

Language Archives and Linguistic Anchoring of Digital Archives

Chu-Ren Huang
Institute of Linguistics, Academia Sinica

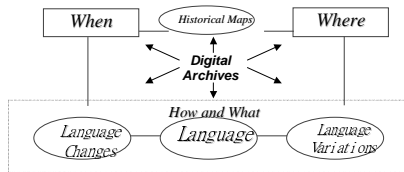
LSA Symposium:
The Open Language Archives Community
4 January 2002

Linguistic Anchoring of Digital Archives

- Language Archives serve communities beyond linguists
- Linguistic description and interpretation underlies any digital archive items
- In digital archives, each knowledge item should be temporally, geographically, and **linguistically** anchored.

OLAC Launch, LSA-02

Language and Digital Archives



OLAC Launch, LSA-02

Digital Archives are Linguistically Anchored

- Archives are anchored with Lexical KnowledgeBase (LKB)
 - because LKB as collection of lexical types instantiated in archives uniquely defines each archive
 - And each lexical item is the conceptual atom projecting knowledge from archive to archive

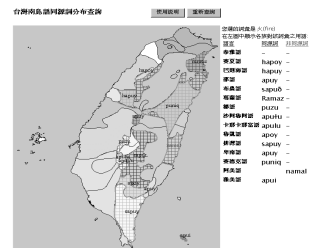
OLAC Launch, LSA-02

From Linguistic Anchor to Knowledge Projection

- Synergy of language archives anchored by lexical forms and supported by LKB generates new knowledge
- Extension of linguistic anchoring based on LKB to all types of digital archives will lead to even more creative synergy

OLAC Launch, LSA-02

Where & What: Language Atlas



OLAC Launch, LSA-02

Multi-anchor Knowledge Linking

- Geographical anchor based on GIS (geography information system)
 - Ecology (Fauna, Weather, Geology etc.)
 - Socio-Anthropological classification
- Linguistic anchor based on LKB
 - etymology, language grouping, loan words,

OLAC Launch, LSA-02

Linguistic Anchor and Authorship

Dream of the Red Chamber: The classical Chinese novel in which the authorship of the last 40 chapters are in dispute

- The Use of Particle *de* in DRC

	ch.1-40	ch.41-80	ch.81-120
Total fre.	537	604	620
得 de_1	13.22%	17.88%	56.61%
的 de_2	86.78%	82.12%	43.39%

OLAC Launch, LSA-02

Linguistic Anchor and Schools of Thoughts <http://www.dmpo.sinica.edu.tw/~words>

- Classics in Confucianism:
Confucius' Analacts, Mencius
- Classics in Taoism
Lao-Zi, Zhuang-Zi
 - Defining a sub-lexicon for each school of thoughts (e.g. in C and M but not in L or Z)
 - Tracing use in literatures (e.g. -> Tang Poetry)

OLAC Launch, LSA-02

Synergy among Language Archives

How to synergize multiple archives

- Each document is marked up with textual description features: *topic, style* etc.
- Each feature selects a subset of documents
- Sub-corpora (or new archives) can be created online according to user's specification

OLAC Launch, LSA-02

OLACMS helps archive versatility

Given Shared Metadata Standard

- New language archives can be created on the fly by harvesting existing archives
- Rich information can be inferred by establishing temporal and geographic anchors for each document.

OLAC Launch, LSA-02

OLAC Infrastructure

Helps to Solve Language Archive Problems such as

- **Language Identification** and
- **Metadata Set for Multi-lingual Language Archives**

OLAC Launch, LSA-02

The Language Identification Problem

The DC code (e.g. 'en' for English) is not enough to describe all the languages in the world
Ethnologue (<http://www.ethnologue.org>) is comprehensive but not **complete**

Potential Problems of using Ethnologue (or any existing language list)

- over-splitting
- over-chunking
- omission

OLAC Launch, LSA-02

A Fundamental Solution to Language Identification Problems

Registering language groups with an OLAC registration service

OLAC language classification server would house a comprehensive list of language family names (defined by users) and their extensional definitions (i.e. sets of Ethnologue codes)

AS:Amis = {ALV, AIS}

ALV= Amis, AIS= Nataoran

OLAC Launch, LSA-02

Describing Multi-Lingual Resources in OLACMS

- Directionality is crucial in multilingual resources
- However, OLAC metadata is flat and unordered

Bi-directional MT

<Language code= X/>

<Language code= Y/>

<Subject.language code= X/>

<Subject.language code= Y/>

OLAC Launch, LSA-02

Multi-lingual Resources II

Text: *language*

Bitext (bilingual aligned corpus)

- There is always a directionality
- Original: *language*
- Translation: *Subject.language*

Language Description (Field Notes)

- Elicitation, transcription, translation, notes
- Multiple related resources

OLAC Launch, LSA-02

OLAC and Asia

Asian Language Resources Committee

Mail List: alr@cl.cs.titech.ac.jp

- Affiliated with the proposed AFNLP
- Cataloguing Asian Language Resources
- Will adopt OLACMS and search engine
- Coordinators: Togunana take@cl.cs.titech.ac.jp
Huang churen@sinica.edu.tw

OLAC Launch, LSA-02

OLAC and Taiwan

- Both Academia Sinica and the Digital Archives National Project will join OLAC
- AS corpora will be OLAC compliant soon
<http://www.sinica.edu.tw/SinicaCorpus>
http://www.sinica.edu.tw/Early_Chinese
<http://www.ling.sinica.edu.tw/formosan>
Other resources: spoken, Taiwanese etc.

OLAC Launch, LSA-02