THE INTEGRATION OF LANGUAGE AND SOCIETY

SUGGESTIONS FOR THE PARTICIPANTS — POINTS TO BE ADDRESSED

The aim of the workshop is to produce systematic in-depth investigations of recurrent correlations between grammatical and perhaps other linguistic features likely to be associated with cultural and societal characteristics and values. The Initial Orientation paper contains the discussion of five groups of linguistic parameters which show demonstrable correlations with non-linguistic societal traits (§3 and Table **3**).

We envisage two types of contributions:

I. A systematic study of correlations between the aspects of grammar, and the environmental and societal parameters, with special focus on one or more of the five sets of grammatical meanings discussed in §3 in the Initial orientation paper, based either on (a) one language, or (b) a group of languages.

B. An in-depth discussion of an individual category (which could be either one of those discussed in §3, or a further one (see also §4)), and its integration with environmental and societal parameters in a language (which could be placed within a genetic or areal perspective).

PRELIMINARY INFORMATION is needed as a starting point. This may include:

(i) Morphological type: e.g. isolating, agglutinating, fusional; analytic, synthetic.

(ii) Word classes: open classes (e.g. nouns, verbs, adjectives) and closed classes.

(iii) Grammatical categories for open classes (e.g. number for nouns, tense for verbs).

(iv) Transitivity classes of verbs.

(v) Marking of grammatical relations.

(vi) Clause types.

NATURE OF SOURCES:

(vii) Ideally, should be mostly based on participant-observation in speech community and on texts with corroborative grammatical and lexical elicitation.

THE LANGUAGE(S) AND THE SETTING:

(viii) Number of speakers, vitality, generational differences

(ix) Genetic affiliation, and, if applicable, contact with other language groups, with special attention to

> (a) linguistic composition, and degrees of knowledge of each other's languages ('lingualism', including degree of multi- or bi-lingualism; diglossia if any);
>
> (b) relations within the community (including hierarchies of prestige groups if any);
>
> (c) contact with other communities (whether regular or sporadic; involving relations of dominance versus equality, etc.);
>
> (d) language attitudes and language awareness;
>
> (e) language transmission within the community.

(x) Physical environment, lifestyle (including means of subsistence), information about the material culture, social organization and hierarchies, marriage patterns and kinship system, and religion (see Aikhenvald 2015a: 39-44 for the discussion of these and other parameters with a focus on constructing a grammar).

Additional points in the background information may include: the size of community; interaction between rural and urban communities; and division of labour between sexes and between generations.

For each linguistic category, some or all of the following points need be addressed:

(a) Can the meanings of the category be shown to have correlations with societal relationships within the language community, beliefs, or physical environment and means of subsistence?

(b) Have you observed any changes in the use the category which may have accompanied societal changes?

(d) Has the category undergone changes in language contact, or as a result of language obsolescence?

(e) Are there any indications of language awareness on behalf of the speakers?

(f) Can any impact of language engineering on the category be discerned?

If these suggestions are insufficient, or if the language, or languages, you will be discussing does not 'fit' into these, we will be more than happy to modify the parameters. In their actual papers, participants do not have to follow the order of presentation suggested within these guidelines; nor are they expected to address each one of the points below. The linguistic system itself will justify the most appropriate order of presentation.