

Monolingual Fieldwork Demonstration

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This will be a demonstration of how much can be learned about a language, in a relatively short time, and without using any language except that of a native speaker. With the aid of props and gestures, a linguist can elicit words, phrases, and even sentences of a previously unknown language. In addition to words and grammar, the elicited examples can reveal much about the nature of the phonological system. After the demonstration, there will be a discussion of what we have learned about the language, and about how much we need to know about the nature of language and about communication in general before we can even begin.