

INDIAN LANGUAGES

Woman's voice: (You know, Vine said their language is a lot like ours, or ours is like theirs.)

Is that right?

Unidentified voice: Why is that?

Woman's voice: (I don't know but we can understand Ponca language.)

Is that right?

Woman's voice: (Yes, it is pretty close like ours. And the Kaws they speak almost like us, how do you plan to go about, you know, we're speaking of languages and I think I heard you mention preserving our language and we understand you are going to start teaching.)

Yeah, I am going to start teaching a course in American Indian Literature. To begin with it is going to be in translation, you know. Talk about some tales, poetry, songs, and several Indian languages but translated into English. But eventually I would like to find some people who come who know their own language, and you know, get it down on tape so we can analyze the structure of it, and preserve it that way. And if we can do that then we can branch off and teach literature in the original language. It would be a wonderful to do.

Unidentified voice: (They have a marvelous Phonetics lab at Berkeley that you could also use for getting tapes, you know similar to that. Isn't that true, Scott?)

Of course, they have classes at University where they teach Kiowa. And I could tell--this--there is a large Organization they call (not clear) and they have learned the Ponca language and they sing and they put on their own dance. They have made their costumes, just fabulous costumes. And they did a lot of research on it and they were just fabulous. And