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J. P. Harrington Project: Academic and Community Participation

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Authors

Macri, Martha J

Golla, Victor

Woodward, Lisa L

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J. P. Harrington Project: Academic and Community Participation

MARTHA J. MACRI,¹ VICTOR K. GOLLA,² LISA L. WOODWARD¹

¹University of California, Davis, ²Humboldt State University

1. Goals of the J. P. Harrington Database Project

The J. P. Harrington Database Project, funded by the National Science Foundation (grants BCS-01-11487 and BCS-04-18584), is creating a computer database of the linguistic and ethnographic notes on American Indian languages collected by J. P. Harrington during the first half of the twentieth century. The men and women he interviewed were often among the last speakers of their languages. During the 1980s, Harrington's original handwritten field notes, currently housed in the National Anthropological Archives at the Smithsonian Institution, were microfilmed, resulting in 477 reels from which the J. P. Harrington Database is being created.

Harrington's notes are being transcribed and coded for several linguistic and ethnographic categories in order to maximize their accessibility and usefulness. The notes can be printed from the database, and the possibilities for generating lexical lists and other useful data are virtually endless. Detailed guides to the materials on each language will be produced. These include dates and location of the fieldwork, a list of place names, and biographical information on consultants and field assistants. Guides for each language will have a detailed explanation of Harrington's orthography and symbols, their equivalents in the electronic archived form, and ultimately a regularized transcription for materials to be used in language education.

Increased access to this enormous resource is of value to linguists, biologists, geographers, historians, anthropologists, and archaeologists. Perhaps its greatest value is to Native American communities for use in cultural and language revitalization, as well as for documentation of tribal histories and genealogies. It is invaluable to those studying the indigenous languages of California, and their complex historical relationships. The project depends on the combined efforts of both the academic community and native scholars engaged in the study of the languages and cultures Harrington recorded.

2. J. P. Harrington: Linguist and Ethnographer (from Golla 1994)

John Peabody Harrington (1884–1961) graduated from Stanford University, re-

solving to make his career in American Indian language studies, and in particular, to collect linguistic data from the nearly lost languages of California. In 1915 the Bureau of American Ethnology hired him as a Research Ethnologist. From then until his retirement, Harrington had virtually unbounded freedom to wander the North American continent carrying out his mission of linguistic and cultural documentation. Surely no linguistic field worker before or since clocked more months and years of field research.

After his death, Smithsonian curators began cataloguing his papers. By the late 1960s, with the bulk of Harrington's materials finally located and consolidated, it became clear that Harrington's extensive, accurate notes were a linguistic treasure of the highest order. The value of the documentation was especially great for languages such as Chimariko, Costanoan, Salinan, and Chumash, considered lost by some as early as the turn of the century, but for which Harrington discovered several aged speakers.

In the last thirty years several doctoral dissertations have been based largely, if not entirely, on Harrington's notes, including grammars of Ineseño Chumash (Applegate 1972), Obispeño Chumash (Klar 1977), Mutsun Costanoan (Okrand 1977), Antoniano Salinan (Turner 1987), Kitanemuk (Anderton 1988), and Barbareño Chumash (Wash 2001). Chumash oral traditions that Harrington collected have also been published (Blackburn 1975).

Although focusing his energies on languages nearing extinction, Harrington collected data on over 135 languages in California and the Far West, supplementing his written record with hundreds of sound recordings. He also extended his work into recording Native culture, particularly traditional stories and geography.

3. Present State of Accessibility

By the 1970s, the National Anthropological Archives (NAA)—the final repository of most of Harrington's materials—found itself devoting a good portion of its resources to cataloging the Harrington collection. To facilitate this, the NAA obtained funding from the National Historical Publication and Records Commission to microfilm Harrington's linguistic and ethnographic notes, papers, and correspondence. Begun in 1977, the microfilming was completed in 1991, except for the photograph collection and some of Harrington's personal and office records. The microfilm collection is divided into eight sections (Harrington 1981–91, Volumes 1–8), 477 reels in all (see Appendix I). Volume 9 includes 17 additional reels of correspondence and financial records; Volume 10 contains photographs.

The *Guides to the Field Notes* prepared by Elaine L. Mills and her assistants (Mills 1981–85, Mills and Brickfield 1986–89, Mills and Mills 1991) provide orientation to the notes including lists of the names of Harrington's Native American consultants and abbreviations used by Harrington. Mills, the Smithsonian staff member assigned to the Harrington collection from 1977 to 1983, had primary responsibility for preparing the notes for microfilming. Many researchers have begun to make use this material. A growing number of these researchers are Native peoples—many of them direct descendents of the men and women Har-

rington interviewed.

An inaugural conference on the J. P. Harrington papers was held in Santa Barbara, California in June 1992. It was the first in a series of annual conferences and workshops (1992–1997) resulting in ten newsletters (Golla 1991–1996). The following excerpts from these newsletters describe the importance of the material and problems related to access of the microfilmed notes.

J. P. Harrington Newsletter #1 November 1991

- How can the microfilms and the Guides be made more easily accessible to scholars? I have tried to request both particular microfilms and particular volumes of the catalogues through interlibrary loan and I have waited for months on end and they just don't come.
- One topic that should be addressed is JPH's Spanish. . . . Since so much of his work is bilingual, or simply in Spanish, a glossary of his Spanish usage, with equivalents in standard Spanish and English, would be extremely useful to many researchers.

J. P. Harrington Newsletter #4 February 1993

- My work has centered principally on the Serrano. . . and, to a lesser extent, on the Kitanemuk, Cahuilla, Gabrielino, and Luiseño. . . My task was interpreting Harrington's notes to figure out and map the actual locations of the myriad place names they contain.

J. P. Harrington Newsletter #6 February 1994

- My wife Sonia and I learned about the Harrington Conference Newsletter from the article by Leanne Hinton in *News from Native California*. When we received copies, and learned that our language (Acagchemen, or Juaneño) had been extensively recorded on disc by Harrington, we were both taken aback. For many years we believed that our language was almost entirely gone, and that only a few words and songs were still remembered.

J. P. Harrington Newsletter #10 May 1996

- I've been surprised to find that there's an enormous amount of Klallam (Straits Salish) material in the JPH microfilm (Volume I, Reels 16 & 30), much more than Elaine Mills' guide seems to indicate. On these two reels there are over 2,000 pages of Klallam data!

Users of the Harrington materials must surmount a number of difficulties, largely philological in nature, ranging from determining the precise significance of Harrington's phonetic symbols and deciphering shorthand devices he used (e.g., Latin *nescit*, usually abbreviated *N.* or *n.*, 'does not know'). Harrington's phonetic transcription changed over time, and sometimes varied from language to language. He used a number of abbreviations and non-phonetic symbols. Some of these are listed in the appendices in Mills' Guides; others require further elucidation.

A new series of newsletters is being produced by this project. *Clearly Heard Forever* provides scholars and community members with information on the goals

and procedures of the project, recent trainings, languages currently being coded, and lists of materials as they become available. *Clearly Heard Forever* is produced several times a year. Copies are distributed by email and posted on the project website: nas.ucdavis.edu/NALC/home.html.

4. Value of the Database

The J. P. Harrington Database is first and foremost a detailed index—a way of gaining rapid access to the microfilmed original notes. Simply having a typed version of the material allows someone looking at the papers for the first time to be able to find information more quickly. Having the material in a database format allows for very efficient searching of the texts. For example, selecting the word *bear* in the text field will select all records that contain the string *bear*. Or one can search for *bear* and go from one example of it to the next, locating the mention of *bear* in each sentence or story that it occurs. Looking through '0 microfilm reels (nearly 20,000 handwritten pages) for all mentions of *bear* would be a daunting task indeed. Another feature of the database is the ability to generate wordlists ordered either by the Indian word or by Harrington's gloss.

The database format also provides the ability to pick up “out of place” data and incorporate it into related material. For example, Harrington sometimes mentions words in one language while working on another. When he heard a word in Luiseño that reminded him of a word in Chumash he made a note of it, but in the Luiseño notes—those studying the Chumash languages would probably never see it. In a database, however, one need only search on the language family field to select words labeled Chumash, regardless of the reels on which they occur. In addition, our coders have located data from several languages that were incorrectly labeled or that were not included in the indices.

Another use of the database is to locate words borrowed among Indian languages. Selecting for a certain sequence of letters in the Indian word field finds all examples, and lists the language in which each occurs. Scanning this list shows whether the sequence occurs in more than one language. Selecting for a certain string in the English gloss field finds all examples of words with an equivalent meaning, immediately showing where possible cognates might occur or where there are likely borrowings. Searching on the semantic domain field generates lists of any subject that has been coded, e.g., bird names, toponyms, kinship terms, etc. These and other lists can be further analyzed, printed, and used for hypothesis formation and testing. The more subtle aspects of their phonological systems will be elucidated by further analysis of the accurate phonetic transcriptions that Harrington is so well known for. The data he has recorded so faithfully, when fully accessible, will also contribute to a better understanding of other aspects of the grammars of these languages, such as morphology and syntax.

5. History of the Project

The idea for a database of J. P. Harrington's papers was first suggested in some of the earliest J. P. Harrington *Newsletters*. In 1994 Macri was approached by ar-

chaeologist Georgie Waugh with the idea of creating a database to make Harrington's notes more accessible. The current database format was first developed in 1994. In 1995, Lisa Woodward, then an undergraduate at UC Davis, transcribed notes for the one reel of Fernandño data, and additional material for Luiseño. The results of this pilot project were presented at Harrington Conferences in 1995 and 1996. Victor Golla, who was a visiting professor at UC Davis in 1995–96, contributed his experience in organizing the network of Harrington researchers, and has assisted in solving the problem of representing Harrington's phonetic symbols and diacritics in an appropriate computer format.

Related projects include the 1990 NSF award to Marianne Mithun at UC Santa Barbara for the Barbareño Chumash Grammar based on Harrington's notes. The examination of the over 70,000 pages of Barbareño material focused on texts in that language. Given the mass of Harrington data, we are coding the material in order of priority. Precedence is given to those notes that are of unique value to linguistic scholars (a sole or principal source), to indigenous communities engaged in the coding, and to students who are volunteering their time.

Totally unanticipated has been the enthusiasm and dedication on the part of members of the Native American communities in California. We had counted on their cooperation, but the ability and willingness of communities representing over a dozen separate languages has far exceeded our expectations. In the summer of 2002, Sheri Tatsch worked with Marina Drummer, Administrator of the Advocates for Indigenous California Language Survival, to author a brief article about the Harrington Database Project that appeared in *News from Native California*.

Several native communities have contributed to our volunteer trainings. The Tribal Digital Village, funded in part by NSF and Hewlett-Packard (Ross Frank, UC San Diego, principal investigator) provided funding for a training session in San Diego. The Barona Cultural Center contributed space for the workshop, computers for participants to use, and lunch for participants and presenters. The project continues to gain momentum. Graduate students, community volunteers, and research assistants have become progressively more efficient in transcribing and coding the notes. The number of trained transcribers continues to increase.

6. Project Methodology

Harrington collected language data throughout the Americas (Appendix 1). However, the languages of California and the West comprise the vast majority of notes and prove to be most crucial in language revitalization efforts. Although these notes are the product of a single individual, completion of this project may require more than one generation of scholars.

Reels vary in the number of frames they contain, as well as in the density of material and the complexity of phonetic detail. Some pages have a single word or sentence, while others are completely filled with notes. Our first priority is to code languages that have not been well documented by linguists other than Harrington, and those languages that are of most interest to contemporary communities.

As the project has developed it has become clear that our efforts in training community members to work with the Harrington data has a value independent of the actual coding of the data. Project personnel have made presentations to over 250 people (Appendix 2), and have conducted training session for more than 50 volunteers, coding 16 languages (Appendix 3). Many participants have expressed gratitude at being able to use Harrington's notes more effectively. The project is serving an important outreach function for the University of California, Davis, and the academic community at large.

7. Project Work Plan

In this database the unit of analysis is a sentence. When eliciting, Harrington usually wrote in sentences, and frequently grouped them into paragraphs. In the event of more than one Indian word within a sentence, the sentence is divided so that only one Indian word occurs per record. This allows us to generate word lists directly from the text data. When an entire phrase, sentence, or longer passage is in the Indian language the phrase or sentence is entered as a single unit. These records can be searched, but they do not lend themselves to being used for generation of word lists until the data is further formatted. (Continuous texts in native languages are handled somewhat differently, with record breaks at phrases or sentences rather than individual words.)

Transcription and coding of the materials are done on three levels of increasing detail. The following is a list and brief description of the fields coded.

7.1. Level 1: Sentence/Word Coding

The material is fully transcribed in the text field of the database. Text is entered exactly as it appears on the page. Wavy brackets indicate a coder's description of letters, words, or sentences, or of Harrington's drawings and maps. The *Indian Word* and *Gloss* fields allow for the generation of word lists:

Citation 2:005:358a:7:1 indicates volume 2, reel 5, frame 358, side a, paragraph 7, sentence 1. All references to the Harrington papers are to the reel number and the frame number as given in the microfilm collection prepared by Elaine Mills (Mills 1981).

Text Transcription of Harrington's notes.

Level 1 Notes Clarification of the transcription, or a reference a previous entry.

Consultant Name Abbreviation The name of Harrington's consultant.

Indian Word This field isolates the Indian word.

Harrington's English/Spanish Gloss Harrington's own translation.

7.2. Level 2: Coding for Historical, Linguistic, and Cultural Information

Additional fields provide coding of more detailed information.

Semantic Domain Category labels not otherwise obvious from the text itself.

Genre Categories such as story, dance, song, and word list.

Scientific Name (JPH) Harrington's Latin name for flora or fauna.

Scientific Name Corrected/current scientific name.

Language Name (JPH) Harrington often named language groups by their location.

Language Family (Current)

Language Name (Current)

Dialect/Community Dialect or the family, town, or region of the person being interviewed.

Location of Interview

Date of Interview *dd/mm/yy* (this format is for sorting purposes)

Reference to Personal Communication

Reference to Written or Published Communication

Photograph Reference to Harrington's photographs in National Anthropological Archives.

7.3. Level 3: Detailed Linguistic Coding

Scholars with linguistic knowledge of specific languages will do more detailed coding of notes on those languages.

8. Computer Use and Software

The master database uses the application Panorama by ProVUE. Panorama is a flat file database allowing for easy transfer to and from any standard database or word-processing software. It has a variety of querying options, and allows for text funneling and complex searches and replacements, facilitating global mark-ups necessary for compatibility with some WWW projects, e.g., Electronic Metastructure for Endangered Languages Metadata (E-MELD).

Perhaps the most difficult problem related to this project is the keyboarding of the numerous complex phonetic symbols used by Harrington. We are avoiding the use of specialized phonetic fonts for all but final printing of the material. All of the data is being keyboarded using only extended ASCII symbols. In fact, we are using a subset of extended ASCII symbols, those that are equivalent in Microsoft Word on both Mac and PC platforms. This manner of archiving the data will ensure its integrity for the future. As new symbols are encountered the list is revised. The files themselves are relatively small, and easily accommodated even by outdated computer hardware. Thus community members can participate in the project and make use of its products with a minimal investment in computer hardware and software.

9. Final Products and Dissemination

This project will result in increased accessibility of archived data and summary materials (search results, word lists, etc.) available for scholarly and community use. Some of the material recorded by Harrington includes sensitive information, either because it is sacred to the indigenous community, or because it is private information never intended to be circulated beyond Harrington himself. Even though Harrington's notes are in the public domain by virtue of being part of the National Anthropological Archives, gossip or personal information that might be

harmful or embarrassing to descendants of Harrington's consultants will be accorded the same kinds of protection from unethical use that linguists and other researchers customarily offer their consultants today. Material deemed by communities to be sacred, or culturally inappropriate for dissemination will not be circulated to the general public, for example, on the WWW, but will be available to scholars and to tribal representatives.

All coders sign a confidentiality agreement in compliance with this policy. The classification of material as culturally sensitive is made by the senior project personnel in consultation with appropriate community representatives. In at least one case, a native community has asked that Harrington's notes relating to their language not be made available on the WWW. We will comply with such requests, but since this project is largely supported by federal funds, we will provide notes to those academic and community scholars who request them.

Language materials are made available for distribution as electronic files after they have been transcribed, coded, and checked for quality control. Database reports, such as units of text, or word lists will be available as printed paper copies to be ordered from the project office or, as electronic files (text files, word-processing files, portable document format (pdf) files, or database files) e-mailed, or sent on disk, or CD-ROM, or downloaded from the project website). Ultimately the searchable database will be available on line and on CD-ROMs. In the meantime, materials will be made available as they are completed.

In addition to providing an efficient way of retrieving the linguistic and ethnographic information stored in the vast Harrington collection, constructing the database will also provide ways for researchers and archivists to address questions about the structure of the corpus itself. The chronology of Harrington's fieldwork has not been completely worked out; questions regarding the name, age, and first language of his consultants are not always known. Harrington's reference in his letters to absent material suggests there remain "lost" chunks of data. Corrections and emendations cannot be made to the microfilm edition, nor can the correspondence be re-associated with the appropriate field notes. This can be done easily within the context of this database. Waugh, one of the senior researchers, is indexing the reels of correspondence (letters both to and from Harrington), providing a clearer picture of his activities.

Distribution of the database is being done in several ways. We have distributed to a few communities printouts of the text and word lists. We are in informal contact with linguists and other researchers who are specialists in the languages we are coding, and will soon be establishing a more formal data request process. We are currently in the process of preparing pdf-formatted files, similar to the printouts distributed to communities, for posting on the Native American Language Center website at UC Davis. Ultimately we will have data files and reports for languages available on the WWW as well as on CD-ROM. When, in the future, electronic scans of the pages including maps, and images of plants, animals, baskets, and objects drawn by Harrington are added, the size of the database will be considerably larger. The linking of records with external images can be done

quite efficiently. In the future, document management hardware and software may be used to record the entire Harrington collection as digital images linked to the records on this database. Thus the database would serve as an index and access point to the original material.

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Appendix 1. Listing of Language Reels by Volume Number.

VOLUME	REELS
1 <i>Alaska, Northwest Coast</i> (30 reels)	
•Aleut	1–9
•Tlingit/Eyak	10–12
•N Athabaskan	13, 14 (frames 1–996)
•Nicola/Thompson	14 (frames 997–1194)
•Lummi/Nespelem	15 (frames 4–255)
•Duwamish	15 (frames 256–898)
•Chimakum/Clallam/Makah/Quileute	16
•Quinault/Chehalis/Cowlitz/Yakima/Chinook Jargon	17–18
•Kwalthioqua-Tlatskanai	19
•Tillamook	20
•Alsea/Siuslaw/Coos	21–24
•Oregon Athabaskan	25–27
•Galice/Applegate	28 (frames 2–120)
•Takelma	28 (frames 123–887)
•Miscellaneous	29–30
2 <i>Northern / Central California</i> (101 reels)	
•Klamath	1 (frames 1–313)
•Wiyot/Yurok/Mattole	1 (frames 317–717), 2
•Coast Yuki/N&C Pomo/Kato	3–4
•Coast Miwok	5 (frames 1–158)
•Lake, Coast Miwok/SE Pomo/Wappo	5 (frames 162–349)
•Nisenan/Northern Sierra Miwok	5 (frames 355–569)
•S Pomo/Central Sierra Miwok	5 (frames 573–978)
•Karak/Konomihu/Shasta	6–19
•Chimariko/Hupa	20–24
•Achomawi/Atsugewi/Wintu/Yana	25–26
•Yana/Achomawi/Wintu/Chimariko	27–35
•Costanoan	36–80
•Esselen	81–82
•Salinan	84–88
•Yokuts	89–101
3 <i>Southern California / Basin</i> (182 reels)	
•Chumash	1–96
•Tubatulabal	97
•Kitanemuk	98–100
•Serrano	101
•Gabrieliño	102–105
•Fernandeño	106
•Cahuilla	107–114
•Luiseño/Juaneño	115–129
•Cupeño	130
•Chemehuevi	131–147
•Mohave	148–168
•Diegueño	169–170
•Paipai/Kiliwa	171 (frames 1–99)
•Ute/Paiute/Shoshoni	171 (frames 100–791)
•Miscellaneous	172–182
4 <i>Southwest</i> (58 reels)	
•Apache/Kiowa Apache	1

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•Navajo	2–25
•Hopi	26
•Zuni	27–30
•Acoma/Laguna/Santo Domingo	31
•Cochiti	32
•Jemez	33–35
•Isleta/Isleta del Sur/Piro	36
•Picuris	37
•Taos	38–49
•Tewa	50–57
•Miscellaneous	58
5 <i>Plains</i> (17 reels)	
•Kiowa	1–13
•Mandan/Hidatsa/Crow	14–15
•Caddo/Pawnee/Wichita/Comanche	16
•Siouan	17
6 <i>Northeast & Southeast</i> (18 reels)	
•Algonquian	1
•Shawnee/Peoria	2
•Abnaki/Passamaquoddy	3–8
•Massachusett	9
•Mahican/Stockbridge	10–12
•N Iroquoian	13
•Wyandot	14
•Delaware	15
•Powhatan	16
•Cherokee	17
•Creek/Alabama/Choctaw	18 (frames 1–189)
•Miscellaneous materials	18 (frames 192–210)
7 <i>Mexico / Central America / South America</i> (36 reels)	
•Pima/Papago/Seri/Opata	1
•Nahuatl	2–7
•Quiche	8–12
•Cakchiquel	13
•Yucatec	14–25
•Cuna	26
•South American languages	27–35
•Miscellaneous	36
8 <i>Special Linguistic Studies</i> (35 reels)	
•Supplementary materials on volumes 1–7	1–3
•Linguistic & ethnographic notes	4
•Linguistic questionnaires	5
•Library related materials/inquiries	6
•Non-American languages	7
•Arabic origins of Spanish words	8–11
•Personal names/geography	12–20
•Siberian origin of the Indian	21
•Lectures	22
•Phonetics	23
•Writings on various topics	24–28
•Major writings on linguistics	29–35
9 <i>Correspondence & Financial Records</i> (17 reels)	
10 <i>Photographs</i> (10 reels)	

J. P. Harrington Project: Academic and Community Participation

Appendix 2. Presentations by Project Staff.

Temecula	Pechanga Cultural Resource Director (Luiseño)	'01/08/03	1
Sacramento	CSUS California Indian Conference	'01/10/10	35
San Juan Capistrano	Juaneño Tribal Office (Juaneño)	'01/12/21	3
San Francisco	Linguistic Society of America	'02/01/06	40
Berkeley	Group in American Indian Languages	'02/02/05	14
Marin Headlands	Language Is Life Conference	'02/03/08	55
Berkeley	Breath of Life Conference	'02/06/07	18
Berkeley	Breath of Life Conference	'02/06/08	9
Lakeside	Barona Cultural Center (Kumeyaay, Luiseño, Cahuilla)	'02/07/26	17
Sacramento	Advocates for Indigenous California Language Survival	'02/08/03	11
San Jacinto	Saboba Cultural Center (Luiseño, Cahuilla)	'02/09/12	4
Ross	Marin Museum of the American Indian (Miwok)	'02/10/16	30
Davis	Native American Language Center (Karuk)	'03/03/12	1
Highland	Native American Language Center (Serrano)	'04/04/19	1
Davis	Society for Ethnobiology	'04/03/26	20
Berkeley	Stabilizing Indigenous Languages	'04/06/11	25
Lakeside	Advocates for Indigenous California Language Survival	'04/09/10	100

Appendix 3. Community Trainings Conducted by Project Staff.

Coos	'02/02/04	1
Obispeño Chumash	'02/12/10	1
Mutsun	'02/06/29	4
Kumeyaay, Luiseño, Cahuilla	'02/07/24–26	11
Luiseño	'02/07/31	1
Luiseño, Ineseño Chumash	'02/09/11	1
Kitanimuk	'02/09/14	1
Chimariko	'02/09/16	1
Yana	'02/10/03	1
Salinan	'02/10/07	1
Kitanemuk, Wikchamni	'02/11/08	6
Rumsen	'02/11/16	3
Gabrielino	'02/12/30	2
Rumsen	'03/02/11	1
Yokuts	'03/03/21	1
Paipai-Kiliwa	'03/04/18	1
Mutsun	'03/09/27	12
Mutsun	'04/04/10	8
Obispeño	'04/07/10	1
Juaneño	'04/08/03	1
Gabrielino	'04/12/20	1

REPORT 14

**SURVEY OF CALIFORNIA AND
OTHER INDIAN LANGUAGES**

Language is Life

***PROCEEDINGS OF THE 11TH ANNUAL
STABILIZING INDIGENOUS LANGUAGES CONFERENCE***

June 10-13, 2004

University of California at Berkeley

Wesley Y. Leonard and Stelómethet Ethel B. Gardner, Editors

Andrew Garrett and Leanne Hinton, Series Editors

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cover design by Leanne Hinton (Santa Barbara Chumash rock painting)

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