

# Language as Work: The Zia view of Language

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# Questions on the Zia view of Language

- **How do the Zia see and talk about language?**
- **Do they see it as a system with its own units?**
- **Is it abstract? Is it practical?**
- **How do they value language?**
- **If they value it? Where does it come from?**
- **These are but a few questions that fascinate me and make me want to explore more**

# The General Zia Cosmic View

- Integrated/interwoven and a cyclic world view
- Value/meaning is derived from part and whole  
(Nekitel 1985, Kamene 1995)
- Relational value is considered significant
  - similarities & differences are only at surface but at deep level all converge to form a core perceptual/cognitive principle to hold a balance
- Divergence → Convergence → Accommodation

Could this explain how diversity and unity co-exist, cohabit the same perceptual and cognitive space?

# The Zia view of language as Work

- See Language as work not grammar, units of grammar thereby giving the social aspect of language more prominence
- Because there is effort required to learn and use language (Hudson 1980)
- Social aspect of language is valued because it brings home the notion of work much closer to local realities and making it a lot more sense to sustain life and livelihood of local commune and its people

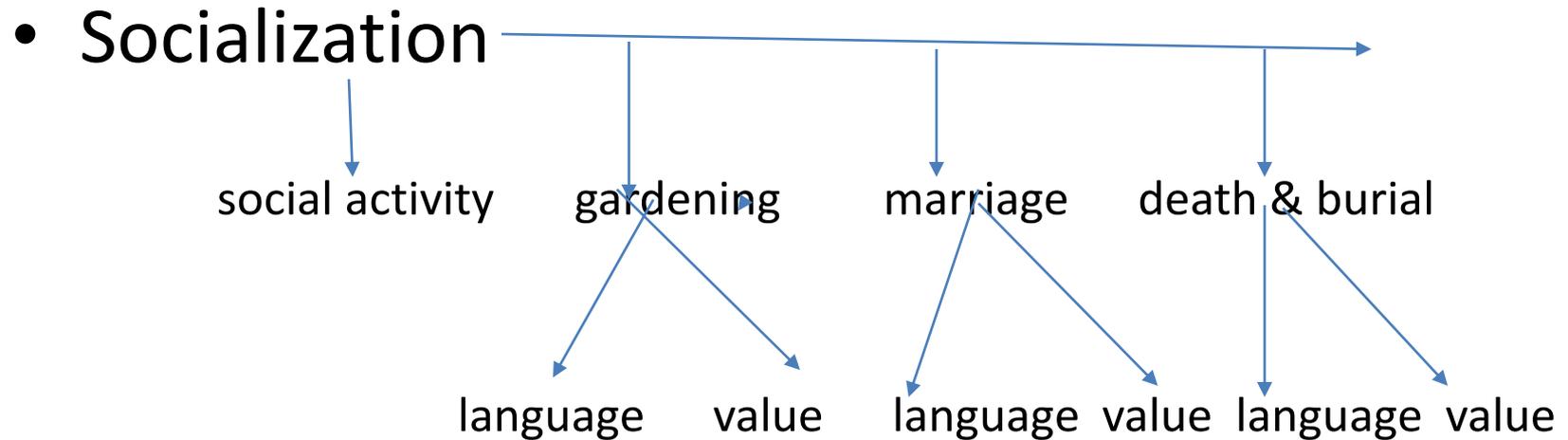
# Language as Work: Zia Expressions

- Many Zia expressions attest to this idea of work:
  - - Ge buronea – language is work
    - Ge didinea – language is work towards reaching an agreement
    - Ge besinea – language is work to release someone from bondage
- As outsiders must show great interest and must understand how they do it so they can be better positioned to assist them without much interference
- All expressions point to the core value – work
- Work is the most important communal value
- Work defines, elevates and promotes socio-political status or position in the community
- Seeing language as work, people appreciate, value and sustain it
- Sustainability is not new

# The Zia Social Structure and Socialization

- Structure implies a unilineal decent group
- This further suggests there already exist some common & vital community principles
- And they are rooted in the social structure
- These principles operate as a centripetal force bringing order to the community and its members
- This is accessed/realized through socialization process. This how it might happen:

# Access of Values through a Socialization Process



Of all these there are underlying principles. Principles of share and care, matrimonial union, spirituality and re-incarnation remain the forces behind shaping and molding perceptual and cognitive sphere of life.

In a nutshell variation can only be variation if there already exists a base or underlying principle.