Is Ethnobotanical Information Regularly Included in Linguistics Documentation Dictionaries?

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INTRODUCTION:

Purpose: to examine the role linguists play in preserving biocultural diversity by attempting to measure the extent that linguists are including ethnobotanical information in language documentation works

Background & Significance: There're increased threats to biological, cultural, & linguistic diversities, but also increased documentation efforts compared to previous decades. However, it's necessary linguistic documentations be thorough as languages' vocabularies serve as a repository of cultural information, like botanical knowledge & traditions which may be linguistically unique. This issue is exacerbated by the fact that not only are many languages at risk, but so too are many plant species. As such, is it vital to assess if present measures are producing desired results & if not, why to help guide future efforts.

METHODOLOGY:

Research Questions:

To what extent are linguists including ethnobotanical info in language documentation works like dictionaries?

(1) What types of information are often included or excluded in dictionary entries regarding plants

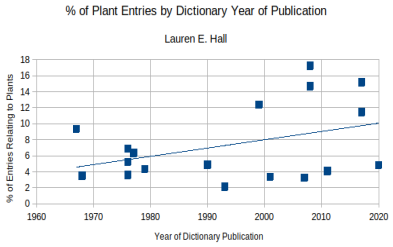
(2) What are the factors affecting inclusion?

Methodology:

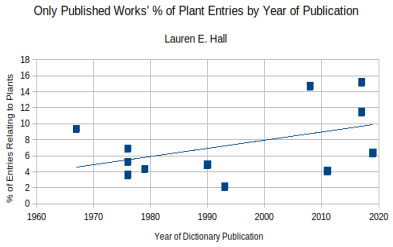
* Parameters for Sourcing Reference Material: Language dictionaries published 1960-2020
* Analyzed works for: (1) quantity of ethnobotanical terms, (2) quality of the terms' entries, specifically, inclusion of (2.1) scientific name and/or generic terms and (2.2) plants' uses.
* Statistical calculations using Pearson's R correlation coefficient

Time Span	No. Of Works	Dictionaries, in Order	No. Of Entries, Total	No. Of Plant Entries	Generics	Scientific Name	Use
1960-1970	2	Chafe (1967)	2146	200	3	96	4
		Marino (1968)	Approx. 7920	277	8	0	0
1971-1980	5	Lee (1976)	Approx. 6528	343	154	0	2
		Kimiuo et al (1976)	Approx. 1980	71	10	3	1
		Sohn & Tawerilmang (1976)	Approx. 4301	297	109	54	9
		Harrison & Albert (1977)	Approx. 7020	446	156	11	22
		Press (1979)	Approx. 871	38	0	0	0
1981-1990	1	Kari (1990)	Approx. 7308	356	14	106	17
1991-2000	2	Granberry (1993)	Approx. 1820	39	1	0	0
		Green (1999)	Approx. 2664	327	98	139	26
2001-2010	4	Kopris (2001)	Approx. 864	29	0	0	0
		Faehndrich (2007)	Approx. 648	21	0	0	0
		Guerin (2008)	Approx. 1700	293	81	27	97
		Courtz (2008)	Approx. 4788	703	471	472	7
2011-2020	4	Pet (2011)	Approx. 2058	84	9	0	4
		Naess (2017)	Approx. 2272	346	73	99	60
		Joseph (2017)	Approx. 1056	121	0	0	1
		Spier (2020)	Approx. 700	34	0	0	1

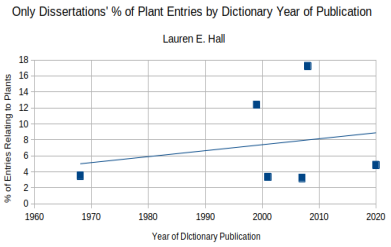
FINDINGS:



Pearson's R value: r(16) = .39, p= .11
Positive Trend, Weak



r(10) = .53, p= .08
Slightly Stronger Positive Trend



Not enough data points for a trend

CONCLUSIONS:

* Overall data presented a weak positive trend
* Type of information included varied by topic of inclusion:
  * Plant use included most often (75%)
  * Scientific name included 50%; Generics included more (78%)
* Factors affecting this were hypothesized to be time and type of work
  * Time did not have significant influence on any topic
  * Type of work did impact inclusion of plant use as dissertations fared better than non-dissertations