

Ethnologic Project Among

Oklahoma Indians

U. S. Museum

K.G. Orr--April, 1945

1. Purpose of Project:

a. To study and record languages of Indians of Oklahoma and their cultural settings. Studies to contribute to science of Linguistics. Data to be deposited in Department of Anthropology, ^{U. S. Museum} University of Oklahoma, for use in research and teaching at this and other centers of learning.

b. Scientific study of Indian languages to emphasize following aspects of language under study:

(1) Speech communication:

- (a) Phonetics--speech sounds.
- (b) Lexicography--sound meanings (vocabulary).
- (c) Morphology--formal relation of word to word in sentences.
- (d) Syntax--relation of phrases and sentences to each other.
Manner of establishing order and relationship between large word units.

(2) Songs, music and dances.

(3) Myths, narrations etc.

(4) Ethnographic data--sufficient to fully understand meaning and context of language, and as much in addition as practicable within limitations imposed.

^{Museum}
c. Project data will be filed in a Linguistics Laboratory and depository, Department of Anthropology, for general service of science of Linguistics. The laboratory will make available, in form of publications and sound records, data secured from Oklahoma tribes in particular.

d. Records of Project to include: Sound records; movies, and still photographs, in addition to phonetic transcriptions, *field notes, etc.*

^{Importance}
2. ~~Value~~ of Linguistics Project:

a. Largest aggregate of Indians north of Mexico to be found in Oklahoma (over 120,000). Unusual opportunity for scientific study. Approximately 25 tribes representing 9 linguistic stocks within state borders:

| <u>Linguistic Stock</u> | <u>No. of Tribes</u> |
|-------------------------|----------------------|
| Algonquian | 7 |
| Siouan | 6 |
| Muskogean | 4 |
| Caddoan | 2 |
| Iroquoian | 1 |
| Athapascan | 2 |
| Kiowan | 1 |
| Sahaptian | 1 |

Total