

Terralingua Annual Report, August 1996 - July 1997

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This is the first Annual Report of the activities of Terralingua. It covers our initial year from the date of incorporation (August 1996), although it necessarily also makes reference to previous activities dating back to 1995. The next report will be issued in January 1999, and will cover the 17-month period of August 1997 to December 1998. After that, the Report will appear annually each January.

### President's Message

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It has been just a year since Terralingua officially came into existence as a non-profit organization devoted to supporting the world's linguistic diversity and to exploring the links between linguistic and biological diversity. We come to you to report on our journey so far, and to chart with you our direction for the future.

In the following pages, our Secretary-Treasurer Dave Harmon gives us the specifics of the year's activities. Here, as Terralingua's Inaugural President, I would like to offer a few comments and put things in perspective. As measured against the threats faced by the world's linguistic, cultural, and biological diversity, and against the urgent needs experienced by indigenous and minority peoples and all concerned others in the struggle to preserve this diversity, there is little doubt that our accomplishments may well appear rather modest. Through our newsletter and Internet Web site, as well as through participation in conferences, workshops, and symposia, we may have had some success in raising awareness of biocultural diversity issues among scholars, activists, and the general public--which is most certainly part of our educational and informational mission, as laid down in our statement of purpose. Through our writings (which we are and will be making available to interested parties on our Web site and otherwise upon request), we may be contributing to the elaboration of some of the theoretical and methodological bases for the integrated study and understanding of the complex interrelationships between the various aspects of the diversity of life on earth--another key aspect of our mission. However, no less central to our mission is our desire also to be involved in action: direct action on the ground in support of indigenous and minority peoples' efforts in defense of their linguistic and cultural heritage, their ancestral lands, and their traditional knowledge and wisdom. At this level, we must recognize that we have hardly begun to fulfill our mission.

Yet, this is by no means due to a lack of good will. Inevitably, a great deal of our energies this year had to be devoted to legally and physically setting ourselves up as an organization--energies that, furthermore, we mustered working as 100% volunteers on top of the respective activities from which we draw our sustenance, in the spare time we do not have.

Everything we have done has been the fruit of this volunteer labor, financially aided exclusively by the membership fees we received throughout the year--for which we are, as always, most grateful. Further down on these pages you will find the Treasurer's report. As you will see, we could have hardly been more parsimonious! And much of what little we did spend on program activities actually went into making sure we reached those among our members and sympathizers who do not make use of electronic mail--our current medium of choice due to the minimal size of our budget (but more on outreach later).

This structuring process will be complete once we will have carried out our first elections for the Terralingua Board of Directors (coming up, as you will recall, in the last quarter of this year) and set up our Advisory Board (a group of highly experienced individuals who will act as consultants according to need). In both cases, we are trying to ensure geographic and ethnic diversity and the appropriate mix of expertise. Once we have these structures up and running, we will be able to concentrate our energies on formulating action plans and seeking funding for their implementation.

As you will remember from earlier Terralingua communications, we have already started on an initial project: gathering information on language maintenance and revitalization organizations and activities around the world, to be made available on our Web site as well as in non-electronic form. We have already received a considerable amount of responses to our query, which we are putting into a database, organized by continent. The first set of data will be included in the next update of our site. True to the Terralingua perspective, we are especially interested in hearing about efforts that link the preservation of linguistic diversity and that of biodiversity in indigenous and minority communities around the world. We urge our members and sympathizers to keep this information coming and to pass our request on to others who may in turn have relevant information. Expansion and upgrading of this database will also benefit from the funding we hope to obtain. However, in this as in all other cases, nothing will benefit us more than the commitment of Terralingua's supporters to working with us toward our goals!

Beyond this, our efforts will be devoted to reaching out to indigenous and minority communities around the world, as well as spreading our perspective among the general public. Two crucial issues will have to be addressed in this connection, both having to do with the medium of our communications: one is that of the language(s) of these communications, the other is that of the channel(s) through which our communications will occur. As you know, we have already been making efforts to go beyond the exclusive use of English, which would be most ironic given our mission. Based solely on volunteerism, we have obtained translations of our statement of purpose in several different languages--a mere drop in the ocean, admittedly, but it is a start. We are most grateful to those who have contributed these

translations, and renew our invitation to you all to send in more of them. We will strive to expand this translation effort to as many major Terralingua documents as possible. Again, funding will aid this enterprise, but short of a budget worthy of the United Nations, our best hopes rest in the continued help of our supporters. What we really need is a network of activists around the world who will act as "switchboards," so to speak, converting communications from one language to another. This, of course, should work both ways, so that we may not only reach others who do not speak English, but also those others may reach us with their information.

As for communication channels, again our choice of the Internet (e-mail and Web site) has been due to our current budget limitations: the electronic medium is available to us virtually free, while paper and regular mail, alas, are not. So far, we have made minimal use the latter--although, as mentioned above, we have tried to make sure we would reach our members and sympathizers who are not on the Internet. However, we are keenly aware of the need to improve on this state of affairs. Perhaps the majority of the people to whom we most wish to be of service do not have access to the Internet. Funding should allow us to expand our use of the printed medium for our communications. Yet, in this case as well, nothing will be more effective than your collaboration--those of you who are Internet-connected passing information on to those who are not, and vice versa.

On both of these communication issues, we therefore warmly solicit your help; we also urge you to send us your comments and suggestions. Adequate solutions to these issues are vital to the achievement of our goals.

This message has been full of appeals, but I cannot conclude without launching another one. Above all, we need your help to define and foster our mission. We came to you with a vision, a perspective; your enthusiastic response has indicated to us that the time was ripe for it, and that there was a niche to be filled. Now we need our collective strength to move forward. We need to continue to elaborate the theoretical and methodological bases on which our enterprise rests, those of the links between linguistic and biological diversity. And these bases must be the foundations of the applied work we will carry out. Help us by sending us ideas, comments and suggestions on the theoretical and methodological aspects, including in the form of publishable pieces for our newsletter. And help us by sending us ideas, comments and suggestions on specific projects in which we might engage, applying our perspective in support of linguistic and biological diversity on earth. By doing so, you will contribute to formulating and confronting one of the key issues of our times.

Many thanks again for your continued support.

Cordially,

Luisa Maffi

Inaugural President, Terralingua

Organizational Review

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### BACKGROUND

Terralingua originated in discussions that took place at the Symposium on Language Loss held at the University of New Mexico, Albuquerque, New Mexico, USA, in June-July 1995. At that meeting, a small group of volunteers formed an Ad Hoc Organizing Committee. The Committee then spent the next several months drafting a Call for Interest and Statement of Purpose, which were sent to a number of e-mail lists in December 1995. In April 1996, respondents to the Call for Interest received a Prospectus which outlined a proposed structure and activities for Terralingua. People were invited to join under a trial membership structure. Based on the response to this, Terralingua began accepting memberships, and in May 1996 established a bank account and obtained a U.S. federal tax identification number. In July 1996 the Interim Board of Directors (which had evolved, with the consent of the membership, from the Ad Hoc Organizing Committee) approved a set of By-Laws.

### INCORPORATION AND 501(c)(3) STATUS

In August 1996, Terralingua was incorporated as a nonprofit corporation under the laws of the state of Michigan, U.S.A. The incorporators were David Harmon, Martha Macri, and Luisa Maffi. In December 1996, Terralingua applied to the Internal Revenue Service (I.R.S.) for U.S. federal recognition of tax-exempt, nonprofit status (known as "501(c)(3) status"; see below). In February 1997, the I.R.S. granted this status.

### BOARD OF DIRECTORS

As noted above, the original Ad Hoc Organizing Committee has become an Interim Board of Directors, which will serve through December 1997. In June 1996 preparations were begun for Terralingua's first Board elections, which will take place in the last quarter of 1996.

### ADVISORY BOARD

The By-Laws allow for the formation of an Advisory Board to which the Board of Directors can have recourse for consultations as needed. In July 1997, preparations were begun to issue invitations to several persons to serve on the Advisory Board.

### MEMBERSHIP

Terralingua has three categories of membership:  
REGULAR, which requires a monetary contribution (in any amount) or a commitment to volunteer time on behalf of the organization;  
DONOR, which requires a contribution of US\$100 or more; and  
ORGANIZATIONAL, which requires a contribution of US\$35.

In addition, Regular and Donor members who joined before June 30, 1997, are designated as "Founding Members."

As of 31 July 1997, Terralingua had 93 Regular Members, 7 Donor Members, and no Organizational Members. Ninety-seven of these were Founding Members. In addition, there were 229 other individuals and organizations on our mailing list.

#### PROGRAM ACTIVITIES

Terralingua's initial focus is on serving as an information source and support organization for our two main purposes: preserving linguistic diversity and researching the relationship between biological and cultural diversity. Given the financial limitations of an all-volunteer, start-up organization, we have primarily concentrated on publishing material in electronic format and on organizing and participating in conferences. Nonetheless, we recognize that electronic publishing and participating in conferences--especially when almost all the communications are in English--are completely inadequate means of reaching large segments of the world where linguistic diversity is at risk. By far the biggest challenge facing Terralingua is to find a way to help language activists organize and distribute information in the very languages that need to be consciously preserved. At a minimum this will require putting together a network of activist translators from around the world. The fact that this task is monumental does not mean that we should shrink from it. On the contrary, it is a measure of our success as an organization. By this standard, our achievements outlined below are modest indeed.

#### NEWSLETTER

Beginning in September 1996 we produced the first four issues of a quarterly newsletter, which is distributed primarily by e-mail, with supplemental hard-copy distribution to members who do not use electronic publishing. The newsletter has organizational updates, news items from kindred groups, brief reports and communications from members, and longer feature essays.

#### WORLD-WIDE WEB SITE

In November 1996 we began publishing the Terralingua Web site, a multi-page information resource. The site is at

<http://cougar.ucdavis.edu/nas/terralin/home.html>

It is hosted by, and receives technical support from, the Department of Native American Studies, University of California at Davis, U.S.A. The site features an introduction to Terralingua; our Statement of Purpose in 10 languages (with translations from English supplied by members); discussion papers contributed by members; a large (and frequently updated) list of Internet resources relating to linguistic, cultural, and biocultural diversity; and the complete text of the voluminous Massachusetts Institute of Technology (M.I.T.) bibliography on endangered languages. We plan to

develop the Internet resource list into a full-scale database of organizations working on language endangerment, linguistic diversity, and allied areas.

#### BOOK ON HUMAN VALUE OF BIODIVERSITY

In July 1997, Terralingua members Luisa Maffi and Tove Skutnabb-Kangas (along with Jonah Andrianarivo) co-authored a chapter on "Linguistic Diversity" in the forthcoming book "Human Values of Biodiversity," edited by member Darrell Posey (along with Graham Dutfield) for the United Nations Environment Program.

#### CONFERENCES

In April 1996, member Dave Harmon was a keynote speaker, and member Luisa Maffi a discussant, at the colloquium "Losing Species, Languages, and Stories: Linking Cultural and Environmental Change in the Binational Southwest," organized by the Arizona-Sonora Desert Museum, Tucson, Arizona, U.S.A., and nominally co-sponsored by Terralingua. In October 1996, Luisa Maffi organized a major conference, "Endangered Languages, Endangered Environments, Endangered Knowledge," at the University of California at Berkeley, U.S.A. Again, Terralingua was a nominal co-sponsor, and a number of Terralingua members made presentations or participated. Maffi is currently working on a proposal for an anthology of selected papers from the conference, and a video based on the presentations is being produced. The position paper and other materials from the conference are on the Terralingua Web site. Reports of the conference appeared in the newsletters of the American Anthropological Association, the Society for the Study of the Indigenous Languages of the Americas, and the Foundation for Endangered Languages; in the Bulletin of the Working Group on Traditional Resource Rights, the Journal of Ethnobiology, and the Bulletin of the American Society of Plant Taxonomists; and on the e-mail lists EndLang, LingAnth, IndKnow, and others. Other reports on, or materials from, the conference were published in News from Native California, Indigenous Knowledge and Development Monitor, and the People and Plants Handbook.

#### CONTACTS WITH OTHER GROUPS

Over the period covered by this Report, Terralingua established contact with numerous other sister organizations, including the Foundation for Endangered Languages; Endangered Languages Fund; Arbeitsgruppe Bedrohte Sprachen, United Nations Education, Scientific, and Cultural Organization (U.N.E.S.C.O.) Clearinghouse on Endangered Languages; Linguistic Society of America's Committee on Endangered Languages; Society for the Study of the Indigenous Languages of the Americas; Institute for the Preservation of the Original Languages of the Americas; European Bureau of Lesser Used Languages; Working Group on Traditional Resource Rights; the People and Plants Initiative of World Wildlife Fund; U.N.E.S.C.O., and the Royal Botanic Gardens, Kew (London, U.K.); the International Forum on Globalization; and others. Information on Terralingua was distributed at the Tucson and Berkeley conferences described above,

the "Silent No More" workshop for native Californians and "Voices from the Commons" conference in Berkeley in June 1996, the American Anthropological Association annual meeting in San Francisco in November 1996, the Consiglio

Nazionale delle Ricerche in Rome in February 1997, and the International Forum on Globalization "teach-in" in Berkeley in April 1997.

#### Treasurer's Report

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To date, Terralingua has been financed entirely from voluntary contributions by members. We anticipate these contributions will be a continuing source of financial support. However, the attainment of 501(c)(3) status (as described above) means that Terralingua now will be able to apply for foundation grants, and it is anticipated that one or more grant proposals for program and operations support will be submitted during the coming year. We also will institute a budget for the upcoming period. As of 31 July 1997, Terralingua had assets of US\$734.84, which represents the balance in a non-interest-bearing checking account. During the period covered by this report, Terralingua had a total income of US\$1,270.00 and total expenses of US\$535.16; income exceeded expenses by 37.3%. A breakdown appears in the Profit and Loss Statement, below. Terralingua has no liabilities; therefore, the organization's net worth (equity) is US\$734.84. A Balance Sheet follows the Profit and Loss Statement.

TERRALINGUA PROFIT AND LOSS STATEMENT: May 1996 through July 1997.
(currency is US\$; second and third numbers in parentheses are percentages of income and expense, respectively).

Ordinary Income

Membership dues: \$1,270.00 (100.0%) (237.3%)
Total Income = \$1,270.00 (100.0%) (237.3%)

Ordinary Expense

Dues and Subscriptions: \$42.50 (3.3%) (7.9%)
Licenses and Permits: \$170.00 (13.4%) (31.8%)
Miscellaneous: \$16.48 (1.3%) (3.1%)
Office Supplies: \$155.28 (12.2%) (29.0%)
Postage and Delivery: \$61.26 (4.8%) (11.4%)
Program Expense: \$71.32 (5.6%) (13.3%)
Telephone: \$18.32 (1.4%) (3.4%)
Total Expense = \$535.16 (42.1%) (100.0%)

Net Ordinary Income = \$734.84 (57.9%) (137.3%)
Net Income = \$734.84 (57.9%) (137.3%)

TERRALINGUA BALANCE SHEET AS OF 31 JULY 1997.

University of California at Santa Barbara, and supported by the Himalayan Languages Project at Leiden University, in the Netherlands. This was the first H.L.S. to take place outside Europe, the first two having been held at Leiden University. As compared to the last two H.L.S. conferences, this one emerged as not only discussing Himalayan linguistics but also the broader issues of Himalayan language research.

The symposium covered a large number of lesser-known languages, primarily those that are endangered. A great variety of unusual and unexpected linguistic features are found in these lesser-known languages, enriching our picture of human linguistic diversity.

The opening session focused on Field Reports about previously unknown/lesser-known languages. Anant Chauhan discussed the salient features of Kangri, an Indo-Aryan language spoken in the mid-Himalayan region of Himachal Pradesh. Sun Hongkai presented a lucid account of Tibeto-Burman languages of the Eastern Himalayan region in China. George van Driem talked about Baraam, a Tibeto-Burman language of the Gorkha people of Nepal and pointed out that no work has been undertaken on this language except a word list which was prepared by Hodgson in 1857. Another language of the eastern subgroup, Thami (Thangmi), was discussed in the same session by Mark Turin, who held that the language was least like Kiranti but is closer to Baraam.

Linguists discussed phonological, morphological, syntactic and semantic aspects of the Himalayan languages. The multi-lingual environments of these languages encouraged discussion of the question of language change in language contact situations. Anvita Abbi presented the case of Bangani, an Indo-Aryan [I.A.] language spoken in the western Himalayan region of India. The emphasis was on the redundancies that have been created in Bangani syntax because of language contact with other Indo-Aryan languages of the region. Elena Bashir highlighted many common features between Burushaski and Khowar (an I.A. language), and made a case for a Burushaski substratum in Khowar. Unlike I.A. languages and Iranian languages, Nuristani languages use a system of directional location which may be considered pointers that attach to the verbs of motion. Depending upon which grammatical category they attach to, they may be derived as locational adverbs or locational nouns.

Two very interesting studies on complex sentences were reported by Peter E. Hook on Gultari, a dialect of Eastern

FROM: Pierre CHAZAL
<Pierre.Chazal@degs-rubis.edfgdf.fr>

For interested persons on the endangered-languages-l list :
<http://www.wallonie.com/wallang/wal-fra.htm>

About Walloon. An English version of this web site exists. I'll write an English translation of my message for non-French-speaking persons if necessary.

Avec toutes mes amitiés.
Votre web est intéressant et suscite toute ma sympathie.

J'ai visité la Wallonie il y a de cela 25 ans environ. J'ai entendu parler Wallon notamment à Charleroi (en milieu urbain donc) dans la rue, les restaurants, etc. par des gens apparemment de différents milieux sociaux. Il m'avait paru en "meilleur état" que le picard, que je connais un petit peu et qui se parle dans une partie de la Belgique (cf. un Tintin en picard tournaisien).

Certes je connais moins bien le wallon et sa problématique. Toutefois je vous soumetts les réflexions suivantes avec le caractère relatif de tout cela qui peut n'être souvent qu'un problème de définition.

Considérer le wallon comme un dialecte du Français ne doit pas à mon avis être pris dans un sens péjoratif. Cela me paraît linguistiquement justifié, comme pour le picard. La littérature française jusqu'au début du 13ème siècle était dialectale et il y en a une partie en picard, en lorrain, en anglo-normand (la Chanson de Roland), etc., (en wallon j'avoue l'ignorer), et personne ne conteste l'appartenance française de tout cela.

D'autre part il est de tradition de désigner "français régional" et non "dialecte" le français régional de Belgique (ou de Lyon, etc.). La différence est la suivante. Les usagers du français régional en usent quand ils parlent français, c'est leur manière de parler le français même avec des francophones d'autres régions. Ils ne "peuvent pas" passer à un autre niveau, "supérieur", de langage. Les différences de prononciation, d'accent, de vocabulaire, de syntaxe, etc. n'empêchent pas l'intercompréhension.

En revanche, la personne qui use d'un dialecte (picard par exemple, et j'aurais eu tendance à dire wallon) sait passer à un autre niveau (changer dans ce cas de "langue") et repasser au français. Et il n'y a pas intercompréhension (cette notion est certes relative mais cela me paraît tout de même un critère sérieux) avec un usager d'un autre dialecte ou du français.

Ensuite: (je pense toujours au picard et je pense que c'est proche en wallon). Ces langues privées de tout usage académique et culte depuis longtemps ont besoin de s'alimenter en vocabulaire nouveau, savant, etc. leur usage ayant été depuis longtemps "dédié" aux choses rurales, etc. Cette source d'alimentation dans le cas qui nous occupe est tout naturellement le français. Les en couper n'est pas un service à leur rendre. Réciproquement ces "dialectes" sont une véritable mine de mots d'ancien français, ou ont alimenté le français moderne. L'édition originale du Littré les mentionnait. Considérer qu'il s'agit d'une autre langue est tentant étant donné le mépris dans lequel les tenants du français ont toujours tenu les dialectes, mais cela me paraît une source d'appauvrissement mutuel.

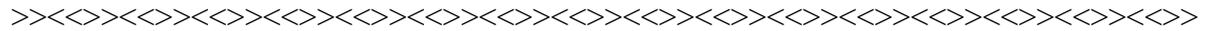
Les wallons à ma connaissance se définissent depuis un temps immémorial comme de langue française, c'est leur "fait différentiel". Considérer que leur dialecte n'est pas français, n'est-ce pas tout remettre en question? Les néerlandophones pourraient dire (pb. des Fourons par exemple): si ce n'est que le wallon le problème, il n'y a pas de quoi fouetter un chat !

Enfin pour la toponymie. En France comme en Belgique, on ne l'a guère soignée. Mais elle respecte (pour les régions de langue française, en tout cas, pour le reste c'est une autre histoire) plus ou moins la tradition. La toponymie telle que vous la concevez peut être à mon avis utilisée dans un texte dialectal, mais son usage officiel ne me paraîtrait reposer sur aucune tradition. Ecrire Charleroi "Charlerwé" (il y a tout le problème de l'écriture, il y a exactement le même en picard) ne me paraît pas enrichissant d'autant plus que cela transcrit la "vraie" prononciation de "Charleroi", écriture traditionnelle (on a malheureusement normalisé l'écriture de "oi/ai" d'après un dédoublement "excentrique" propre à l'Ile-de-France).

Les dialectes auraient pu avoir une fonction normalisatrice en français. Malheureusement cela n'a pas été la solution retenue par les grammairiens du 17^{ème} siècle. Ils ont préféré appauvrir. Molière évoque ces problèmes d'une manière volontairement pas sérieuse dans certaines de ses pièces.

A noter (en tout cas c'est vrai pour le picard) que contrairement au français qui a de très nombreux niveaux de langage (distingué, populaire, savant, commercial, et j'en passe) les dialectes ont à ma connaissance un niveau de langage unique. Il paraît fruste à une oreille française cultivée. D'où en partie l'emploi du terme de "dialecte". En fait les usagers spontanés parlent eux-mêmes de "patois". Ils estiment qu'ils ne parlent pas le "vrai" picard (alors qu'en fait si, ils le parlent, et sont mêmes les seuls à le parler). C'est vrai aussi pour l'Occitan. "Nous parlons patois. C'est vrai, il

the need for a more accurate methodology. There are some reflections on the sociolinguistic survey of the Basque Country.



INDEXPLA: A LANGUAGE ADMINISTRATIVE PLAN AND PROGRAM FOR EVALUATING AND FOLLOWING UP ON AGREEMENTS

Assumpta Escoló / Toni Mataix / Jaume Urgell
Language Normalization Consortium
Joan Solé i Camardons
General Language Policy Office
Alfons Duarte

After the General Language Policy Office of Catalonia and the Language Normalization Consortium saw that there was a dearth of analytical tools to evaluate the level of language normalization of various groups, associations, and organizations, it was decided that the Indexpla program should be created. The Indexpla has the same format as the Excel software program and is presented as a spreadsheet program. This program is a simple and practical program which will serve all organizations and is quite suitable to evaluate the progress of language normalization plans.

THE CONTINUATION OF BASQUE THROUGH THE FAMILY

Iñaki Arruti
Basque language coordinator for the Lasarte City Council

This topic, dealing with the continuation of Basque through the family, is divided into five parts. In the first part, the importance of transmission of Basque through the family is described in detail. To that end, the concept of transmission through the family is intermeshed with normalization of the language, language planning, and language policy. The second part deals with how to implement family transmission of the language. Here, the reality (i.e., language reality) existing between an adult and a child is described by delving into the daily nature of discourse as well as the fields involved. The third chapter deals with what is entailed in continuation of Basque through the family by stressing both an historical point of view and by detailing the current situation with information gleaned from research carried out over the last few years. The fourth part deals with experience of many city councils over the years to promote the continuation of Basque through the family. That experience is known as «Transmission campaign». The approach in that campaign, the goals which were set, priorities, awareness programmes which were carried out and Basque schools are described first, followed by an appraisal of what was achieved and what conclusions were reached. In the last

chapter, family transmission of Basque is merged with the future of the language by proposing what and how this might be achieved together with some examples.

Four issues of BAT are published each year and the annual subscription rate is 3.200 pesetas or US\$ 23.00 plus postal handling. Payment may be made by postal money order. Those interested in subscribing should send the following information to E.K.B.:

Full name (name and surname):.....
Address:.....
Town:.....
Postal Code:.....
Country:.....
Telephone:.....

E.K.B. - Euskal Kulturaren Batzarrea (Congress for Basque Culture)
Baleazaleak 12, 1 A. 20011-Donostia, Spain.
Tel.: + 34 (9)43 466676 Faxes: + 34 (9)43 466894
e-mail: ekb@eusnet.org <http://www.eusnet.org/partaide/ekb>
EUSKAL HERRIA (Basque Country - EUROPE)

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FROM: txoko@redestb.es (Luistxo ta Marije)

Hello there!

During the past week, a Basque political independentist site, Euskal Herria Journal (E.H.J.), hosted by I.G.C., was under mail-bomb assault and I.G.C. was forced to close it. The attack was promoted by the main Spanish media, the daily *El Pais*.

This was in relation to a recent kidnapping and killing of a town council member in the Basque Country, by E.T.A., the armed Basque organization. There are several reports on the Net about this and the mail-bomb campaign. You will find some references at Wired and News.com:

<http://www.news.com/News/Item/0,4,12612,00.html?owv>
<http://www.wired.com/news/politics/story/5296.html>
See also <http://www.netaction.org>

This campaign of political censorship against Basques and freedom of speech has had a sad side-kick for all Basques on the Internet... I will explain.

The attack on E.H.J. has been accompanied by a complementary attack on many Basque sites, particularly on Basque-language sites which Spanish attackers cannot understand. One of the reasons for this is that when Spanish media published E.H.J.'s URL, they gave one particular page of it, not the main index page. That page was the Basque Resources Link page, which featured lots of links:

<http://www.igc.apc.org/ehj/html/brlinks.html>

The mainstream Spanish newspaper *El Pais* stated that these were the pages that "E.T.A. and pro-E.T.A." groups used to spread their "terrorist gospel". Obviously, anyone could see that this was not true in some of the links that featured, for instance, universities, but in those cases where only basque-language content appeared, they have been subject to insults, menaces and mail-bombings.

Our own personal page (GeoNative) was there, and it has been attacked. In my case, it is a bilingual site (english-basque) about minority languages and toponymy (placenames), so I would rather think that the attackers are Spanish monoglots who do not understand English. You can check the page in the signature URL; there are several pages where subscribers of this list have helped greatly.

Other Basque-language sites attacked:

Jalgi Hadi (a personal homepage),
E.H.E. (pro-language association),
E.H.N.E. (an peasants union),
Txatxarro (anti-militarist site),
Santamariñe (a local magazine),
Egunkaria (the only Basque-language daily paper)...

I think that this attack on Basque-language pages needs to be denounced. In a moment when a minority culture, with such an endangered language, tries to get to this new forum of Internet to spread also our language and our culture there, we are attacked just because we are Basque and we write in Basque... I can only label this a Nazi-style racist form of censorship.

As *El Pais* published the Link page address of E.H.J., my site (GeoNative) began to receive threats. I contacted the Reader's Defensor of *El Pais*, a figure that they have, on July 16th. Partly thanks to that, they put the references out of the Internet editions of *El Pais* (www.elpais.es), but they have not published any apologies in print or any other way. Moreover, I received via the Reader's Defensor a note by the editor of *El Pais Digital* (the Internet edition), Marilo Ruiz de Elvira, who shows no remorse about what happened and, regarding the attacks on my site, says that it must be "for sure" that there were pro-terrorist pages among those pages only in Basque. This lady, of course, understands no Basque at all,

but makes assumptions on the content of pages managed by the tiny Basque Internet community.

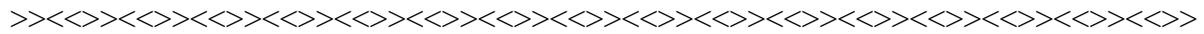
I think that this newspaper and their Internet edition deserve a public outcry for their position on this issue. It has to be denounced how the main Spanish media publicly calls to mail-bomb a site and insults others referred in those pages, regardless of any journalistic ethic, respect for freedom of speech, netiquette rules, or just plain decency.

Thanks for your attention
(I can send more information upon request; I have some texts in Spanish from *El Pais*, the list of links featured in the denounced page, and more).

Luistxo

* Luistxo Fernandez * Marije Manterola
txoko@redestb.es * geonative@geocities.com
* GeoNative * <http://www.geocities.com/Athens/9479>
Hizkuntza gutxiagotuak mapetan - Put minority languages on the map!

maite ditut maite gure bazterrak lanbroak izkutatzen dizkidanean



ANNOUNCEMENTS

New editor, new location

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As of this issue, the Terralingua Newsletter is under the editorship of Anthea Fallen-Bailey, one of the co-founders of Terralingua. Please send all items for the newsletter directly to her at:

[anfallen@ursula.uoregon.edu](mailto:anfallen@ursula.uoregon.edu)

For your information, this e-mail address (and the editor!) is located on the west coast of the U.S.A., at the University of Oregon, Eugene, Oregon, where Anthea is a graduate student in Geography.

Terralingua Web site updated

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Within the next week or so, a major update of the Terralingua Web site will be available. The page on Internet resources related to linguistic diversity has been greatly expanded, and there are new translations of our statement of purpose into Icelandic and Votic, provided by member Ferenc Válóczy. The address is:

I.S.B.N.: 92-3-103255-0

This is a VERY basic presentation of the geographic locations of endangered languages, with the maps being similarly basic: land is pink (and "flat"), sea is blue, some major rivers are shown, and language names are given in different coloured type with various symbols as an indication of the degree of endangerment (as determined by the editor). The texts preceding the maps gives a VERY brief description of each continent and geopolitical regions within those continents. However, despite the brevity of this production, I think it is useful to have for the following reasons: (a) it is the only publication I have come across which addresses this subject cartographically; (b) it will inform the general public (and ourselves too, for that matter) in any country of the LARGE number of endangered languages, and thus the enormity of the task we face.

CAUTION: I had a devil of a time acquiring this book. The I.S.B.N. number in the book is incomplete (!), so please note the correct version above. Any U.N.E.S.C.O. Publications office should carry this book, or be able to order it for you. (Best to ask for it by I.S.B.N. number).

BOOKS

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THE ECONOMY OF NATURE: rethinking the connections between ecology and economics. 1995. (pp. 340).

Author: William Ashworth.

Houghton Mifflin Company, 215 Park Avenue South,  
New York, N.Y. 10003, U.S.A.

I.S.B.N.: 0-395-65566-8 (hard cover)

0-395-71817-1 (paper cover)

Written by an Oregon author who describes himself as a radical environmental activist. I think this book is brilliant -- but then, I am a very much a neophyte when it comes to economics. Ashworth writes extremely well (academic authors, take note!), and the book is thus an "easy" read (no obstacles to comprehension, no patronising attitude -- the author even criticises his own behaviour, which I find very attractive!), yet is chock full of ideas, connections, explanations of economic theory, etc., all to show that "we don't have to choose between ecology and economics". What is the relevance to our readers' interests? Simply this -- cross-disciplinary. When we talk of "saving" an endangered language we are, of course, talking of helping preserve the humans who speak X language; in many cases, this translates to meaning that we have to help preserve the environment in which X culture/language exists so that those speakers can continue living in their traditional areas, if they so wish. This is an enormous undertaking, one in which we cannot hope to

