

## Connecting the Generations: Building a Kiowa Online Dictionary

The Kiowa Online Dictionary Project is a new collaborative effort by the Kiowa Tribe, Kansas State University, Oklahoma University, and the State University of New York at Oswego. Though lexicons and partial vocabularies exist in various forms (e.g. Harrington 1928, Parker McKenzie Collection), there has never been a comprehensive dictionary or easily accessible repository of audio recordings of the language. This paper documents the beginning stages of a new Online Dictionary Project, which aims to satisfy those needs while bridging the generations through language documentation.

There are two main goals of the project as it begins: 1) a small pilot dictionary to allow for immediate use in the classroom and 2) full digitization of previous word lists. Collaborators have already begun to address (1) and (2), both of which will assist our long-term goal of a comprehensive dictionary compiled and recorded primarily by “Mentor Teams” of native speaking elders and younger tribal members. We believe multi-generational teams will not only bridge the technological gap (never requiring elders to learn an online database system) but also encourage multi-generational commitment to the language and its survival.

A pilot dictionary project is currently being designed and online trials are to be available to the coordinating research teams in April 2019. In summer 2019, research groups from Kansas State University and SUNY Oswego are traveling to Oklahoma in order to record materials for the dictionary and to meet with local elders and leaders in order to introduce the pilot dictionary and discuss the increasing role of community collaboration as the project progresses.

The pilot dictionary consists of vocabulary items found in previously recorded children stories as told by Alecia Gonzalez and Ernest Toppah (~500 lexical items). In addition to technical goals of developing the online platform using ELAN and toolbox, insuring data input is clear and user-friendly, and deciding which orthographies to include, the pilot dictionary is intended to be ready to use in the classroom as soon as possible. Given the focused vocabulary list, tribal members, teachers, and students gain quick access to learn about the dictionary, how it works, and also have audio available for traditional stories in the language. The pilot dictionary will be publicly available in September 2019.

In partnership with a multi-site education grant underway (through the Administration for Native Americans), local language activists in 2017 began digitizing the numerous vocabulary entries in the Parker McKenzie Collection at the Oklahoma Historical Society archives. In 2018, undergraduate researchers at Kansas State and SUNY Oswego have begun to help in digitization efforts focusing primarily on the McKenzie Collection and Harrington’s 1928 Vocabulary of Kiowa. Once these sources have been digitized, work will shift to unpublished field notes available through the National Archives in Washington D.C. These entries will form the foundation of which entries to record and include in the full dictionary.

Word Count: 471