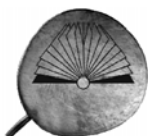


Report Summary: Linn et al 2000

- iii) Develop a National Info-net Centre for Indigenous Language Programs: a place where language educators can get and share information.
- In March 1997 ILI organized an intensive 3-day meeting with 40 Native American educators, language specialists, and linguists. One of the major tasks they identified for ILI is the subject of this paper: to provide information about successful language programs. ILI decided to do field research and build a database about language programs.

Main comments and conclusions:

- This is a midyear field research report. It focuses on what three linguists learned from language programs in Oklahoma.
- Oklahoma has the most diverse indigenous languages and people in the US. Forty communities, ranging from 210,000 to 200 people, represent 11 language families: Algonquian, Athapaskan, Caddoan, Iroquoian, Kiowa-Tanoan, Muskogean, Penutian, Siouan, Tonkawan, Uto-Aztecan, and Yuclean.
- All Oklahoma indigenous languages are threatened and most are severely endangered. Kickapoo is the only Class A community: children speak the language day-to-day. Choctaw and some isolated areas of Cherokee are Class B: a few children and most of the parent's generation speak the language. Other Cherokee are Class C: mostly only the grandparent's generation speak the language. All other communities are Class C - D: few speakers and all are elderly. Fourteen of these have no speakers at all, although a few have speakers in other states.
- Oklahoma speakers experience some unique conditions that negatively affect their language:
 - ✓ Tribal people have no land base; they live scattered among the larger white society. Children grow up within the context of white culture. People must go to special places to experience traditional cultural practices and language.



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- ✓ Work through the politics: Community-wide support is best but not necessary. Start small and gradually expand the circle of teachers and learners.
- ✓ Persevere: Keep going no matter what. Spread hope and optimism, be part of a strong support network.
- Individuals / groups **do not need** these things to get started: money, tribal support, or a large number of speakers.
- The ILI plans to keep gathering information and later produce a series of 'Facts' and 'How to' brochures.

