



Capacity Building



Center for Endangered Languages Documentation

Many of the 700 languages spoken in Indonesia are currently endangered. Most of them are spoken in the far eastern provinces of the archipelago, an area inhabited by only 1% of Indonesia's population, but comprising about 30% of the country's speech communities.

In 2009, the Center for Endangered Languages Documentation (CELD) was established at the State University of Papua (UNIPA) in Manokwari to serve as a local center for documenting and safeguarding the endangered languages in this linguistically and culturally highly diverse area.



The UNIPA campus - view from the CELD office

The CELD is a meeting place for all people interested in linguistics in general, and in the documentation of endangered languages in Papua in particular. Its offices are open to local linguists and students at UNIPA, language community workers, as well as for international researchers.



Students at a CELD workshop practicing to make recordings

Language Documentation

- » The CELD coordinates and supervises national and international documentation projects in Papua, helping research teams and individuals with administrative or logistic issues, if necessary.
- » The CELD serves as a regional archive for language documentations: All data compiled under the sponsorship of the CELD is stored at the University of Manokwari and made accessible for the local speech communities, students, and researchers.
- » The CELD runs a library holding linguistic books and electronic resources for students, lecturers, and visiting researchers.
- » The CELD provides state of the art recording equipment (audio/video) and IT support for language documentations.



The CELD library

Capacity building

- » The CELD offers workshops on different topics such as descriptive and documentary linguistics, language processing software, and fieldwork methods. These workshops are open to students, lecturers, staff members, and community language workers.



Students working with ELAN software at a CELD workshop

- » The CELD gives a weekly reading seminar which is addressed to students interested in linguistics. The seminar focuses on the reading and understanding of linguistic texts, as well as on working practically with natural data. Students are given the opportunity to discuss topics and gain new understanding of the material.

- » The CELD supervises students' and community members' documentation projects, including giving technical support with data-processing software like ELAN, Toolbox, Arbil, etc.



A workshop participant presenting her certificate



Working with ELAN software in the office

Core team members

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The team with its newest member

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