

Romuald Skiba, Florian Wittenburg & Paul Trilsbeek - New DOBES web site: contents & functions.

The new DOBES web site combines the information that was available on the old site with an adaptation of the DOBES-DEMO that was created for the VW-endorsed exposition "Science + fiction". The latter part is created in such a way that it is informative for the general public and not only for specialists.

The layout of the site allows for navigation in different ways. On the left side you find a traditional navigation panel for accessing different parts of the site quickly, e.g. using the Site Map. The main section on the right side starts off with a graphics based presentation that is intended for exploration rather than quick access. By slowly moving over the interactive dots, which are marked white, different topics of the site can be accessed.

The main page has three sections: Documentation, Endangerment and Languages. Each section is again subdivided in a number of topics:

Languages

Under this section you can find information on the following topics:

- projects: contains links to the websites of the individual DOBES projects
- data-types: gives an overview about the different sorts of data contained in the data base (arts & handcraft, religion & medicine, dance, music, everyday work, environment)
- field work locations: shows the worldwide location of the places where fieldwork for the DOBES project is done
- transcripts: contains several examples of modern and traditional transcriptions
- annotations: contains examples for grammatical analysis and translation of language samples

- including direct links to the underlying media (videos)
- meta data: illustrates among other things how the IMDI Editor works (a tool for entering and organizing metadata)

Endangerment

Under the section Endangerment you can find some explanations about reasons of endangerment (e.g. death of speech communities, religious education, cultural dominance, industrialization, social reputation). Selected quotations from David Crystal's book "Language death" are presented. The following submenu points are accessible:

- endangerment
- revitalization

The crucial points of revitalization are: shaping awareness and the creation of a positive image of the language, availability of material on the internet and using of new technologies, culture specific teaching methods, teaching material (examples from DOBES are given), regional centers for language instruction and minority rights.

Documentation

Under the section Documentation you can find information on the following topics:

- goals (e.g. scientific analysis, archiving, material for teaching)
- stages shows the different stages that a prototypical piece of recorded data has to pass: recording - digitization - editing - metadescription - annotation - integration.
- tools (for some of the steps mentioned under "stages")
- archive (illustrates how the data are organized in the archive, what is done for the security of the data etc.).

At the moment the site is written in such a way that it works well with Internet Explore on Windows, with Windows Media Player to play the audio and video files. You can still view the site with other browsers and operating systems, but some things may not work. We will try to make the site more platform and browser independent in future versions.

We hope you will enjoy using the site!

<http://www.mpi.nl/DOBES/>