

16.5 Conclusions

This chapter defined and explained the research field of ethnophysiography and its role in documenting aspects of languages relating to landscape. Together with a discussion of key ethical issues, it also summarized methods used in obtaining terms for landscape features and toponyms in a manner which addressed an identified set of threats to the validity of the information. The authors hope that this chapter will assist others undertaking similar work, and would very much welcome enquiries about their efforts. Some relevant papers can be found at: <http://www.ncgia.buffalo.edu/ethnophysiography/>.

Notes

- 1 Carmelita Topaha facilitated the fieldwork with Navajo language speakers, and Larry King assisted understanding of Navajo landscape terms. Our understanding of the issues discussed in this chapter has been enhanced through interaction with Yindjibarndi, Navajo, and Seri people, and we greatly appreciate their time, assistance, and patience. Permission for the research to be carried out on the Navajo Reservation was provided by the Navajo Nation's Historic Preservation Department under Cultural Resources Investigation Permit No. C0513-E. Funding support by the US National Science Foundation (grants BCS-0423075, BCS-0423023, BCS-0553965 and BCS-0723694), from Murdoch University, and from Microsoft Research is gratefully acknowledged.
- 2 For a definition of 'etic' see the first paragraph of Dousset, Ch. 9 above.
- 3 O'Meara has worked with more speakers of Seri during her fieldwork seasons, but not necessarily on landscape-related work.
- 4 In cases where the native speaker consultant does not wish to draw, the researcher can draw the scene slowly in collaboration with the consultant to achieve similar results.