

Appreciation and revitalization of indigenous languages and phonetic training of English in Namibia

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Dance as a window to endangered languages and the phonetic world

The goals of the project are to preserve the Namibian language heritage, to collect cultural-historically valuable interview data, and to study English spoken in Namibia. In the future, the data we have collected can also be used to support the learning of spoken English.

Cultural-historic interviews

- We have interviewed Namibian speakers in their own languages about cultural-historic topics
- The main topic is the common history between Finland and Namibia
- The data will be used for both cultural-historic and phonetic research
- In order to preserve linguistic heritage, the interviews are archived and used to create a dance theater performance

Tanssiteatteri ERI

ERI will use the soundscapes of the languages to create a dance theater performance that increases language awareness and appreciation in Finland and Namibia

The data will be collected in Namibia using the portable laboratories of the Learning, Age & Bilingualism-laboratory (LAB-lab)



Charting the features of Namibian English

- We have spoken English and phonetic training data from speakers of Namibian English with various language backgrounds
- We are looking at both the influence of the local languages on English and any language-independent features
- Specific focus is on the languages used in school education

Sanako software will be used to collect phonetic training data as a part of a larger series of studies at LAB-lab, and it enables remote phonetic training of English in Namibia

sanako

English pronunciation with phonetic exercises

- From the fourth grade on, English is the only language of education
- Supporting spoken English skills eases the transition from other school languages to English
- Supporting language learning must account for both language-specific and language-independent features

Future directions

- The data can be used to create targeted phonetic training exercises to support the learning of English
- The interview data will be made available to researchers as widely and openly as possible
- The phonetic training data will be used to find the best types of training for different types of learners

