Language Documentation and Interactive Mapping

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Maps are already able to tell us the "where" of an event or phenomenon (the "where of the what"). But with recent advances in hardware and software, and with techniques and tools that non-specialists can also access and manipulate without breaking the bank, maps are increasingly able to tell us about the "how's," the "who's", the "when's," and even the "why's" or language variation and vitality. This is particularly true in language documentation and linguistic descriptions, where the connections (or the "flows" as Dorling 2014 terms it) between places and points are as important (if not more important) than the points themselves. A consideration of these tools and resources can therefore shape our research questions that underlie documentation, and also our methods and the ways that we can disseminate findings.

In this workshop, I survey some of the different tools and techniques used in past and current documentation/mapping projects, with illustrations from outside of linguistics, from my own work in Nepal, and from work being done elsewhere. This includes QGIS (http://www.qgis.org/en/site/), an open-source GIS system that is learnable in a reasonable amount of time, and may be used to geo-reference existing maps and add layers relevant to specific goals. This also includes the use of hardware for creation of entirely new maps or else enhancement to existing maps (e.g. Red Hen Systems, LLC https://www.redhensystems.com/products). The recommended reading list includes overviews of the evolving connections between mapping and linguistic research, along with case studies. Readings with asterisks are included as .pdf's for easy access, and I have received permission from authors to share pre-prints for this workshop.

General literature on linguistics and mapping, or geo-linguistics

Buchstaller, I. and S. Alvanides. 2013. Employing geographical principles for sampling in state of the art dialectological projects. Journal of Linguistic Geography 1: 96-114.

de Vriend, F., L. Boves, R. van Hout, J. Swanenberg. 2011. Visualization as a research tool for dialect geography using a geo-browser. Literary and Linguistic Computing 26.1: 17-34.

Dorling, D. 2014. Healthy places, healthy spaces. British Medical Bulletin 69: 101-114.

Hoch, S. and J.J. Hayes. 2010. Geolinguistics: The incorporation of geographic information systems and science. The Geographical Bulletin 51: 23-36.

Kirk, J.M. and W.A. Kretzschmar Jr. 1992. Interactive linguistic mapping of dialect features. Literary and Linguistic Computing 7.3: 168-175.

Kretzschmar, W.A. 1992. Isoglosses and predictive modeling. American Speech 67.3: 227-249.

*Kretzschmar, W.A. 1996. Quantitative areal analysis of dialect features. Language Variation and Change 8: 13-39.

Kretzschmar, W.A., I Juuso, C.T. Bailey. 2014. Computer simulation of dialect feature diffusion. Preprint for Journal of Linguistic Geography.

Language and Space 2010 (Vol 1: Theories and Methods eds. P. Auer and J.E. Schmidt; Vol 2: Language Mapping eds. A. Lameli, R. Kehrein S. Rabanus)

Montgomery, C. and P. Stoeckle. 2013. Geographic information systems and perceptual dialectology: A method for processing draw-a-map data. Journal of Linguistic Geography 1: 52-85.

Literature on multi-media mapping, or language documentation and mapping connections

*Hildebrandt, K.A. and S. Hu. 2013. Multimedia mapping on the Internet and language documentation: New directions in interdisciplinarity. Polymath 3.3: 11 pp.

*Oliver, M. 2013. Language mapping for education policy realisation from below. Language Matters: Studies in the Languages of Africa 44.3: 6-32.

Stanford, J. 2012. One size fits all? Dialectometry in a small clan-based indigenous society. Language Variation and Change 24.2: 247-278.

*van Uytvanck, D., A. Dukers, J. Ringersma, P. Trilsbeek. 2008. Language-Sites: Accessing and presenting language resources via geographic information systems. Conference proceedings.