Rapid Word Collection

SIL International

www.RapidWords.net
Purpose

• To create a shared lexical database of 15000 words that will assist the writer and translator.
Benefits

• Validates language
• Enables translators
• Promotes literacy
• Helps reading and writing
• Standardized written form
• Can produce dictionary, lexicon, and thesaurus
Strategy

• Collect words using semantic domains
• Workshop setting
• Synergy of working in a team
• Well-defined roles
Preparation

- Select participants
- Translate domain labels
- Citation-form convention
- Get photos and illustrations
- Print RWC Questionnaire
- Organize Questionnaire in folders
- Prepare word-collection forms
- Select location
Prerequisites

• Motivated language community
• Functional orthography
• Literate people
• Bilingual participants
• Coordinator
• Computers
Consultant

- Has prior experience with RWC
- Helps coordinator
- Leads pre-workshop
- Trains participants
Participants

• 1 coordinator (4 weeks) – oversees word-collection process
• 1 logistics manager (4 weeks) – handles food, lodging, transportation, supplies, etc.
Participants

- 1 record-keeper (2 weeks) – records progress and assures adherence to standards (uses a spreadsheet)
Participants

• 2-4 glossers (2 weeks)
• Add glosses to collected words
Participants

- 2-3 Typists (3 weeks)
- Enter words and glosses into the computer
Participants

• 6 Teams
• Each team will have a team leader
• 3-4 language experts
• One is a scribe
Pre-workshop Training

• 3 days of training for coordinator, team leaders, record-keeper, typists, and glossers

• Explain the semantic domain method – getting familiar with all the SDs

• Discuss citation forms

• Practice with sample semantic domains from the Questionnaire
Workshop

- Orientation for most of the first day
- Start with easy semantic domains
- Work through the folders
- Words written down onto forms
- Forms turned in to record-keeper
- Record-keeper tracks progress
- Glosser adds glosses onto forms
Workshop

• Typists enter forms into the computer using WeSay or FLEEx
• Formatted draft of lexicon is printed
Cleanup

• Extra week after workshop
• To correct errors in word list
• Need language experts who can spell
• Need typists
• Print 2-3 copies and bind them for the language community
• Put on web
WORDS COLLECTED
DAY 10
13,807
GOAL = 15,000