

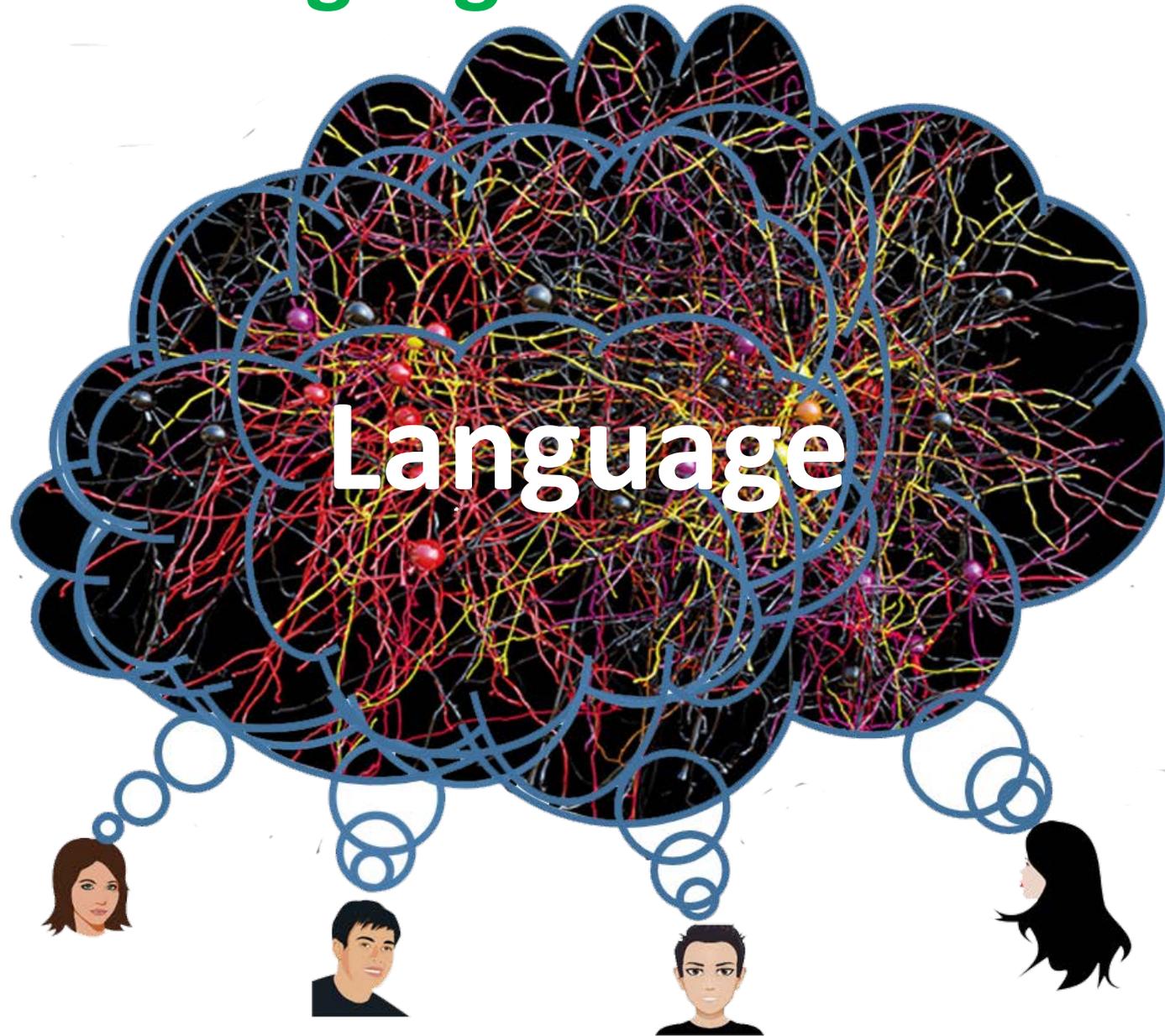
SILS2018 Workshop

Quickly Remembering and Preserving Thousands of Words

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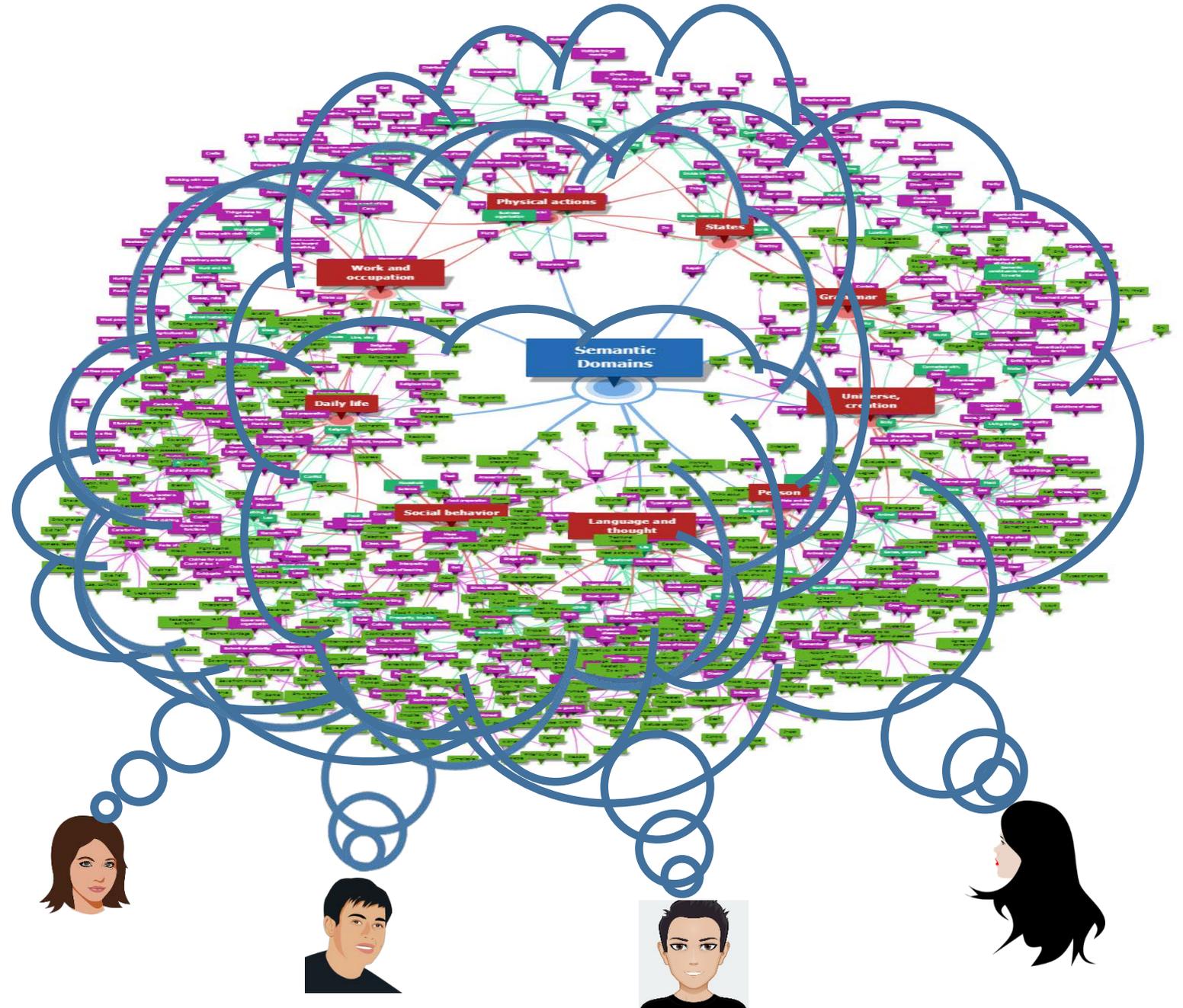
Is a Language alive? How? Where is it?



- **The Lexicon** [= Lexical inventory + Semantics + Pragmatics]
 - Concepts
 - Words
 - Phrases
 - Expressions
- **The Rules for constructing utterances** [= Grammar]
 - Words
 - Phrases
 - Sentences
 - Speeches
 - Clauses
 - Paragraphs
 - Conversations
- **The sounds of the language** [= Phonetics and Phonology]
 - How to listen and hear
 - How to say

Lexicon

- The large collection of concepts about the world, the culture, and language known collectively by the speakers of a language.
- No individual speaker knows all of them.



The Lexicon: An example

- Take 2 minutes

big

- Write down as many English words as you can think of that you associate with the concept “big”

Note: At the SILS2018 workshop, 15 people were able in 2 minutes to think of 45 words related to “big”. No single individual had thought of more than 25. Everyone recognized and understood all 45. This was a demonstration of the concept “Lexicon” as something shared by the speakers of a language

Lexicon > Lexical Database > Dictionaries

- Documenting and preserving as much as possible of the LEXICON of its language should be the goal of every indigenous community.
- In the 21st Century, a language community can create a LEXICAL DATABASE containing a large subset of the LEXICON, from which many DICTIONARIES can quickly be produced.
- Rapid Word Collection is a participatory method that indigenous communities in four continents have used to collect thousands of words in a few days. Using a master list of about 1,800 “semantic domains”, teams of local language speakers are able to remember and record the core concepts of their language.

Semantic Domains: Rapid Word Collection



- Rapid Word Collection is a process for organizing a group of Language Speakers to work together to go through all the Semantic Domains.

rapidwords.net

In a group of no less than 3 or more than 6 people, write down a list of all the words you can think of related to:

Semantic Domain: [English] 1.1.3.3 Rain

- What words refer to the rain?
- What does the rain do?
- What words describe the weather when it is raining?
- What words refer to when the rain stops?
- What words describe how hard it is raining?
- What words describe when it rains a lot?
- What is a single drop of rain?
- What words refer to rain water on the ground?
- What sound does the rain make?
- What words refer to a rainbow?
- What words refer to dew?
- What do people use to protect themselves from the rain?

Note: At the SILS2018 workshop, 15 people divided into 3 groups of 5 were able in 5 minutes to think of 140 words related to “rain”. This was a demonstration of the Rapid Word Collection process for one domain. There are nearly 1,800 semantic domains in the list. If each domain resulted in an average of 10 words, the total collected in a Rapid Word Collection activity would be about 18,000.

Rapid Word Collection: Acoma

- In 2017 The Language Conservancy and SIL conducted a 10-day Rapid Word Collection Workshop for the [Pueblo of Acoma](#), in New Mexico
- The event created a lot of interest in the Acoma community, but also was reported by local and national news media:

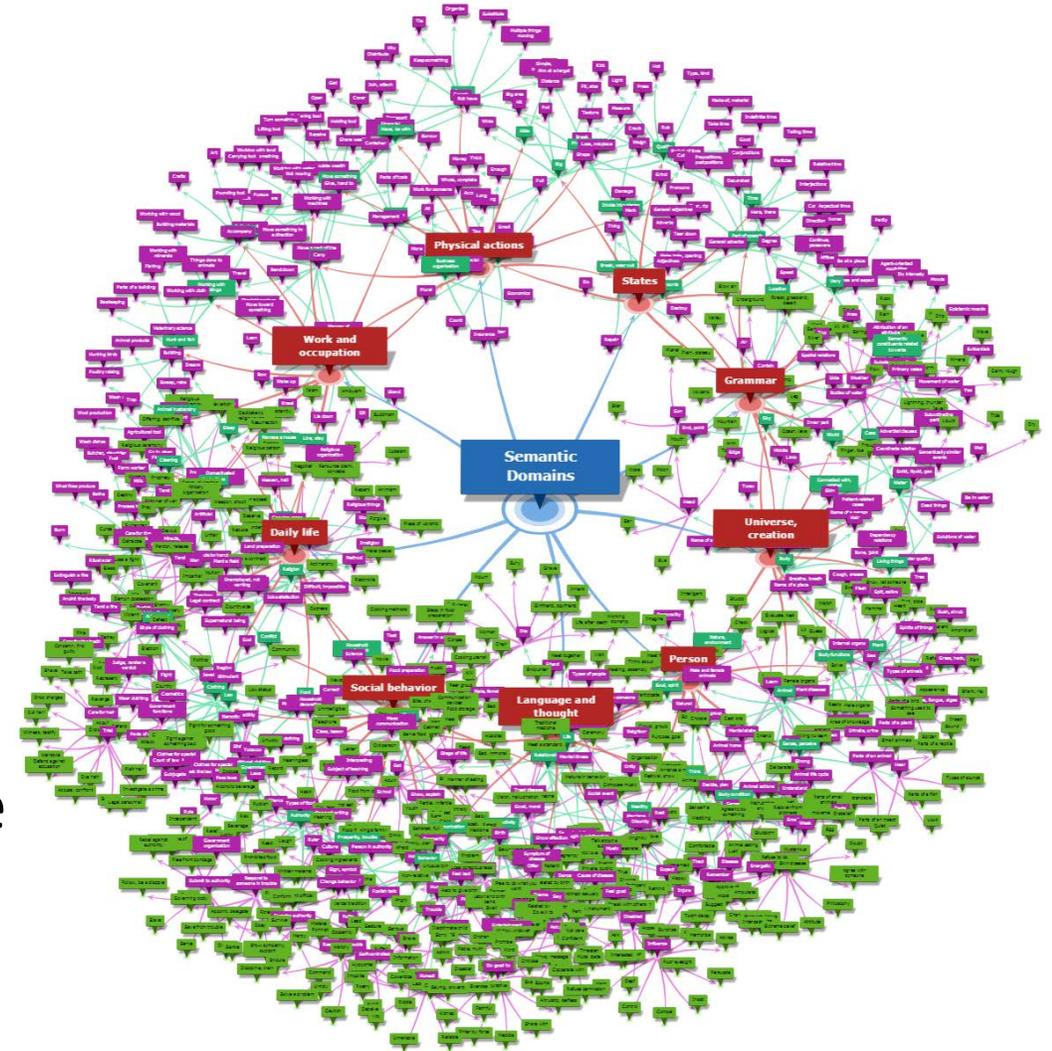
www.koat.com/article/pueblo-elders-fighting-to-preserve-their-native-language/9618295

Rapid Word Collection: What happens after

- The words need to be checked for consistency, then entered into a Lexical Database.
- The audio and video recordings need to be added into the Lexical Database.
- When everything has been checked, then a variety of Dictionaries can be quickly produced:
 - Print
 - Online
 - Smart Phone

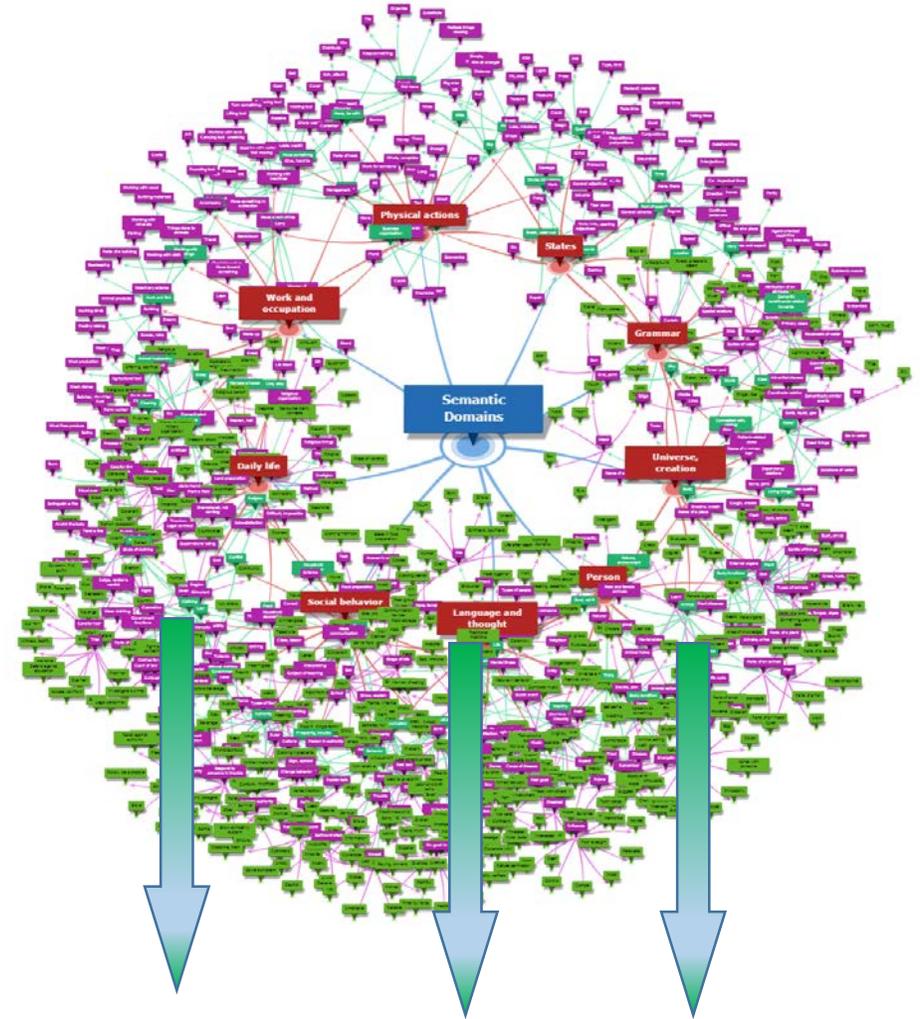
Lexical Database

- An organized digital collection of information about the Lexicon of a language.
- It can include text, audio recordings, photographs, illustrations, and videos
- It is dynamic:
 - Easy to add information
 - Multiple people can contribute, at the same time
- It preserves a permanent record of the Lexicon, to pass on to future generations



Dictionary

- A distributable collection of some of the information in a Lexical Database:
 - For a particular audience
 - For a particular purpose
 - In a form that is accessible and useful to the audience
- A single Lexical Database can be the source for many Dictionaries.



- Bilingual Dictionary
- School Dictionary
- Dictionary of Plants
- Printed book
- Internet
- Smart phone

Rapid Word Collection Project

Creating the elements of a Lexical Database and then repurposing them for use in a Dictionary requires:

- a Plan
- a Team
- the right Processes
- the right Tools

... a Plan



Rapid Word Collection

For quickly capturing thousands of words

rapidwords.net

WeSay

Simple editor for entering words

software.sil.org/wesay

Language Forge

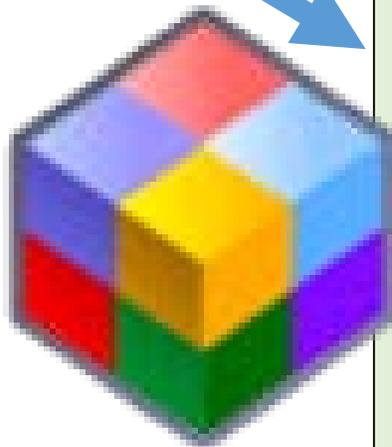
For online collaboration in capturing words

youtu.be/wzQMsxOYauM

Keyman

Computer keyboards for typing indigenous languages

keyman.com



Language Data Management System

Fieldworks Language Explorer [FLEx]

Dictionary App Builder

For Smart Phone Dictionaries

software.sil.org/dictionaryappbuilder

Lexique Pro

For publishing Dictionaries in Print and online

software.sil.org/lexiquepro

Field Linguist's Toolbox

Managing lexical data and texts
Formatting dictionaries

software.sil.org/toolbox

Webonary

For online dictionary publishing

www.webonary.org

SIL Americas can help you to plan and do Rapid Word collection, and to process all the words that result.

All our software and tools are free, and can be downloaded here;

software.sil.org/products

Email for questions, consulting, training, or more information:

Language-Future@sil.org