

role in landscape terms which, in a templatic language such as Navajo, are often complex. However, full details will have to await completion of the transcription and translation phases.

O'Meara is carrying out an ethnophysiography study with the Comcáac (Seri people) who live along the northeastern coast of the Sea of Cortez in Sonora, Mexico (O'Meara and Bohnemeyer 2008). As of 2000, around 800 Seri people (Gordon 2005) lived in two small coastal villages, Socáaix (Punta Chueca) and Haxöl Iihom (El Desemboque del Río San Ignacio). Seri is their first language, but bilingualism is widespread, with Spanish being the second language. The Seri language is considered to be a language isolate. It has been suggested that it is part of the putative Hokan stock (Kroeber 1915), but there is insufficient evidence to prove or disprove this claim (Marlett 2001). Fieldwork was conducted by O'Meara in collaboration with at least twelve native speakers of Seri between 2004 and 2011 in the village of El Desemboque del Río San Ignacio.³ Data collection procedures included verification and further exploration of dictionary entries in Moser and Marlett (2005), situated route descriptions conducted during expeditions to areas with geographic entities of interest, including foraging trips with Seri women, landscape diagramming in various locations near El Desemboque del Río San Ignacio, lexical relation elicitation, and general participant observation. In cooperation with native speaker collaborators, O'Meara put together an illustrated workbook for children which is designed to elicit responses containing various landscape terms.

Researchers at the Max Planck Institute in Nijmegen have also been active in this field of investigation. MPI's Language and Cognition Group has concluded a set of case studies of landscape terms (and some placenames) in ten languages (including the work with Seri by O'Meara and Bohnemeyer). These case studies cover a wide variety of geographic locations (although most are in tropical regions) (Burenhult 2008a). This work has extended very significantly the range of ethnophysiography case studies and strengthened its linguistic basis. A systematic cross-linguistic comparison of landscape terms in these languages has not yet been conducted.

Twenty-six participants attended an international workshop on Landscape in Language organized by the authors (in collaboration with the MPI researchers) in Arizona and New Mexico in the southwestern USA in October/November 2008. A book summarizing the proceedings has been published (Mark et al. 2011).

16.2 Field Methods

16.2.1 Methods overview

The methods used by the authors for the three case studies (mentioned above) have varied due to differing physical locations and conditions, numbers of potential native speaker collaborators, etc. However, it is possible to summarize the general method as consisting of the following five stages:

1. dictionary work and photo collection—scoping the domain and preparing 'instruments';
2. field interviews—identifying the set of landscape terms and the distinctions, associations and usage;
3. photo interpretation sessions—clarifying existing terms and collecting new ones (except in the Seri case study);
4. semi-structured follow up—clarifying confusions, probing for extra meanings, evaluating quality of interpretations;
5. reporting the initial results back to community members and getting their feedback.