

Forum for Language Initiatives



Summer 2012

Global Languages Meet, India

Assistant Director of FLI, Mr. Fakhruddin, was invited to represent Pakistan in this grand event, held 7-8 January 2012, over several venues in Vododara city in India. The Meet was the creation of language activist Dr. Ganesh Devy of the Bhasha Research and Publication Centre. More than 600 delegates from India and from around the world attended the event.



The event started with the launching of “People Linguistics Survey of India” carried out by Bhasha Research Centre. Eighteen volumes of the survey were released on the occasion. The survey was patterned after Grierson’s “Linguistics Survey” of India early in the last century.

The launching ceremony was followed by group discussions in an open garden. In the group discussions the delegates discussed a wide range of topics including language policy, dialects and tribal languages in South India, mother language education, nomadic languages, and institutions and their role in language conservation. Fakhruddin shared FLI’s experience with its MLE initiatives in Pakistan.

On the second day, delegates visited the disadvantaged language communities of Rathva and Nayka in Achhala. There they met the villagers and visited Adivasi Academy established by Bhasha Publication and Research Centre for the development of the communities. The “Forest of Language” is being developed at the Adivasi Academy where trees have been planted to represent the languages of India. Museums from UK and Germany have arranged a photo exhibition of village ancestors from the 19th century.

The event provided an opportunity for the Assistant Director to meet people from like-minded organizations and learn their approaches to addressing the issues of disadvantaged language communities. Visiting Bhasha Research Centre in particular provided a valuable learning opportunity through observing their efforts for the development of disadvantaged language groups in India.

Consortium on Training in Language Documentation and Conservation (CTLDC)

The launching of The Consortium on Training in Language Documentation and Conservation (CTLDC) was also held in India, on 8 January 2012. A Senior Linguist from Australia launched the Consortium in the company of planning group members Ganesh Devy (India), Fakhruddin (Pakistan), Lungtaen Gyatso (Bhutan) Peter Keegan (New Zealand), and Anne-Marie Wanamp (Papua New Guinea). FLI is a planning group member of this new global organization.



Literacy Material Development (LMD) Workshops

FLI held three workshops in the LMD series from January to June 2012. Naseem Haider, Training Coordinator, and Muhammad Zaman, Language Development Consultant, facilitated the training. Four participants each from Hindko, Indus Kohistani, and Khwar MLE projects participated in the training. The aim of the workshops was to help the participants develop the school curriculum needed in their pilot schools, which they hope to launch in 2013 or 2014.

The first workshop was held in Islamabad from January 23-27. The focus of the workshop was curriculum planning and development and participants were challenged to brainstorm and make provisions for the instructional materials they will need for the first year.



The second workshop of 6 days was held from 30 April to 4 May in Islamabad. It was a follow up on a previous workshop and provided the trainees with time to work on their primers.

The third workshop was held on-site with each group individually in Mansehra, Bisham and Chitral. The main goal of this event was to help the language groups draft their primer lessons, reading stories, and listening stories for the year-1 classes in their MLE schools. During the training, more stories and primer lessons were completed and deadlines fixed for the remaining tasks so that the MLE teams will complete their preparations on time.

Management Training for MLE Project Leadership

This two-day training was held in Islamabad 30-31 January 2012. Nine people from the four new MLE projects participated in the training. The training was facilitated by Executive Director of ISWDO, Talib Jan and FLI's Assistant Director, Fakhruddin. The main objective of the training was to help the MLE project coordinators and supervisors to acquire, or enhance, their project management and leadership skills. These skills will help the coordinators to manage their MLE projects more effectively.

International Mother Languages Day,

FLI helped to motivate and support CBOs and NGOs for the annual celebration of International Mother Languages Day on 21 February. This year FLI collaborated with Mother-Tongue and Heritage for Education and Research (MOTHER) and Ghandahara Hindko Board (GHB) in celebration of the Day. A seminar was held on 21 February in Peshawar and was attended by community leaders, language activists and researchers from 14 language communities of northern Pakistan. As many as 200 people including politicians, poets, writers and people from various walks of life attended the seminar. After the seminar a short public walk was held for general awareness regarding language diversity in the region.



Mentoring and Consultant Development Course

FLI's Training Coordinator Naseem Haider and Language Development Consultant Muhammad Zaman attended this eight-day workshop which took place in Payap University, Chiang Mai, Thailand from March 8-16, 2012. Dr. Catherine Young, Ellen Errington, and Doerthe were the main facilitators of the workshop. The main objective of this workshop was to develop mentoring and coaching skills among the participants. The workshop enhanced the mentoring and coaching skills of FLI's facilitators, who will in turn help the personnel of MLE projects in their professional growth.

MLE Bridging Course

FLI's Training Coordinator, Naseem Haider and Language Development Consultant, Muhammad Zaman also participated in this course during their visit to Thailand which was held from 19-30 March, 2012 at Mahidol University, Bangkok. More than 80 participants from 27 different countries attended this event. The main objective of this workshop was to learn new skills for bridging students from one language to other. It is hoped that these new skills will enhance the MLE projects' capacity to smoothly transition students from their mother-tongues to Urdu and English. The event also provided them an opportunity to expand FLI's network to include more organizations working on mother-tongue education in different countries.

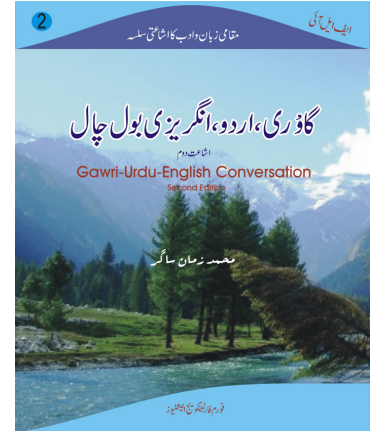


Syntax Workshop, Islamabad

This one-week workshop was held 14-18 May at FLI in Islamabad. It is part of a series of advanced training for FLI's national facilitators. Dr. Henrik Liljegren, a Swedish linguist serving as FLI's Research Consultant, facilitated this workshop for five people from four different minority language communities of northern Pakistan. The main goal of this workshop was to enhance the participants' knowledge regarding syntactic structures, especially in the area of argument structure, coding strategies and different types of subordination.

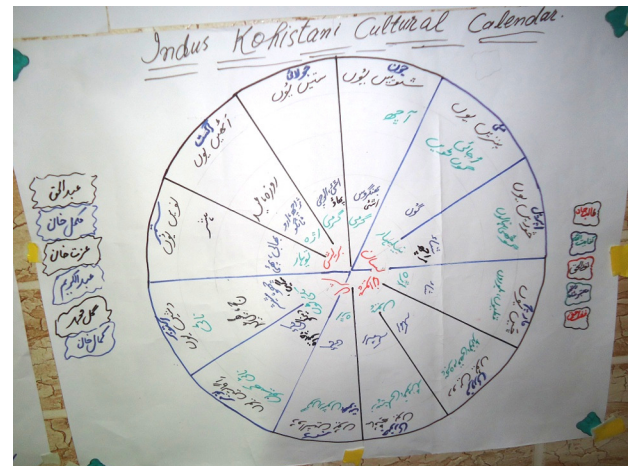
FLI's New Publications

The Forum for Language Initiatives (FLI) recently launched four new books, written in the two local languages Palula and Gawri (also known as Kalam Kohistani). Two of these books are included in FLI's new publication series FLI-Maqami Zaban-o-Adap ka Ishaati Silsila: Palula Matali (Palula Proverbs) compiled by Naseem Haider, Training Coordinator at FLI, and a Gawri-Urdu-English conversation book, written by Muhammad Zaman Sagar, FLI's Language Development Consultant. The two other books, Palula Alif-be and Gawri Alif-be, are alphabet books of these two languages, spoken in Chitral and Swat, respectively. The books will be used in the MLE Schools



ISWO held Workshop

- Indus Kohistan Social Welfare and Development Organization (ISWDO), an Indus Kohistani language partner organization of FLI, held a two-day writers workshop in January this year. Eight people from different dialects of the Indus Kohistani language participated in the workshop. Participants achieved the primary objective of the workshop, which was to resolve several outstanding spelling problem problems



Idara Baraye Talim-o-Taraqi (IBT) held Various Activities

- Idara Baraye Talim-o-Taraqi (IBT), The community-based organization of Torwali people, started a new MLE school in a new location called Kedam.
- The organization also published another book on the famous story of Sadako, the child victim of the Hiroshima nuclear bombing. This book was published in both Torwali and English in collaboration with the Islamabad based Funkor Child Art Center.
- Their team received finance management training).

MIER Held Community Meetings

- Mother-Tongue Institute for Education and Research (MIER), a language organization of Khowar Speakers, held meetings with the community leaders and the writers to discuss orthography issues related to Khowar.

Contact Us

For Questions and Information, please contact FLI at:

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