CREDITS

Dr. Barbara Lust’s Virtual Language Laboratory (VLL), its *Data Transcription and Analysis Tool (DTA, WebDTA)* and the proprietary methodology that supports these were developed over 30 years of personal effort and student and peer contribution. Professor María Blume brought this tool to fruition. Credits are difficult to define because there is always a danger that someone is accidentally left out. However, we will highlight a few key people of the many.

Tina Ogden of the Ogden Consulting Group has provided critical direction to the development of the VLL and *DTA*.

Product Development, Software Development, Documentation, Technical Support, Quality Assurance, and Network Support have been contributed by many students in the CLAL over the years.

**The History of Software Development**

The *DTA* tool developed from earlier models of data transcription and analysis efforts that were based on early software that enabled a user to “program” categories and boxes, some word processing software, Lotus and Excel, and Database III. Several rudimentary versions of the *DTA* were sketched out and crafted in old software. However, when user friendly relational databases became common place, research and student users were able to define a new approach. A more powerful version of the *DTA* using FoxPro as the engine was developed.

The *DTA* tool was developed as an outcome of research efforts of many persons over more than 20 years. The primary methodology for converting cross-linguistic data toward consistency across languages and subjects for comparisons was by Dr. Barbara Lust, working with her graduate students over time. Many graduate students contributed to this effort by a gradual evolution that would enrich the data collected and the system for analysis.

Katharina Boser was critical in the development of links between the conceptual database structure and emerging technology, as were Reiko Mazuka, and Julie Eisele earlier. 'Database 3' provided a technical tool in early stages of development of the *DTA* tool. Paul Navarre critically introduced the concepts of a relational database, and taught an influential seminar in 1995 on the concepts of relational databases and on FoxPro in particular for then current graduate students, including David Parkinson and Shamitha Somashekar, as well as Lynn Santelmann. An undergraduate, Stephanie Berk, also attended. David Parkinson critically contributed to the development of the current *DTA* tool, using a FoxPro engine. Professional consultants Betsy Keokosky and David DeHaan provided technical assistance on the development of the FoxPro engine. Shamitha Somashekar, followed by María Blume contributed both to the development of the conceptual structure of the DTA tool, as well as to the users' manual. Professor Blume has worked with programmers at Gorges (Ithaca, New York) to redesign the DTA tool in way which both increases its conceptual accessibility for users and its stability in engineering.

Cliff Crawford provoked the CLAL's development of a web-based interface for the *DTA* tool and has held major responsibility for programming of the first web-based interface, using PostgreSQL. Development of the *DTA* tool was later conducted by Cornell University Center for Advanced Computing (Michael Padula, programmer) with María Blume and Barbara Lust. The current version of the *DTA* tool, unifying the previously independent cybertool *Experiment Bank* with the *DTA* was developed by Ted Caldwell and Greg Kops at Gorges, Web Development and Internet Solutions (<http://www.gorges.us/>) with María Blume and Barbara Lust, and input from students of the Cornell Language Acquisition Lab (Natalia Buitrago, Gabriel Clandorf, Poornima Guna, Jennie Lin, and Jordan Whitlock). Susan Mehringer (Cornell University Center for Advanced Computing) is assisting in the development of the Virtual Workshop introducing this cybertool. Cliff Crawford, Tina Ogden and Shamitha Somashekar remain as consultants (2011).