

CULTURE

Apache dictionary for Dilzhe'e on Yavapai-Apache Nation near completion



Vincent Randall, left confers with Dr. de Reuse, a linguist from the University of North Texas who is helping the Apache culture center produce a long-awaited dictionary of the Dilzhe'e language of Camp Verde. (Photo by Don Decker)

By DON DECKER
YAN News

Dr. Willem de Reuse, a linguist who has studied the Apache language for the past 25 years visited with the Nation's Apache Culture department director Vincent Randall for a week in mid-March.

De Reuse is a professor at the University of North Texas in Denton but his roots go back to Belgium where he was born and raised.

With a Bachelor's degree from Belgium, a Master's in Linguistics from the University of Kansas and a Ph.D. from the University of Texas at Austin, de Reuse taught at the University of Arizona in Tucson in anthropology beginning in 1999.

De Reuse is considered an expert in the study of the Apache language. His emphasis has been about various Western Apache communities located in Arizona: the Whiteriver area, Cibecue, San Carlos and Peridot, Bylas, Camp Verde, and Payson.

The visit with Randall was to tie up loose ends with the Dilzhe'e dictionary which was nicknamed 'The Big Potato' because it had become rather fat according to de Reuse.

De Reuse and Randall both agree that the Dilzhe'e Apache vocabulary and accent is unique to the Dilzhe'e residing in the Verde Valley.

De Reuse's interest in the Camp Verde Apache goes to '96 when he and the late Phillip Goode met Rebekah Smith of Middle Verde. Goode, a San Carlos Apache who would work closely with Rebekah to get the dictio-

nary started, was fluent in Apache and he had strong social ties to the Dilzhe'e according to Randall since his relations lived here as well.

Rebekah had a keen interest in the Apache culture. Randall recalls the time when Rebekah began her work in starting a dictionary for her people.

"Rebekah set up shop in '90 or '91 and she was doing this on her own by using phonetics which is much different than the method we are using today. Her brother (the late Ted Smith who was a chairman) gave her an office in one of the buildings in Middle Verde (which is no longer present)," recalls Randall.

It was also at that time when a reunion was organized by Rebecca to gather all of the Yagohigaidn clan which was attended by many according to Randall. So, there was a strong revival of the Apache culture and language at that time according to Randall.

"Rebekah didn't allow grass to grow under her feet," said Randall as he recalls how Rebekah wanted to work on place-names of the area. Rebekah wanted to know what Randall needed in terms of maps to study the area and soon, Rebekah had ordered maps from Map World in Phoenix. There was a study made of place-names using those maps but Randall said he doesn't know what happened to the study.

Randall has refined the place-names study though, as the Preservation and Technology department has bought an integrated TV monitoring screen using Google maps to zero in on these place-names that Randall has identified in the area.

There was a real interest in the development of the Apache dictionary and others became involved such as the late Victor Smith and Elizabeth Rocha (sister to Ted, Victor and Rebekah).

Rocha has been a key person in the dictionary study and continued for years working with de Reuse until she retired 2 years ago.

De Reuse picked up the pace after

2005 and has met with the Apache advisory group throughout the past 11 years carefully adding to and revising the Dilzhe'e dictionary.

De Reuse's interest in the Apache language goes back very far back when, as a child, he read about the Apaches by Karl May, a German writer (1842-1912) who wrote adventure novels about the American West. May had never set foot in America until many years later after he wrote the novels.

From these writings, de Reuse developed an interest in the Apache language.

His current dictionary is filled with many annotations, some erased and new additions all the time as he and Randall go through a check-list that de Reuse has brought with him from Texas.

Writing a dictionary involves the study of Apache grammar and looking at the various dialects, pronunciation of words, their meanings, and subtle nuances and variance of meaning and connotations.

The new dictionary contains 6,000 English to Apache terminology. "English to Apache is easier. I made it that way. There are not too many dictionaries out there with that many Apache words," said de Reuse without boasting.

The difference between this dictionary is that other published Apache dictionaries do not have examples of how the words are used. This extensive dictionary uses examples of how a word is used in spoken Apache and there are cross-references to other words as well. And it has a 30 page introductory section which is slightly more challenging than a typical dictionary as a pronunciation guide is enclosed.

De Reuse says anyone will be able to access the information in the dictionary and place the data they need into their own computers. "They can copy and paste words, sentences or paradigms, so they don't have to write teaching materials—just text, so it's simple," said de Reuse.

De Reuse has not given a precise date when the dictionary will be printed as many printing companies are not eager to print indigenous language dictionaries as they become problematic with the mechanics of setting up a language graphics for printing.



Vincent Randall, Apache culture director of Yavapai-Apache Nation visits with Beatrice Lee (L), Director of Language and Preservation of San Carlos community along with her assistants Cordella Moses and Pamela Harvey (Photo by Don Decker)

Language instruction critical to Indian children

By DON DECKER
YAN News

Beatrice Lee, director of the Language and Preservation Office of the San Carlos Apache community visited her counter-part, Judie Piner at the Yavapai-Apache Nation Cultural Preservation Office in Camp Verde on Friday, March 18. In addition, Lee's staff members Cordella Moses and Pamela Harvey, both of Bylas, shared common concerns with Piner, director of Cultural Preservation and Technology for Yavapai-Apache Nation.

The San Carlos language and preservation program now in its 5th year, works closely with Arizona's First Things First community outreach program for pre-schoolers according to Lee. This educational program partners with child care, home-base learning and pre-school providers to improve the quality of learning for kids from birth to 5 years of age. Within this program is a prescribed program that uses the models of culture awareness and learning of the Apache culture and language according to Lee. The San Carlos Apache are proud of their language immersion programs which provides extensive sustained teaching of the language in the schools.

Lee gives high praise for her teachers, Moses and Harvey who are immersed in the Apache language program by devising teaching strategies within the curriculum in early childhood.

Moses does much of the translations for the curriculum and also is crossed trained in working with cultural crafts such as sewing buckskin. "She (Moses) is not just a teacher-she's everything to our program, pronunciation, history and culture," said Lee proudly.

Harvey also works closely with the teachers in Bylas, a neighboring Apache community located a 1/2 hour away from San Carlos to the east.

The San Carlos group is interested in the kinds of technology support systems the Yavapai-Apache Nation Cultural Preservation and Technology offers in teaching the language to the community. The day's visit also was an opportunity to share ideas and strategies for language instruction and methodologies with Vincent Randall, director of the Apache culture department who also has oversight of the new Apache dictionary which is in its final stages for production.

YAN language department can help

By DON DECKER
YAN News

According to Judy Piner, YAN Culture Preservation and Technology Center director, there are varied activities and services available to the Nation's members.

"It works to document and archive many activities of the Nation. Many of these are educational and interesting to both adults and youth. Both, the Apache and Yavapai culture departments produce a broad range of language learning materials from an audio Cd to DVDs and Games," said Piner.

As you walk into their office, you quickly realize that it is a very busy place and there are stacks of documents and large cases of photo, sound and video files in every corner available.

In the lobby, you can find historical and cultural exhibits with many images of the old days "on the rez". Some of the items are secured in locked cases with sliding glass fronts. On the wall, you will be greeted by some of the elders talking in a video presentation about the cultures of the Nation.

This office has a comprehensive language learning media collection that can start anyone in learning their language very quickly. Elder Apache Elizabeth Rocha who is now retired from the culture department, directed and collated all of the Apache words and sentences into 20 lessons that can get a person to learn a few words and possibly string them together in a conversation.

These lessons are also available in a 15-part Yavapai lessons from Yavapai elder language instructor Frieda Eswonia of Clarkdale.

Delores Plunkett, another Yavapai elder who is former director of the Yavapai Culture department, has also recorded some of the Yavapai nouns. The center's library also fea-

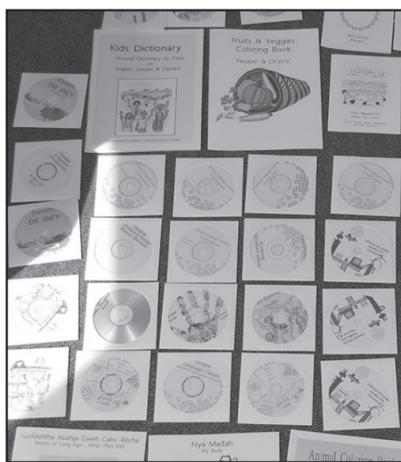
tures some historic Yavapai sentences from Warren Gazam.

The Yavapai department also offers some sermons and other recordings that were collected from another Yavapai community-Ft. McDowell, near Phoenix.

There are coloring books and elementary dictionaries for beginners. Ron Juan, a Quechan Indian who is an accomplished artist and married to Yavapai Lorna Hazelwood, did all of the art work that is featured on the various publication and production that has been made for both culture departments.

The Apache department has had an on-going dictionary project for the past 15 years and a Dr. Wilhelm DeReuse, a Belgium university professor, has been instrumental in working with Vincent Randall and Elizabeth Rocha over the years to complete the Apache dictionary. During the 2nd week of March, DeReuse was completing the final phase of the Apache dictionary with the elders.

The Apache community is at the forefront of producing this dictionary that will be



The Preservation and Technology department has a wide selection of learning materials that can get the new language learner started with either language: Apache or Yavapai. In this package, there are coloring books, a basic Yavapai/Apache dictionary, and various CDs that can teach both languages. (Photo by Don Decker)

the pride of the community as this dictionary will be the work of Apache people with the help of an academic scholar.

Piner has been successful in gathering all of the information and putting them into a new whole so that the Nation's members can easily retrieve the information for language. It's even offered on line.

Go to <https://yan.coursesites.com> or contact Piner at: jpiner@yan-tribe.org and she can enroll you. "These courses are taught on line learning environment similar to that used by colleges everywhere. In the course, are written lessons, lesson recordings, vocabulary lists, practice games and activities, songs, stories and nursery rhymes, story books and coloring books," said Piner.

"We encourage parents to enroll, to learn the language themselves and practice by teaching to their children. Everyone learns better when they teach one another."

Piner's approach to learning is all made easier by technology that is readily available to most members of the Nation. Their flyer states, 'Look it up! On your iPhone or iPad' which allows anyone to access a word specific word in Yavapai or Apache to their elec-

tronic devices. "It's a dictionary you carry with you—search for a word and hear it pronounced," adds Piner.

The Preservation and Technology center is one of the most advanced and comprehensive language learning department in Indian country as it also has a massive archive of video and sound recording interviews with Nation's members including tribal elders, some of whom have passed on to the spirit world.

Finally, the culture center is always busy with community affairs and are called upon to present special programs in local functions including school events during the special Native American holidays.

Several times a year, the culture department sponsors a Mesquite milling process day where community members can have their mesquite beans pulverized and milled into flour. Other services include the following:

-Sewing classes, craft classes, food gathering and preparation, cooking classes, food expo and genealogy classes. One of the more interesting activity is writing your own oral history of your family and recording it on video or audio and the recorded copy can be permanently stored at the center for future use and for historical purposes.

There is a comprehensive library of oral history recordings for use by the public.

For information to the culture center's activities contact the various departments within the culture center to schedule an appointment to participate in any of these activities. Judy Piner/jpiner@yan-tribe.org or 928-567-7064 Vincent Randall/Apache Culture Director/-928-649-6960 Gertie Smith/Yavapai Culture Director/928-649-6963.

LIGHT

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end of the tunnel," said Chavez in reference to positive solutions and possibilities that are available.

Little children carrying balloons, signs filled with positive messages and young families pushing strollers with babies and youth jogging the complete 3 mile section of the streets escorted by the Yavapai-Apache Nation police department.

The evening event began with special prayers by the elders of

the community including David Kwait, Don Decker, Joe Washington, Larry Jackson, Arlin Carlton and Robert Jackson.

Chavez organized water stations along the route and special candles that were set inside of paper bags filled with sand glowed into the night along the road.

"I couldn't have been happier with the turnout. I had never imagined that we would completely take over the streets of Tunlii with runners and walkers," said Chavez who had expected only about 20 people to show up that evening.

Children scampered along the road leading from west Tun-

lii housing office up to the turn off close to the new Market Place and continued down the road by the gully leading up east Tunlii housing. The marchers carried lighted glow sticks as the police led the way with flashing lights as the night grew darker.

At the bottom of the gully, marchers were greeted with a water station and sliced fruits and cookies. Other strong hearted walkers and runners continued their quest up to the large water tank that sits at the end of the east Tunlii housing area to make their turn a rounds.

Almost 2 hours later, the marchers returned to the origi-

nal starting point by the housing office where a raffle awaited the marchers with their lucky tickets.

Everything from complementary high quality shampoo to baseball hats were raffled off. There were also other items such as water bottles that had been donated by various individuals and groups from the community which got in the hands of raffle winners.

There were many comments made about the gathering and how the event seemed to unify the community and bringing about the concerns of suicide among teens in the community.

"I'm thankful to the elders

who offered prayers of strength, your gift of prayer was truly a touching moment. I hope we can bring healing to those who have recently lost family members and friends to suicide," said Chavez.

Nation's council member Rachel Hood also was among the marchers with her family and supported Chavez.

"I think it's great that a community member (Chavez) came and represented this cause because it's something that should have been done sooner. It took a community member to take a stand on awareness of suicide in the community," said Hood.

One commonality that the

marchers expressed was that they hope to have more family gatherings in the future to unify families and to make them stronger.

Joe Washington, a tribal elder from the Shawnee Nation in Oklahoma participating in the march said that help is always available no matter what. "I think it shows people bring an awareness to the fact that nothing is ever so harsh that you can't overcome difficulties you are having and people around the whole community coming together to do something about this problem," he said.