



NATIONAL ENDOWMENT FOR THE

**Humanities**

DIVISION OF PRESERVATION AND ACCESS

## **Narrative Section of a Successful Application**

The attached document contains the grant narrative of a previously funded grant application. It is not intended to serve as a model, but to give you a sense of how a successful application may be crafted. Every successful application is different, and each applicant is urged to prepare a proposal that reflects its unique project and aspirations. Prospective applicants should consult the Documenting Endangered Languages application guidelines at <http://www.nsf.gov/pubs/2011/nsf11554/nsf11554.pdf> for instructions.

Note: The attachment only contains the grant, not the entire funded application. In addition, certain portions may have been redacted to protect the privacy interests of an individual and/or to protect confidential commercial and financial information and/or to protect copyrighted materials.

**Project Title: Doctoral Dissertation Research: A Bih/Rade/English/Vietnamese Dictionary**

**Institution: University of Oregon-Eugene**

**Project Directors: Scott DeLancey and Tam Nguyen**

**Grant Program: Documenting Endangered Languages: NSF-DEL**

## *1. Local research context for the proposed project*

The proposed project, A Bih/Rade/English/Vietnamese Dictionary, is a component of the co-PI's doctoral dissertation project: 'Documenting Bih, an Austronesian language of Vietnam'. This work emerges from the ongoing work by the co-PI on the Bih language.

Bih is a Chamic language (belonging to Austronesian family) spoken by approximately 1,000 people in and around Buon Trap village of Krong Ana district, Dak Lak province, Vietnam. Bih is surrounded by Ede, also called Rade/Rhode (henceforth Ede), the dominant language and by Vietnamese, the national language of Vietnam. Bih people live with other minority groups and with the majority of Vietnamese people even in Buon Trap town, where most Bih people live.

Within Chamic language group, Bih is considered closely related to Ede (Thurgood, 1999) although little evidence has been presented. In Nguyen (2009), I provided preliminary results of a basic comparative constructions' study demonstrating that Bih and Ede are two distinct languages in which the former still has Austronesian grammatical features while the latter is adapting Southeast Asian language features. A detailed lexical study of Bih is another large step toward determining the relations between Bih and Ede, and its relation to other Chamic languages and surrounding languages, in particular Mnong, a Mon-Khmer language which is thought to have had significant influence on Bih, and thus may provide explanations for some of the divergence between Bih and Ede.

Nowadays there are only few old people who can speak Bih and believe that Bih is different from Ede. Many people consider themselves as Bih people ethnically but cannot speak Bih, let alone write or read their language. In fact many elderly Bih speakers have to use Ede to communicate with their children, grandchildren and others. An observation confirmed by village elders is the fact that Bih adults in their 40s do not understand Bih and feel comfortable conversing in Ede. Bih children do not have any chance to study Bih by any means, as no Bih classes are taught. Further, because of the similarity of Bih and Ede lexica, Bih people have a tendency to use Ede in their conversations even amongst Bih speakers themselves. The comparison of Bih with Ede highlights the fact that they are clearly distinct languages but also suggests that Bih has undergone many stages of borrowing from Ede. This suggests that over a period of time Bih lexica and grammar will be completely replaced by those of Ede. These observations support the fear that the generation of elderly adults is the last generation speaking Bih naturally and fluently.

## *2. Previous Research on Bih*

Bih has remained nearly unstudied. Until my own work, Bih is focus in one published research. Doan (1998) lists the lexicon of Bih and other dialects of Ede with the comparison of their phonetics. The Bih entries in this work are based on elicitations with Bih people who have stayed in the Ede community for a while. Looking to Bih's closet neighbors, other publications on the Ede language are Shintani (1981) and Doan (1996), a phonetics and phonology study of Ede, and Nguyen (2006), a Master thesis on Ede syntax. My research, Nguyen (2009), is the first contribution to the Bih language.

### *3. Disciplinary relevance and theoretical framework of proposed project*

Dictionaries are fundamental tools of scholarship. The most immediate contribution of a Bih dictionary will be to comparative Bih, Ede and Chamic linguistics. It notes that Bih was formerly considered as an Ede dialect, so this means a lexical documentation of Bih has the potential to contribute significantly to our understanding about Bih and Chamic lexicography and etymology. Also, because the lexicon of a language is a reflection of a culture, the dictionary is also a contribution to the ethnography and cultural history of the Bih community and the Southern highland culture area.

My approach is to begin by considering the issues outlined in Frawley, Hill and Munro (2002). Namely, in addition to general design, I will give careful consideration to the entries, theory, literacy of the potential users of the dictionary, use of graphics and role of the language community.

First and foremost in designing the Bih/Ede/English/Vietnamese dictionary has been the consideration of the potential users. We expect the proposed dictionary to be of use to 1) the Bih speaking community; 2) Western academics and Chamic linguists; 3) the Vietnamese scholars. All decisions regarding the proposed dictionary are made with the needs of these three communities in mind.

The first issue to be addressed has been the orthography. The Bih orthography has been designed based on discussion with the language community and collaboration with the Center of Ethnic Research in Daklak and the Vietnam Institute of Linguistics. The Bih orthography is Roman-based and is designed to follow the same sound-grapheme correspondences for Ede, which is familiar to Bih people and other ethnic people in the region.

The Bih/Ede/English/Vietnamese dictionary will begin with an introduction to the language community and their history. A short grammatical sketch and information pertaining to the relationship of Bih and other Chamic languages will follow. Finally, we define abbreviations and illustrate the layout of the dictionary. While we expect not all portions of the dictionary will be of interest to all potential users (Bih speaking community, Vietnamese scholars and Western scholars) our aim is that each user will be able to extract what information they need from the dictionary.

Following the introduction, the dictionary will consist of three main sections. The first section will consist of Bih entries with English definitions, examples of Bih form, sound files and when relevant, photographs, synonyms, cross reference information, antonyms and etymology when known. This section will also consist of Ede corresponding entries. This is because Bih speakers only know their spoken language and do not know the written one. And, a lot of Bih people who do not know Bih but know written Ede. So, the Ede written forms will help them to learn their mother-tongue language faster. In other words, Ede entries are of use to Bih people who want to learn their language through Ede, the language they already know and also to Ede speakers who want to learn Bih. In fact the need of Ede entries is a request from the Bih community. (Please refer to the attached letter from the Bih community written by the head of people committee office for detail.) Bih entries are of importance first and foremost to the

The second and third sections will consist of English and Vietnamese indices, respectively. The second section, an English index, will be of primary interest to the western world of academia. From this section, comparative and historical linguists can discover cognates based on English glosses. Other scholars may reference the Bih words with their corresponding English glosses for a variety of purposes, such as those within the fields of linguistic anthropology or socio-linguistics, linguist paleontology, archaeology, botany, amongst others. The need for the third section, a Vietnamese index, grew out of conversations with Vietnamese experts. Vietnamese scholars will be approaching Bih with a scholastic base in Vietnamese, and therefore will be referencing the words through their Vietnamese correspondences. For example, a Vietnamese scholar interested in the spelling for the word ‘gong’ would find <công.chiêng> in the Vietnamese section and then compare with <čhar> or <čing> in Bih. With photographs, he can find the differences between the two Bih entries. This project is conducted in collaboration with the Vietnam Institute of Linguistics and the Center of Ethnic Research in Daklak, and therefore is also equally considering the goals of that community.

The Bih entries will be alphabetised based on the order used to alphabetise Ede, with Ede forms and etymology if known appearing immediately after. English glosses, and definitions if need be, will be provided first, followed by Vietnamese glosses. The word class of the lexeme will also be provided for each entry. If possible, an example of the lexeme in a naturally occurring utterance will be provided, and if relevant, other information about use (such as whether the form is mainly restricted to a certain gender or socio-cultural situation, e.g.) will be offered. When it will assist in identifying the object – such as in the case of unique cultural items or animal or botanical terms – photographs will be included. In the electronic version of the dictionary a link will be included toward the end enabling the user to hear the word as spoken by a native speaker. Finally, synonyms, antonyms and terms of cross-reference will be included when relevant.

#### *4. Research design: methods and techniques*

The research methodologies for the proposed dictionary will be conducted in the evolving collaborative framework that views large-scale documentation projects as ultimately a collaborative effort between a linguist and a community (Dwyer 2006). By collecting natural data from speakers in the language community, and working in collaboration with community members, government officials and local scholars, I intend to produce a dictionary which accurately represents the lexicon of Bih as spoken by the community. As the Bih people have involved me in all aspects of their daily life since October 2008, at this point, I am happy to report that I am able to participate in most of conversations in Bih. I intend to be fluent in Bih by the end of the documentation project.

A large portion of the data will be collected by way of natural conversations, storytelling, singing, and other oral socio-cultural performances. These speech acts will be recorded using a

Marantz PMD 660 digital recorder. The data will then be transferred to a laptop computer as a .wav file and transcribed using the software Transcriber (by both Bih speaking assistants and the co-PI). The transcription will then be parsed, glossed and translated using the software Toolbox. Lexical items will be stored in the Toolbox dictionary, which will be the source for the Bih/Ede/English/Vietnamese dictionary. Some benefits of collecting lexical items for the dictionary in this manner (i.e. by collecting natural data) are that sociolinguistic (e.g. gender, age, education, etc. of speaker) information, context, and use are inherent to the data itself.

We expect that not all the data for the dictionary will come from natural texts and therefore will also collect data by elicitation. For example, in order to collect the terminology for botanical terms I will spend time in the field with a member of the community reputed to be well-versed in the local botany. Together they will spend time in the natural habitat surrounding the village and discuss terminology for the various flora and fauna present. I will also audio record the terminology and photograph the botanical item. For many items, as in the case of flora and fauna, there will be variation in the presence of species depending on the time of year. Thus, such elicitation will take place many times throughout the year I am residing in Buon Trap. As a main motivating factor for the current research is to contribute to our understanding of the history of Bih speakers, special attention will be made to elicit vocabulary that may help aid this endeavor, for example, collecting terminology for place names, agriculture and animal husbandry. All data will be cross-checked with a number of speakers.

Each Toolbox entry contains fields for the Bih form, any alloforms present, part of speech, Ede gloss, etymology, English gloss and definition (these may or may not be different), Vietnamese gloss, date the entry was last updated, source of the data (including speaker), recorder, date of collection, comments, sound file, photograph, synonym, antonym, cross-reference, and example. A separate Toolbox data base contains social and anthropological information about each speaker, such as date of birth, gender, education, and other languages spoken.

All entries in the dictionary will have corresponding .wav audio files, either linked directly to the entry (electronic version) or on accompanying CD (print version). The primary recording device will be a Marantz PMD660 Flash recorder, which has the benefits of being easily transportable and recording .wav files which can be directly transferred to the computer. Toward the end of the project, a speaker with a very clear voice will be chosen for recording the words in the dictionary.

For unique cultural items, botanical terminology and wildlife, photographs will accompany entries when it will assist in identifying the object. These photographs will be taken with a Panasonic Lumix DMC-FZ50, which allows for extremely high quality close-up digital photographs (macro), necessary for the detailed illustration of the flora, fauna, and other items unique to the culture. At the same time the Panasonic Lumix DMC-FZ50 allows for zoom of 400mm, enabling the researchers to capture images, such as those of wildlife, that are only visible at large distances.

This project requires that I work closely with Bih-speaking assistants, an Ede specialist and a Vietnamese assistant. As a former teacher at Tay Nguyen University located in the capital state of Buon Ma Thuot, Daklak province where most Ede people live, I have a long time

working with people at the Center of Ethnic Research in Daklak and the University of Tay Nguyen. Since August 2008, I have been working closely with Vietnamese specialist Tuyet-nhung Buon Krong and native Bih speaker Hriu Hmok. Dr. Tuyet-nhung Buon Krong, the vice-director of the Center of Social Sciences and Humanities at the University of Tay Nguyen, is the only Vietnamese scholar equipped for the job of completing the Vietnamese portion of the Bih/Ede/English/Vietnamese dictionary. She got her PhD in Vietnamese literature and linguistics and has been working with languages of Southern highland plateaus for a while. She has worked with the current project in all aspects since June 2008, including transcription, translation, data collection and arranging logistics. Through her work with the current project she is gaining fluency in the Bih language. Most importantly, she has working knowledge of the software through her other languages dictionary projects such as Mnong- Vietnamese electronic dictionary and Stieng lexicon. This experience and others are needed to successfully carry out the Vietnamese portion of the proposed dictionary.

The Bih/Ede/English/Vietnamese dictionary also requires an Ede specialist, H'Mi Čil, for Ede entries. Ms. H'Mi Čil is the creator for materials and curriculum development for Ede and also a teacher of Ede at the Center of Ethnic Reseach in Daklak. She got training in languages of Vietnam through her B.A and has worked with the Vietnam Institute of Linguistics to write drafts of a grammar of Ede for students at middle schools. She created other curriculum for Ede learners in Daklak such as basic topics in Ede conversations, Ede-Vietnamese basic lexicon. Through her childhood in the Bih community, she understands basic conversations in Bih. Since she has transcribed and translated for the current project in December 2008, she remains the only Ede scholar with fluency in Ede and basic speaking in Bih and understanding Ede linguistics. The background in Ede and Bih will assure her success in carrying the Ede portions of the proposed dictionary.

Funds are secured to afford the assistance of Ms. Hriu Hmok, a native speaker of Bih but remain outstanding to afford the services of Dr. Tuyet-nhung Buon Krong and Ms. H'Mi Čil. Rates of payment have already been established for the current project which follows the government pay rate. Transcription and translation pays \_\_\_\_\_ per page of work, or about \_\_\_\_\_. Each page is approximately 200 words of text. Payment for Ede and Vietnamese glosses are based on this amount and figured on a by word basis. Thus, \_\_\_\_\_ for 200 words amounts to \_\_\_\_\_.

Funds from the National Science Foundation will support the assistances needed to complete the dictionary for this project. Currently, funding from the Hans Rausing Endangered Languages Project supports all other costs associated with fieldwork.

My research is guided by a strong commitment to safely archive all data for future access and dissemination of findings in both academic and private communities. All materials including field notes, texts, audio and video recordings will be also archived with the Center of Ethnic Research in Daklak. The Center is an ideal location for these materials because the materials may be accessed by not only linguists but also many scholars in other fields. The same materials will also be archived with the Hans Rausing Endangered Languages Archive and deposited with the Vietnam Institute of Linguistics, the governmental organization associated with languages of Vietnam. Within the community of Buon Trap, local consultants will determine where and how

to archive the materials locally. I will continue to submit my findings for publication as soon as possible and, following the model established at the University of Oregon, my dissertation will be available for download.

##### *5. Co-PI's previous research experience and its relevance to the proposed project*

With a strong background in documentary and descriptive linguistics, knowledge of the Chamic family, familiarity with languages of the Southern plateaus of Vietnam, especially Bih and the community in which it is spoken and the fact that I am the first person to have ever been explicitly invited by the Bih community to work with them on documenting their language, I believe I am uniquely qualified to carry out this research.

My Master's and PhD coursework at the University of Oregon has prepared me for fieldwork. In addition to theory courses, I have taken a year-long series on Field Methods, a course on Field Ethics and a course on Language Preservation. The Field Methods series not only provide me the chance to hone my skills in analysis but also refine my ability to organize data and create flexible work plans. Moreover, the Field Method course was devoted to the study of Burmese, a Tibeto-Burman language in mainland Southeast Asia. This helps me to understand more about areal linguistic features of mainland Southeast Asian languages. With the knowledge of Burmese I acquire, in addition to my knowledge of Vietnamese linguistics, I will be able to ascertain to what extent Bih has maintained native Austronesian traits, or is adapting Southeast Asian features. Above all, the coursework has given me practical and theoretical knowledge necessary to successfully carry out a language documentation project.

My research also benefits from my experience as a former teacher at the University of Tay Nguyen located in DakLak, Vietnam, the capital state of Ede people. Through the experience teaching Vietnamese to Ede people for many summers and worked with the project "Ede Geographic Names Dictionary" in 2004, I not only developed a strong relationship with the Ede and Bih communities but also understood their culture and interests, which are my primary concerns in doing documentation languages.

I have already successfully completed one independent field project. Funded by the Vietnam Government and the Department of Linguistics at the University of Oregon, I conducted fieldwork in Daklak, Vietnam for three months in summer 2005 on the Ede language. The completion of that project resulted in a thesis explored some topics in Ede syntax such as basic constructions, serial verbs and topicalization constructions and one conference presentation. I also learned first-hand how to create and conduct successful research projects. In particular I have learned the importance of formulating a flexible plan and the importance of organizing data. Without a proper and on-going analysis, unorganized accumulation of data can very quickly overwhelm the project at hand.

In December 2007 I travelled to Vietnam and spoke with Bih community members from Buon Trap, where Bih is spoken natively, in order to ascertain the local interest and feasibility of a long-term descriptive project. I was happy to gain the full support of the local community in Buon Trap immediately. This confirmed the interest from the community in documentation and revitalization the Bih language. Above this, there is a great deal of interest and involvement on behalf of the Vietnam government for documenting ethnic languages and preserving endangered

languages in Vietnam. The Vietnam government sent me abroad to learn theories and methods in order to conduct linguistic documentation and descriptive projects in my native country of Vietnam.

Following the inception of funding from the Hans Rausing Endangered Language Documentation Programme (ELDP), the project “Documenting Bih, an Austronesian language of Vietnam” officially commenced June 2008, in collaboration with the Center of Ethnic Research in Daklak, the Center of Social Sciences and Humanities at the University of Tay Nguyen and the Vietnam Institute of Linguistics.

As a former teacher at the University of Tay Nguyen, I have a strong relationship with colleagues, research assistants and Ede and Bih communities. When returning to the University of Tay Nguyen, I have a chance to discuss languages in Southern highland plateaus with my colleague Tuyet-nhung Buon Krong. She has been working closely with me for most aspects of my research since June 2008. In Daklak, I have also worked with my former Ede consultant, H’Mi Čil, who formally agreed to serve as my transcription and translation since December 2008. My contacts in Buon Trap also introduced me to Hriu Hmok, who has been working with the project since October 2008. She is the main consultant and to aid in transcription and translation though she has also assisted with data collection.

Currently, I have approximately ten hours of recorded materials, including conversations, songs and folklore, of which approximately 30 pages worth of texts have been transcribed and translated. The lexicon has close to three thousand words to date. I am also developing communicative capability in the language and have been working to transcribe and translate some of the other collected audio materials with my own knowledge of the language. As my fluency increases throughout the duration of the project I anticipate this will become a more natural task for me, and one which will inevitably inform my analyses.

With funding from the Hans Rausing Endangered Languages Documentation Programme, I have the finances necessary to afford fieldwork in Buon Trap, the Bih-speaking assistants, the equipment needed for audio recording. However, funds remain outstanding for the full services of the Ede and Vietnamese experts, payment for the final dictionary recording, the equipment needed especially for the dictionary, and final publication costs for the dictionary. A Doctoral Dissertation Research Improvement Grant would enable me to include all of these into my research and produce a detailed, high-quality Bih/Ede/English/Vietnamese dictionary with a strong comparative focus.

#### *6. Intellectual merit of the proposed research*

A Bih/Rade/English/Vietnamese dictionary promises to offer a significant contribution to linguistics and related fields as there are no grammars, dictionaries or scholarly publications available on the language to date. A detailed documentation of the Bih lexicon contributes to the fields of Austronesian historical linguistics. Historical linguistics can in turn be used by other fields interested in the reconstruction of proto-history, such as anthropology, archaeology, folklore, art-history and population genetics.



In general, Austronesian languages in mainland Southeast Asia still remain largely undocumented. The Bih lexicon will contribute to the understanding of Chamic languages of the Austronesian family with regarding to the influence of areal language features of mainland Southeast Asia languages and to certain residue of Austronesian features, for instance: a multi-syllable structure in which a pre-syllable vowel is reduced leading to a monosyllable with an initial cluster. Therefore, a deep understanding of the Bih lexicon will provide scholars a complete view about the development and historical changes from an Austronesian language to a modern dialect of Bih today.

Since Bih has been assumed to be a dialect of Ede without much evidence, a Bih lexicon will also provide synchronic data for which historical linguistics can compare and posit historic relations between Bih and other Chamic languages in Vietnam in general or Bih and Ede particularly. Thus, comparative-historical linguistics can determine when and how the two languages change from the proto-language to the modern ones. If so, a Bih/Ede/English/Vietnamese, with its focus on history and etymology of the words from Proto-Chamic two thousand years ago and the two modern Chamic languages nowadays (Bih and Ede), will contribute a great deal to the study of the pre-history of the Chamic speaking population. For example, a pre-historian can refer to the dictionary to ascertain the form and perhaps etymology of a given word in Bih. At the same time, the pre-historian will also find the form for the same word in the related language Ede and see how much change between these two languages. As a result, this detailed lexical study of Bih will ascertain our hypothesis regarding Bih as a distinct language from Ede.

#### *7. Broader impacts of this project and of my research objectives*

My strong commitment to working within a collaborative framework structures all the research I conduct. Working with members of a community toward a goal, rather than working as a distant outsider, allows for a number of benefits, including better quality of research, the possibility of language preservation and encouraging diversity in science.

My visits in Buon Trap, conversations with native speakers and observations while current living there has taught me that Bih speakers are proud of their language and laments its impending loss and transition to Ede and Vietnamese. I am very pleased to be invited to work with them on their language. Plus, my own interest on the Bih language was very well-received and was viewed as an added prestige. Such added prestige, in conjunction with the Bih orthography and the materials produced from my dissertation (in particular, the dictionary) alone may contribute toward language preservation. (Since I showed the first-ever Bih orthography to the community, Bih speakers are even more proud of their language and several Bih people have started to learn and speak their native language. . . . Hriu Hmok, the main consultant, has started to learn Bih together with me whenever she is available.) As I continue conversation with the Center of Ethnic Research- the materials and curriculum development office, the community in Buon Trap and local school, I will gauge what I may contribute to the community more specifically in terms of language preservation. If and when I am requested to formally begin a language preservation program (such as classes on the orthography, primers, etc.) I will be ready to meet those needs.

Another benefit of collaborating with community members is the assurance of differing perspectives on the same body of work. Since the current project started, I have trained two interested community members to use the technology employed by my project, including training with software programs such as *Toolbox* and *Transcriber*, and encouraged the community members to contribute their ideas and opinions to my project. Community members who show considerable interest and talent will be encouraged later to study linguistics and become scholars contributing independently to the scientific community.

My governmental employer, the University of Tay Nguyen, also benefits from this project. With the collaborating with the University, the project will encourage students at the Department of Linguistics who are interested in the Bih language to participate in documenting, for instance, helping with fieldwork recordings, transcribing and translation. Also, in collaboration with the Center of Social Science and Humanities, students from other departments such as anthropology, agriculture and forest can have a chance to access the project data at the Center for further researches.

By including Ede entries with the collaboration with the Center of Ethnic Research in Daklak, where I have developed a strong relationship since 1998, the proposed dictionary will encourage Vietnamese scholars in researching about the Bih people and its surrounding areas.

It is widely the case in Southeast Asia that the existence of reference materials, particularly a grammar and dictionary, makes a great difference in the status of a given language and in how the language is perceived by its speakers and its neighbors. From my experience working with ethnic people in Southern highland of Vietnam and conversations with speakers of Bih, it is clear that this is the case there as well. The Bih-speaking community is proud of their language and concerned with its impending loss and transition to Ede and Vietnamese. It is evident that the interest of an outsider in their language was viewed as a source of prestige, and a validation of the value of Bih as a distinct language, with a legitimate place in the world. Thus there is a very real sense in which this project can make an important contribution to the preservation of the language, over and above its “preservation” in the form of written documentation.

This project is the beginning of my long-term career with a larger goal to understand the history, culture and migration patterns of Chamic languages (and other endangered languages in Vietnam) and to conduct descriptive projects with high-quality grammars and dictionaries with accompanying texts and recordings. As my research progresses I will continue to share my knowledge through academic conferences, scholarly publications, public events and local outreach programs. As a professional researcher and a teacher at the University of Tay Nguyen, I will contribute my efforts to advance diversity. I will help my students understanding linguistics and language documentation. With speech communities, I will endeavor to help them fulfill their needs and goals in my visits. The collaborative framework will be the model I will follow for the rest of my career.

## *8. Schedule for the proposed project*

As the proposed Bih/Ede/English/Vietnamese dictionary is a component of my dissertation research: 'Documenting Bih, an Austronesian language of Vietnam', the following work plan falls within the framework described above which has been established to complete a large-scale documentation and grammar, in addition to the proposed dictionary.

With regard to the dictionary, there are three main periods. The first period consists of a fifteen months living in Buon Trap, Vietnam, where Bih is spoken natively. The second time period is devoted to the inclusion of Ede and Vietnamese entries in the dictionary. As this work will be done mainly by Ede and Vietnamese experts, it will begin the latter period of my stay in Vietnam and finish while I am in Eugene writing my dissertation. The final period will involve a return trip to Vietnam in order to review final Bih entries and their Ede and Vietnamese glosses with Bih consultants, the Ede and Vietnamese experts, and officials in Vietnam.

The first stage of fieldwork associated with this project has begun in October 2008 and will end in February 2010. The efforts during this time will be devoted to collection and analysis of data on site in Buon Trap, Vietnam, where Bih is spoken natively. I have arranged for a room and pay my meals in one of my consultants' house in the community. By living in the same house with a Bih family, I will be able to use Bih and communicate naturally in Bih as much as possible. In addition, during fifteen months in the Bih community, I can also attend a variety of social events and cultural activities. These will help me to collect and record rich and natural data, which are not only valuable in future for linguists but also for anthropologists and other researchers whose goals may be different from those of this project. I anticipate to collect a wide variety of natural discourse covering different genres and to record the actual sounds of the language from various people of different ages, genders and social classes such as cooking, cleaning, farming, harvesting, etc. This involvement will allow me not only to collect but also to compare socio-cultural contexts for the uses of terminology. By residing in the community for more than a full calendar year, I will also have the opportunity to document the full range of vocabulary associated with flora, fauna, farming and cultural activities of all seasons.

During this period, I plan to go to Buon Ma Thuot, the capital state of Daklak to meet my consultants who assist me in transcription and translation of texts. Regular trips to Buon Ma Thuot will also allow me to use the internet, bank and telephone. From Buon Ma Thuot, I will also mail hard copies of my findings to the University of Oregon and to the Hans Rausing Endangered Language Archive.

Though data collection for the dictionary has already commenced, the first stage of the time in Buon Trap will be devoted primarily to developing fluency and gaining enough knowledge of the language to communicate as well as offer a preliminary sketch of the grammar, including word classes. At that point, in the later of the year, I will be in a position to begin focusing my efforts toward the dictionary as I continue to document and describe other aspects of the language. In February 2010, I will conclude this portion of fieldwork.

In the first month of 2010, I anticipate having a preliminary draft of the Bih/Ede/English/Vietnamese portion of the dictionary completed and will then transfer the work to the Ede and Vietnamese experts to all the Ede and Vietnamese glosses. As internet

communication is not a problem in Vietnam, and we are working primarily with an electronic file for the dictionary, it should not be a problem for the Ede and Vietnamese experts to work from Vietnam while I am in Oregon. We anticipate they will finish the work by the end of summer 2010. The Toshiba laptop and Panasonic Lumix camera will remain with the Center of Ethnic Research and the project assistants while I am in Oregon. By doing so, the Ede and Vietnamese specialists can work in my absence and the assistants can photograph any dictionary items I was not able to photograph during my stay in Buon Trap.

Funds are also included for travel to the 20<sup>th</sup> Southeast Asian Languages Conference in Zurich, Switzerland, where I will present a paper on the lexicon of Bih, focusing on the changes from Proto-Cham to a modern Bih today. In Zurich, I will also have the opportunity of meet with experts in Southeast Asian languages, especially in Chamic languages, to discuss any questions or problems that may have arisen in my documentation work.

In Fall of 2010 I will return to Vietnam with a draft version of the entire dictionary in order to for the project's main Bih assistant, the Ede and Vietnamese experts to review the entries and check for mistakes and spelling errors before finalizing the dictionary.

The following outlines the proposed research and writing plan for the Co-PI's doctoral dissertation. Parentheses indicate activities for which NSF funding is not sought.

- |                               |  |
|-------------------------------|--|
| (October 2008- February 2010) | Live and research in Buon Trap, Vietnam. During this time, I will be working closely with Bih assistants and other community members to compile the Bih/English portion of the dictionary. |
| January- August 2010          | Once I complete the Bih/English portion of the dictionary, the Ede and Vietnamese specialists will work on Ede and Vietnamese entries.   |
| May 2010                      | Attend the 20 <sup>th</sup> International Conference on Southeast Asian Languages in Zurich and present a paper on Bih lexicon.  |
| September 2010                | Return to Vietnam to double check Bih, Ede and Vietnamese entries with assistants, Ede and Vietnamese specialists.   |
| (March 2010-June 2011)        | Complete write up of dissertation (grammar and dictionary), defend dissertation by June 2011.  |