



EAST-WEST CENTER
EDUCATION PROGRAM

East-West Center Wednesday Evening Seminar

Spring 2008

Keoni Auditorium

Imin Conference Center; Jefferson Hall

Wednesday, **February 13, 2008**

6:30pm-8:30pm

Language Sustainability, Documentation & Maintenance: A Student Panel

Jacinta Mendoca, Apay Tang, Paulina Yourupi, Qinglian Zhao

Moderated by Lisa Ann Ebeling & Kaori Ueki

Of the nearly 7,000 languages currently used around the world, it is estimated that up to 90 percent of them could cease to be spoken during the next century. Language sustainability is a matter of holding on to the linguistic and cultural heritage that is built up over centuries of a local culture. In this panel discussion, students from Language Documentation Training Center (LDTC) of University of Hawai'i at Mānoa will share their own experiences with documenting their native languages and contributing to the sustainability of their local cultural identities.

The purpose of the LDTC is to equip native speakers of *underdocumented* languages with basic skills in documentation, to offer them a public domain for making information about their languages accessible, to provide continued support in language analysis, and in the development of educational and literacy materials, and to inspire them to become language advocates in their own communities.

Speakers

Apay Tang

Apay belongs to the Truku ethnicity, one of the indigenous groups in Taiwan. She is currently in the Ph.D. program in linguistics, with a focus on language documentation and conservation. She has been active in her community's language revitalization efforts.

Qinglian Zhao

Qinglian is of the Naxi ethnicity and comes from Yunnan Province, People's Republic of China. She is a MA student in linguistics (language documentation & conservation). She has worked for the Yunnan Minority Language Commission. Qinglian is an EWC Fellow with the Ford Foundation, International Fellowships Program.

Jacinta Mendonça

Jacinta is from Timor-Leste and speaks Tetum, one of its official languages. She is an undergraduate major in sociology. She hopes to document Mambae, her father's native language. Jacinta is an EWC fellow with the US-Timor Leste Scholarship Program.

Paulina Yourupi

Paulina is from Pollap, an atoll in Chuuk State, Federated States of Micronesia. She is in the MA program in linguistics (language documentation & conservation). Paulina has worked as a secondary school teacher and as a reading specialist in the Education Department and hopes to develop teaching materials in Pollapese.

Paulina is an EWC Graduate Degree Fellow.

This seminar is open to the public. (Please bring your own cup to reduce waste! Mahalo!)