

Project Education

ECHO

Indigenous language learning

The Project

It is about promoting indigenous languages for education, research, learning, preservation and consequently to restore this specific Intangible Cultural Heritage of local communities. YouTube videos of maximum length 5 minutes will be uploaded which can be accessed free of cost from the Internet. The guidelines for creating the videos are given.

Why ECHO

Modern civilization and development has forced indigenous communities and people to learn globalized languages. This has become essential for progress itself. In this process, indigenous languages seem to be subdued. Their use has become limited to our nearest family members at home, close friends or with some specific 'icons' outdoors. This has created a vast, dangerous and poignant deterioration of native languages. In a language, its grammar, codes, syntax as well as philosophy, values and ultimately knowledge of the people who speak it deeply is ingrained. When a language is in the way of destruction, everything else is being destroyed.

ECHO is an attempt to preserve indigenous languages in digital format. This will be accessible to all who want to listen and learn these languages. This will prevent further erosion of cultural heritages or living cultures in communities.

1. Preparation of simple day to day conversations between two or three persons in your own indigenous language

- A. Conversation should be between 2 persons and a maximum of 3 persons.
- B. Conversations must contain originality of the people of the culture in which the language is spoken. It is very important to reflect traditional values, norms and cultural trends of the parent culture in which the chapter is made.
- C. A Conversation should be completed within 6 to 10 sentences.
- D. A Minimum of 3 conversations must constitute a chapter.
- E. The 3 conversations in the chapter may or may not be connected.
- F. Add notes when it is required to clarify specific terms, ideas, traditional norms etc.



An example of a chapter is given below:

Chapter: A Morning Breakfast

(This conversation is between a typical Indian Mother (Renuka), Father (Mohan) and Son (Madan))

Mom calling Son for Breakfast

Renuka: Madan, have you washed your face?

Madan: Yes, I have.

Renuka: Come and get puri sabji*.

Madan: Let me put some grains for our parrot.

Renuka: Ah! Take the broken grains from the old pot. I kept them yesterday for the parrot. Madan: I wonder what should be the name of our new parrot.

Renuka: That is fine. You will have plenty of time to think of that. Come and take the puri sabji now.

Madan: Alright.

Father talking to son

Mohan: So, Madan, how are your studies going on?

Madan: It is alright. Yesterday we got to recite a good poem.

Mohan: Good Poem? What was the poem?

Madan: Umm...It was... 'Bandhu'*.

Mohan: Oh. Who was the Poet?

Madan: Umm...Geetanjali...

Mohan: No...It is Rabindranath Tagore right?

Madan: Ah Yes! It was Rabindranath Tagore.

Mohan: Geetanjali is the name of the poetry book where the poem was written. Madan: Ah Yes! I remember it now. Today our teacher will ask some questions.

Wife talking to husband

Renuka: Alright, I guess it is time for Madan to get ready for School.

Mohan: Son, you should try to wake up early. Early to bed and early to rise makes a man healthy, wealthy and wise.

Renuka: Probably we should stop watching TV.

Mohan: I am also worried about that. Yesterday Rajiv said that they stopped their TV service.

Renuka: I am telling you. We should do it soon. Else, even this time my son will get less marks like last year.

Mohan: Yes, I got it. I will bring a radio to watch the news.

Renuka: Yes, a radio will be better for now.

Note: *puri sabji: A common food for breakfast in most of North India. In India the term breakfast is hardly used. Instead the item name in the breakfast is mostly referred to.



2. Translate each word of the sentences to English

- A. Translation is the core basis of learning through this project. The words and sentences should be translated to the common language, English which is a common platform of communication all over the world.
- B. Translation should be done in such a way that the core idea, syntax and style of the sentence and the language is not lost. Emphasis should be given to retain the nearest meaning and mode of the indigenous language while translation.
- C. Word to word translation is required. It should be displayed separately apart from the sentence translation.

3. Make a video with considerable sound quality and voice clarity

- A. Prefer an actor/actress whose age and personality matches with the character in the chapter.
- B. Persons of the same community whose language is the mother tongue and who could pronounce the words and syllables properly in correct dialect and tone should be preferred as actor/actress.
- C. Voice clarity is a must for the actor/actress as well as the video.
- D. Proper dress must be maintained while in the video. It is preferable to wear traditional dress, ornaments and accessories by the actor/actress.
- E. It is recommended that an actor/actress speaks all the sentences in his/her part in the chapter in one go, separately. Later, the video of each actor/actress will be edited and merged to make the sequence of the conversations in the chapter.
- F. In the video only the upper part of the person facing the camera must be shoot. The actor/actress may only sit or stand throughout the video.
- G. The complete chapter video length must be a maximum 3 to 5 minutes strictly. It should not be more than 5 minutes.



4. Edit the video to add subtitles as the sentences are spoken

- A. The video frame consists of: The actor/actress speaking, Simultaneous subtitles in English and Simultaneous word to word translation to English.
- B. Add subtitles in the video in English as the actor/actress speaks the sentences.
- C. Word to word translation of the conversations should be shown in the video simultaneously.
- D. Also add the notes (if any) add the end of the chapter.
- E. Cultural Human Logo at the specific upper left corner of the video should be added.

5. Upload the edited and complete video in YouTube

- A. A YouTube channel is created for Project ECHO, under the account of Cultural Human.
- B. Upload the videos in the account according to Language, Community and Culture.
- C. Add a description of the video highlighting Cultural Human, The Project ECHO, the language and the specific culture within a maximum of 200 words.

