言（2）協助教育未來世代有關語言多樣性和人類文化

fieldworkers doing a great job investigating and documenting endangered languages. They do it in almost every region in the world and any effort to do so is a valuable component to preserve the human heritage of language diversity. The results not only document languages for the record, but help to find out more on the nature of human language and the connection between human language and mind.

Hypothetically speaking, researchers in ethology, psycholinguistics or general linguistics take the results from the already conducted fieldwork, put them together and can use these cases as examples for their theories, their comparisons or their assumptions. But is it really that easy? Imagine the different styles, methodology, languages or traditions the research groups have we can assume the results of all the different fieldworks are in a way different, hence not easy to compare.

Therefore a framework is needed which works universal and worldwide. Ideally, all research groups use a certain methodology, conduct research on well defined basic principles and publish their results all in the same language.

There are already some efforts in establishing frameworks of that kind worldwide. One of the most famous and successful frameworks is the DOBES framework.

The DOBES Programme

In the year 2000, the Volkswagen Foundation, Germany, started a programme in order to document languages that are potentially threatened by extinction. They named it DOBES programme: **D**okumentation **B**edrohter Sprachen (German for: Documentation of Endangered Languages). DOBES started with seven documentation fieldwork teams and one archiving team. The intention was to come up with recommendations of how language documentation can work, and to find out the

寶藏。

記錄工作的要點之一是，被收集的資料要有實用性，因此，所有相關的田調團隊要以不同學門（比如人類學、語言學或歷史學）都能使用的方式呈現成果，而且資料要在不須對被記錄的語言具備特定知識下，就頗為容易被理解。另一點是，這些成果能主要被用在被記錄的語言之語言社區；既然這是這民族的文化遺產，就應該讓族人能運用記錄工作來維持和復振他們自己的語言。



案例：記錄Hocank語

過去成功的記錄計畫之一是Hocank語記錄計畫，這項計畫在2003至2008年間執行，由德國Erfurt大學語言學系與美國Mauston的Hocak Wazija Hacı語言計畫合作，雷曼教授、賀姆布列希特教授及德國和美國雙方研究員進行該計畫。

Hocank語（又稱Winnebago語）是美國威斯康辛州高度瀕危的一種蘇語（Siouan），約5千名族人中只有200人以下會講族語，這些人全都是50歲以上，現在的孩童與父母輩再也不會講祖先的話。就語言學而言，Hocank語是描述欠佳和記錄不良的語言，然而有一些有用的詞彙和文法研究，此外還有人類學家保羅·芮丁（Paul Radin）在20世紀初記錄的約100頁神話語料，這些內容從未受過語言學分析，若

best way of archiving the resulting data. Now, every year some selected teams can start new documentation projects, since the first attempts there were already more than 50 documentation projects funded by the programme.

The main goals for the documentation work funded by the programme are the following: (1) Help to maintain or to revitalize the documented language, (2) help to inform future generations on language diversity and the cultural treasures of mankind.

One important point in the documentation work is the usability of the collected data. Hence, all associated fieldwork groups are presenting their results in a way useful for different disciplines, e.g. anthropology, linguistics or history and that this material can be quite easily be understood without a certain knowledge of the documented language. Another point is, that the results can primarily be used for the language community of the documented language: Since it is the cultural heritage of their people, they should be enabled to use the documentation work in order to maintain and to revitalize their own language.

An example: Hocank Language Documentation

One of the successful past documentation projects is the Hocank Language Documentation project. The Project was executed, during the years 2003 – 2008, in cooperation between the Department of Linguistics of the University of Erfurt/Germany and the Hocak Wazija Hacı Language Program in Mauston/USA. It was conducted by Professor Christian Lehmann, Johannes Helmbrecht and researchers on both sides, the German and the American one.

Hocank (Winnebago) is a highly endangered Siouan language spoken in Wisconsin, USA. Of the approximately 5000 tribal members there are not more than 200 speakers left, all of whom are 50 years and more of age. Today's children and parents generation is no longer able to speak their ancestors'



對這種語言欠缺深刻了解是難以觸及這些內容，其他語料類型根本沒被記錄下來。

該計畫的整體目標是以重要的子計畫記錄和保存Hocank語，比如，影音記錄、分析、處理和收藏Hocank語代表性語料，分析與再現這些語料，開發內容廣泛且具語言一致性的詞典，予以說Hocank語者語言訓練，開發教材。

達成計畫目標的重要先決條件是，德國語言團隊與來自「Hocank族語言部門」的人員和教師密切合作。此一部門成立於1993年，這樣的合作效果非常好，是該計畫成功的關鍵。既然該記錄計畫完成了，此一語言部門繼續使用該計畫的成果，來開發用以復振Hocank語的教材。

這個例子可做為未來這類計畫的模型。每項計畫的資料和分析都可以在DOBES的網站上找到，世界各地都能免費取得，這對盡量記錄和保存語言此一目標是很大的貢獻。



既然此一計畫的方法在世界各區都是有用的，就能被發展成語言學及其他許多學門未來研究的主要共通語言資源，並創造一個研究人員全球網絡。

(延伸閱讀：<http://www.mpi.nl/DOBES/>)

language. Linguistically, Hocank is a poorly described and documented language. There are, however, some useful lexical and grammatical studies. Additionally there are around 100 pages of mythological texts recorded by the anthropologist Paul Radin at the beginning of the 20th century. They have never been subject to a linguistic analysis and are hardly accessible without a profound knowledge of the language. Other text types have not been recorded at all.

The overall goal of the project was the documentation and preservation of the Hocank language with important sub-projects, e.g. (audio- and video-) recording, analysing, processing and archiving a representative corpus of Hocank texts, linguistic analysis and representation these texts, development of a comprehensive and linguistically consistent lexicon, linguistic training of Hocank speakers and the development of teaching material.

An important precondition to achieve the goals of this project was a close cooperation of the German linguistic team with the staff and the teachers from the "Hocank Nation Language Division". This division was founded in 1993. The cooperation worked out very well and was key to the success of the project. Now that the documentation project is complete, the Language Division still uses the results of the project to develop teaching materials to revitalize the usage of Hocank.

This example can be used as a model for future projects of that kind. The data and analysis of every project can be found on the DOBES website, accessible from everywhere in the world and free of charge. This is a great contribution to the goal of documenting and preserving as many languages as possible.

Since the methodology of the programme is usable in every region of the world, it can be developed as the main universal languages resource for future research in the field not only for linguistics but for many more disciplines and can create a worldwide network of researchers.

Further reading: <http://www.mpi.nl/DOBES/>