



Hoocák Documentation and Revitalization Efforts



Hoocák (formerly known as Winnebago) is a highly endangered Siouan language which is still spoken in two states of the USA, viz. in Wisconsin (less than 200 native speakers out of 7,000 tribal members) and Nebraska (less than 6 speakers out of 4,000 tribal members). Prior to the DoBeS Documentation project little had been done to document and describe this highly synthetic active-stative language.

Achievements of the DoBeS project

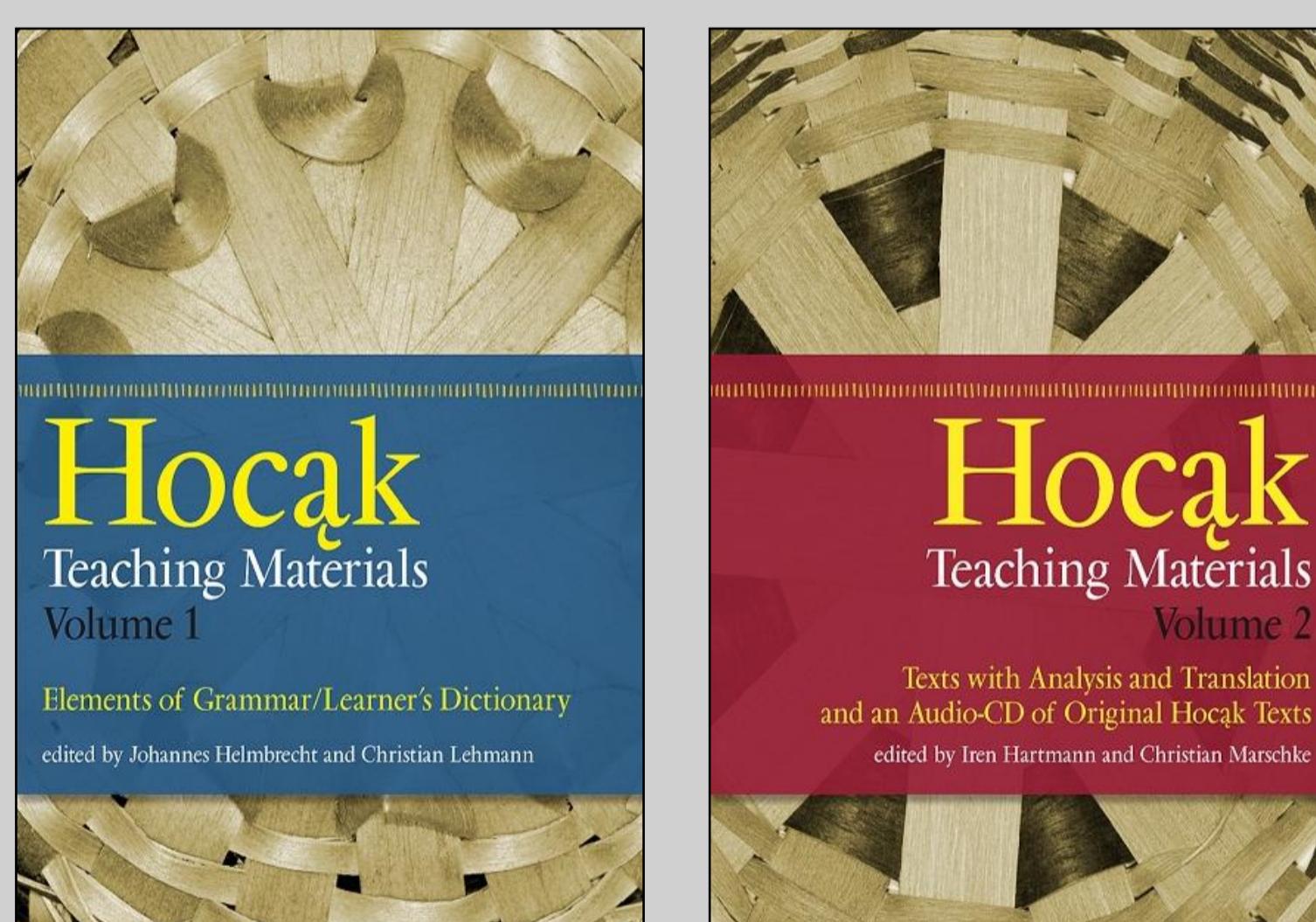
The “Documentation of Hoocák” project was conducted at the University of Erfurt from June 2003 until February 2008. Under the leadership of Christian Lehmann and Johannes Helmbrecht six German linguists and more than 20 native speakers of Hoocák (working for the Hoocák Waazija Haci Language Division in Mauston, WI) contributed to the project’s efforts.

First stages of the new multimedia dictionary

- Major results achieved during this time include the following:
- » a good collection of over 60 recorded and annotated texts (audio & video) including many different text types such as narratives, descriptive texts, conversations and procedural texts,
 - » the compilation of a large dictionary database with over 7,000 lemmas and an equally large number of example sentences,
 - » a Christmas songbook in Hoocák

Publications resulting from the DoBeS project

A major achievement of the DoBeS Project was the compilation of a two volume publication consisting of a **learners’ dictionary** and a **collection of glossed Hoocák texts** (with audio CD).



Post-DoBeS collaborative work

The linguistic work on the Hoocák language did not cease with the end of the DoBeS project. From 2008 to 2009 a new collaborative project was conducted by Iren Hartmann, Cecil Garvin and other staff members of the Hoocák Waazija Haci Language Division. This project focused on development of a comprehensive **pedagogical grammar/textbook** to contribute to the language maintenance and revitalization efforts of the Hoocák people. The teaching materials produced during this time were collaboratively piloted at UW-Madison in a twice weekly Hoocák language class with great success.

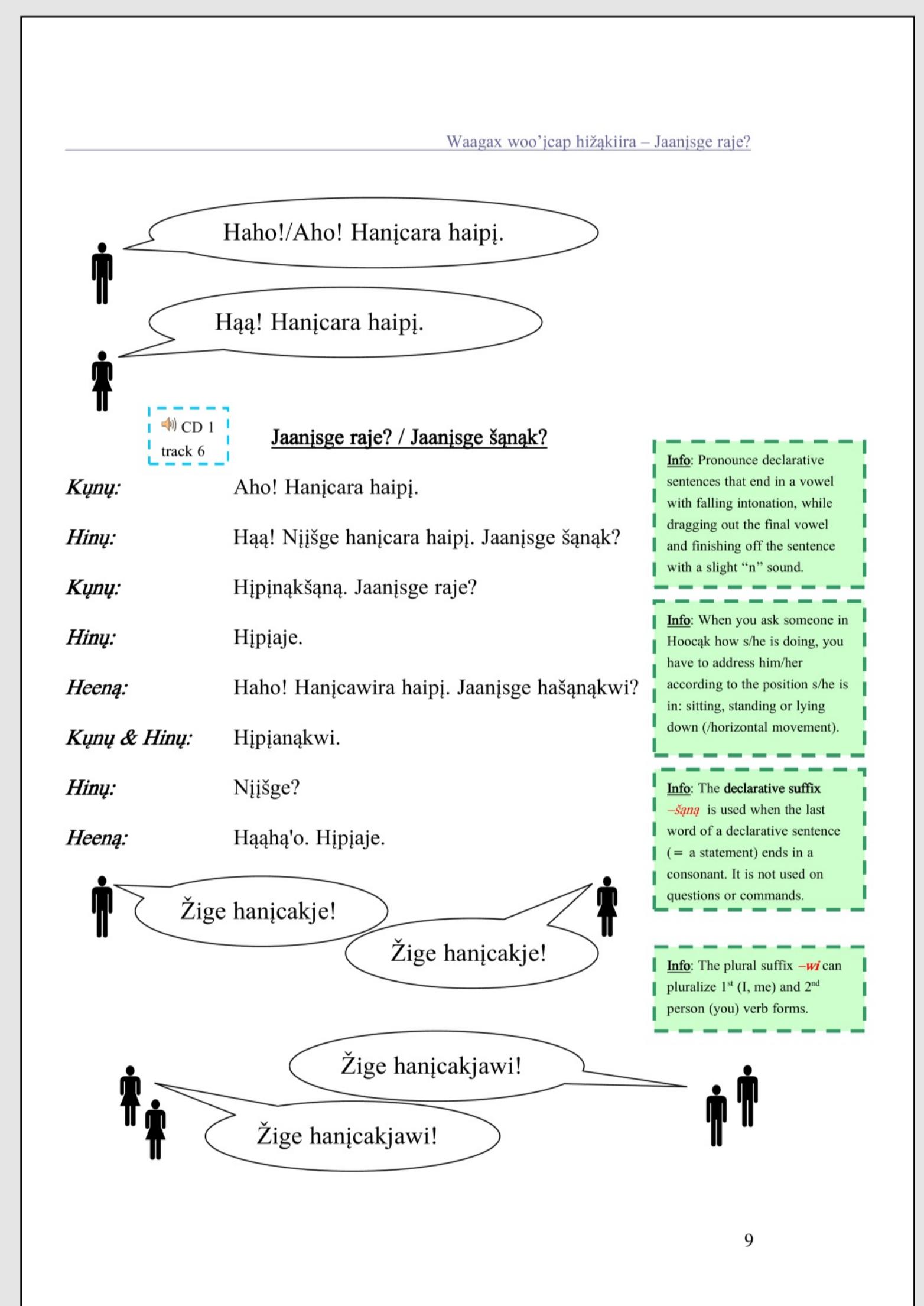


Elliott and Cecil Garvin during a recording session in 2011 involving a picture description and identification task

Work in progress

Funded by the MPI-EVA more fieldwork was conducted in 2010-2012. Continued collaborative efforts are being made to:

- » further the documentation of the Hoocák language,
- » to contribute to the revitalization efforts of the Hoocák people by providing them with useful language materials of various kinds,
- » the compilation of a Hoocák Valency dictionary (within the framework of the Leipzig Valency Classes Project),
- » the creation of a multi-media dictionary of Hoocák which can be run on portable devices such as smart phones and tablets



Sample page of the completed Hoocák textbook

References

Garvin, Cecil & Hartmann, Iren 2010. *Hoocák híjt'ekjawi - a Hoocák language textbook for beginners with accompanying audio-CD's*. Mauston, WI.

Hartmann, Iren 2012. *82 Hoocák verbs and their modifications*. MPI-EVA.

Hartmann, Iren & Marschke, Christian (eds.) 2010. *Hoocák Teaching Materials Vol. II: Texts with Analysis and Translation*. Albany: SUNY.

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