

To: Unicode Technical Committee
From: Deborah Anderson
Date: 3 June 2004
RE: Message in support of SENCOTEN proposal

-----Original Message-----

From: Ewa Czaykowska-Higgins [mailto:eczh@uvic.ca]
Sent: Thursday, June 03, 2004 9:49 AM
To: Deborah W. Anderson
Cc: Tom Hukari
Subject: Re: Question on Sencoten research

Dear Ms. Anderson:

Here are answers to your questions.

> a. Is the Sencoten orthography is now stable?

>

The SENCOTEN orthography is the accepted and standard orthography in use by the Saanich community. Other related dialects use IPA based fonts, but the SENCOTEN orthography has been used for many years, and has been taught in the local tribal school to thousands of students. The orthography is being used in public documents like transit schedules, and street signs. I would say that it is definitely a stable orthography.

> b. Are there alternative ways to write Saanich that are being used?

As I said, other related dialects use IPA based fonts, but no one in the Saanich community uses those IPA based fonts, and I think it would be very difficult and completely disrespectful to suggest to the Saanich that they use a different font.

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> c. Also, in the hypertext document "An Outline of the Morphology and
> Phonology of Saanich, North Straits Salish" by Timothy Montler (1986),
> it says only 20 people speak Saanich. Is this still true?

It is true that there are very few elders who speak Saanich fluently. However, there is a very strong language program in the local school, and the Saanich Native Heritage Society has partnered with UVic in working on an extensive language revitalization project which will involve producing all kinds of documents in the SENCOTEN orthography. It would be an extremely important step for the community and for the language revitalization effort which is gathering steam very fast, if Unicode could include the necessary SENCOTEN symbols.

I hope my answers are of use to you. I will not be available after

tomorrow, but should you have any additional questions, please contact
Dr. Tom Hukari (hukari@uvic.ca).

Ewa Czaykowska

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