

From metadata
modeling of
digital archives to
tribal language
preservation and
revitalization

Describing Oral Tradition of Sea Gypsies in Thailand

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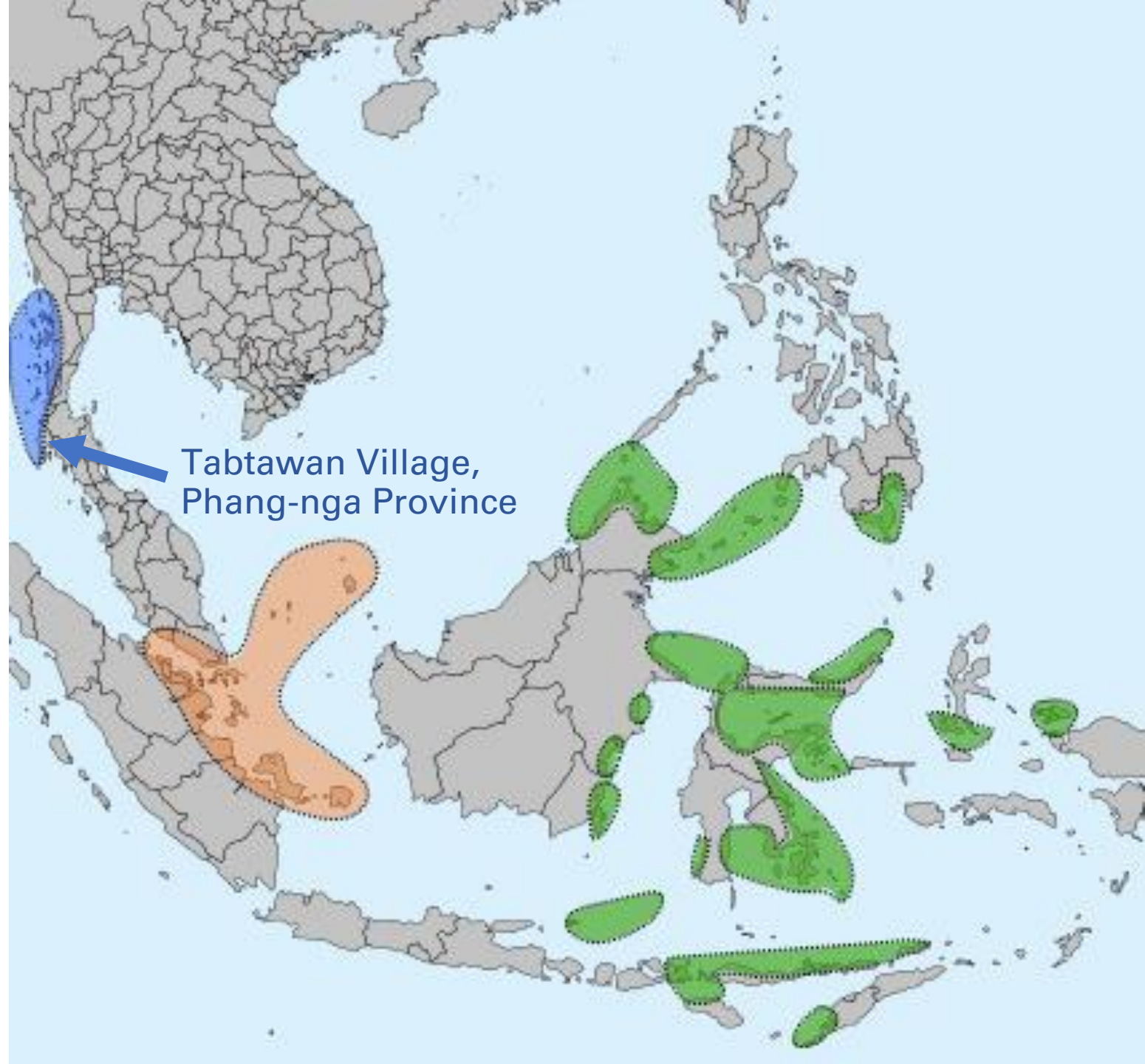
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The Sea Gypsies

Moken

Moklen

Urak Lawoi



Moklen Cultural Heritage

Housing

Way of life

Spiritual Belief & Folklore

Language (Spoken language)



Moklen as an Endangered Language

- ~6,000 speakers (UNESCO)
- Spoken language
- Only seniors speak the languages
- New generation uses official languages
- Teaching Moklen in schools

Preservation & Revitalization of Endangered Cultural Heritage

Documentation

- Longevity depends on medium

Immersion

- Integration with formal education system
- Substantial supports from established social organizations and a large group of active community

Diffusion

- Use or consume outside the originating community, particularly in the domains occupied by majority language (e.g., government officers, schools)

A group of people, including adults and children, are sitting on a wooden floor in a cluttered room. They appear to be engaged in a discussion or interview. The room is filled with various items, including boxes, bags, and household objects. The lighting is dim, and the overall atmosphere is candid and informal.

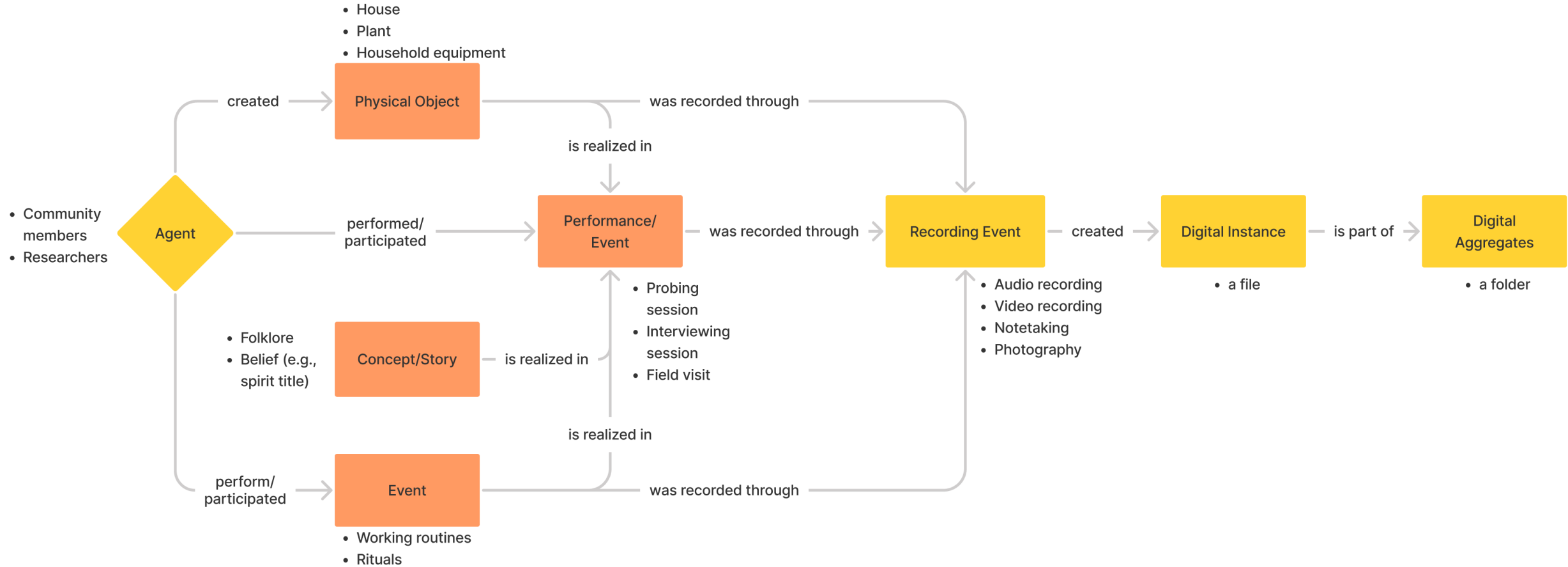
Ethnographic Approach

- Shadowing and home visits
- In-depth interview & Observation
- Language probing
 - Human parts
 - Daily activities
 - Animals
 - Plants
 - Household equipment
 - Work and business
 - Folklore and story
- Daily briefs and debriefs

Digital Collection in Moklen Study

Item/Contributor	Community Members	Media	Researchers
Digital images	X	X	X
Digital videos		X	X
Audio recordings	X		X
Fieldnotes			X

Conceptual Model



A photograph of a man in a black cap and orange life vest sitting on a boat, holding a large crab. Another man in a blue shirt stands in the background on the boat. The boat is on a body of water with a forested shore in the distance. The text 'Language as a medium of oral tradition' is overlaid on the left side of the image.

Language as a medium of oral tradition

Dictionary-based Data Model for language preservation

- Dictionary writing system (DWS) or dictionary production/publishing system
- TEI Lex-0

- Syntactic representation
- Semantic representation

- Entries
- Forms
- Senses
- Translations
- Cross-reference

Moklen- Thai- English Dictionary

Features

- **Moklen in lemma**
- Definitions
 - Thai morphemes (if any)
 - English morphemes (if any)
- Example usages
- Audio
- Images

Thai-based Orthographic Design

Elements

- Consonants
- Vowels
- Tonal marks
- Word embodiment
- Sentence structure

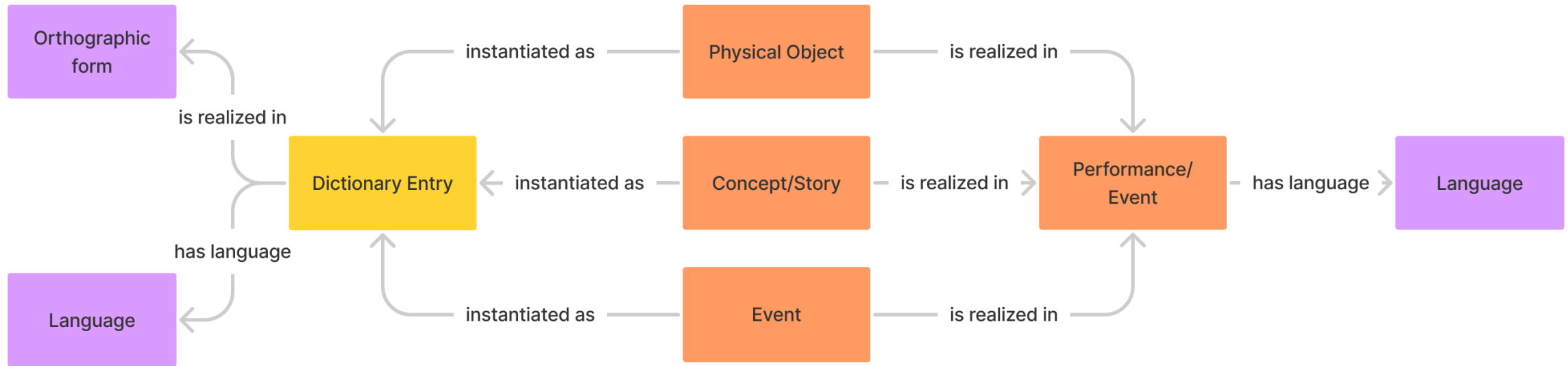
Vowels diacritics

	า	ิ	ี	ุ	ู	เ	โ	๋
a	ā	i	ī	u	ū	e	o	m̐
[e]	[a:]	[i]	[i:]	[u]	[u:]	[e]	[o]	[ŋ]

Consonants

ก	ข	ค	ฃ	ง	จ	ฉ	ช	ฅ
ka	kha	ga	gha	ṇa	ca	cha	ja	jha
[ke]	[k ^h e]	[ge]	[g ^h e]	[ŋe]	[tʃe]	[tʃ ^h e]	[dʒe]	[dʒ ^h e]
ญ	ฎ	ฐ	ฑ	ฒ	ณ	ต	ถ	ท
ṇa	ṭa	ṭha	ḍa	ḍha	ṇa	ta	tha	da
[ṇe]	[ṭe]	[ṭ ^h e]	[ḍe]	[ḍ ^h e]	[ṇe]	[te]	[t ^h e]	[de]
ธ	น	ป	ผ	พ	ภ	ม	ย	ร
dha	na	pa	pha	ba	bha	ma	ya	ra
[d ^h e]	[ne]	[pe]	[p ^h e]	[be]	[b ^h e]	[me]	[je]	[re]
ล	ว	ส	ห	ฬ	ฬห			
la	va	sa	ha	ḷa	ḷha			
[le]	[ve]	[se]	[he]	[ḷe]	[ḷ ^h e]			

Conceptual Model





Language Preservation

“Languages can only exist where there is a community to speak and transmit them. A community of people can exist only where there is a viable environment for them to live in and a means of making a living. Where communities cannot thrive, their languages are in danger.”

(Romain, 2007)