Mother Tongue Based Adult Literacy Material Development Workshop in Chitral and Swat

Mother Tongue based Adult Literacy Programs (ALP) will be launched in the Gawri and Palula language communities in February 2015. In preparation for these programs, it was necessary to develop program materials in the mother tongues of the target language communities. For this purpose, FLI facilitated material development workshops in Kalam, Swat, and Ashret, Chitral, from 4-8 August 2014. Gawri and Palula MLE Project team members participated in these workshops and were able to begin developing the curriculum for the adult literacy classes during this time. They wrote possible themes and wrote stories related to these themes according to the needs and experiences of the adults who will be participating in the program. They also discussed the cultural calendar, developed primers, and designed pre-literacy and alphabet posters in each language.

Orthography Workshop in Chitral

This five-day workshop was held from 25-29 August 2014 in Chitral for the Dameli and Gawar-bati Language Communities. Nine people from two language communities participated in this workshop. The main goal of the workshop was to develop the basic alphabet needed for each language and to gain awareness about the benefits of a standardized way of writing each language. All the participants arrived at the workshop with strong feelings and emotions regarding the writing system for their languages, and were strongly motivated to develop effective alphabets. The Dameli group had held a workshop in their community a week before this workshop, and were therefore able to share some of the issues they were facing in their community regarding an orthography for their language.
Discovery Course-4 Islamabad

FLI conducted the fourth and last course of the Discovery Program in Islamabad from 22 September to 03 October 2014. Seven participants from three languages communities (Gojri, Palula and Gawar-Bati) participated in the course “Discover the Structure of my Language” and successfully completed the program. The main objective of this particular course was to help the participants to gain the skills to discover the grammatical structure of their own mother tongues. FLI’s internal and external facilitators facilitated the course.

Desktop Publishing Workshop (DTP)

FLI’s one-week Desktop Publishing (DTP) & Semantic Domains workshop ended here in Islamabad on Friday 14 November 2014. This workshop included four participants from the Torwali language community and two participants from the host organization (FLI). During the Desktop Publishing portion of the workshop, participants learned how to plan out their publications before taking advantage of the available resources in Publisher that can make their work easier, such as templates, master pages, and styles. They also learned how to use a dummy book to produce publications that can accurately be planned and photocopied. Participants also learned how to digitalize their hand drawings to insert into their books, how to modify text globally, how to modify pictures, and how to make line art from photographs. During the Semantic Domains portion of the workshop, participants gained tools that will help them to better document their language and culture. Naseem Haider defined semantic domains to the participants and explained how semantic domains can be used as a very effective means of collecting language data. Amy Kennemur taught participants how to use the WeSay language documentation software, and showed them how data can be collected according to semantic domains within this software program.

Project Evaluation

The ongoing Sida-PMU funded four year project of FLI went through an external evaluation on 17-27
November 2014. Dr Kimmo Kosonen, a faculty member of Payap University in Thailand, conducted the evaluation. He met community members, MLE projects teams, the FLI Board, and the FLI Leadership team for this purpose. The report of the evaluation will be available in March 2015.

**Dameli Writer’s Workshop, Peshawar**

The Dameli language community’s writers organized a two-day writer’s workshop and requested that FLI assist with the facilitation of this workshop. The workshop was a follow-up of FLI’s Orthography Workshop held for the community in September 2014. FLI’s Training Director facilitated the workshop for the 12 writers. The main goals of the workshop were to develop confidence among the writers so they can express themselves through writing in their mother tongue, to provide a written record of oral traditions through stories from the elders, and to create interest in vernacular literature production in the language. The workshop was organized in such a way so that first the writers identified some of the orthography issues, then discussed the possible ways of handling each issue within their writing system. After agreeing on the same solution, all the participants were given a task to write one story each individually to test their writing system. Then in pairs, they checked and edited their stories. By the end of the workshop, 12 stories had been written and edited by the participants. During this, workshop, they also finalized their alphabets and drafted an alphabet book for publication. The book will be the first vernacular book published in the language.

**Evaluation of the Indus Kohistani and Hindko MLE Schools**

Two of FLI’s Leadership Team members evaluated the Indus Kohistani and Hindko MLE projects. They went to Mansara and Indus Kohistan and met students, teachers, parents, and community members from the two language communities.
Language Relatedness in FLI’s Target Region

INDO-IRANIAN

Iranian

Western

Northwestern

Ormuri

Northwestern Zone

Kashmiri

Lahnda

Hindko

Panjabi

Kunar

Dameli

Gawarbatı

Chítrał

Kalasha

Khowar

Kohistani

Báterí

Chílísso

Gawri

Gowro

Indus-Kohistani

Torwali

Shina

Shina

Kalkotí

Palula

Ushojo

Kundal Shahi

Indo-Aryan

Nuristani

Kataviri-Kamviri

Northern Zone

Western Pahari

Pahari-Potwari

Central Group

Domaaki

Central Zone

Rajasthani

Gojri

SINO-TIBETAN

Tibeto-Burman

Himalayish

Tibeto-Kahauri

Tibetic

Tibetan

Western

Balti

ISOLATE

Burushaski

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