

Report on the activities of the Loglan Institute, 2019

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Loi, hoi Raban! (Hi, everyone!)

This is an annual report on the activities of TLI. I haven't done one recently, and there **is** a state of the language to report, though things are not very active.

1 An inventory of our intellectual assets and activities

The small conversation group in Second Life continues to meet most weeks, meaning someone is trying to say things in the language (and also things are being said about it in English). A daunting project which no one has seriously undertaken would be to edit the vast transcripts of the SL sessions since 2008, extracting such things as new words and interesting snippets of Loglan conversation.

I have been working on the parser, but I would say at this point that I am basically finished, mod the question of the status of one large innovation which I will discuss below. The last major adaptation of the parser was the separation of the phonology from the grammar. The latest version does a complete pass checking for resolution into phonetically possible Loglan “words” then does a grammar pass which is mostly independent of phonetic considerations. This separation of levels appears to avoid certain kinds of subtle bugs.

An important feature of the parser which I would like to remind you all of is that it does admit strictly phonetic parsing: it understands Loglan text

written without breaks except for comma-marked pauses where an actual audible pause is taken to occur. I call this mode “phonetic transcript”; it removes the need for the rather eccentric pronunciation guides used by JCB in our original sources.

I want to call attention to the fact that you can use the parser online in your browser:

https://math.boisestate.edu/~holmes/loglan.org/holmes_stuff/parserpage.html

is the URL. Thanks to `trinket.io` for making this possible!

Thanks to James Jennings for continuing to manage the `www.loglan.org` website (which I have mostly mirrored on my computer at Boise State). This site and the mirror conserve our historical intellectual assets, Notebook 3, Loglan 1, the dictionaries and other Loglan publications. It can be noted that a while back I worked on a revised version of Loglan 1 embodying my proposals to fix various points in the language: this can be seen at http://math.boisestate.edu/~holmes/loglan.org/holmes_stuff/Loglan%201%20editing%20project/Loglan1/index.html for those who are interested. I believe it is mostly finished, but I should revisit it!

My personal Loglan page is at

https://math.boisestate.edu/~holmes/loglan.org/holmes_stuff/cefli.html, a good place to look for current developments.

Also, thanks to Valerie Poluchar for continuing to harbor the loglanists list!

The dictionaries, like the parser, are under continuing revision. My latest versions are at http://math.boisestate.edu/~holmes/loglan.org/holmes_stuff/Peter%20Hill%20dictionary%20project/E-to-L-RDC.html and http://math.boisestate.edu/~holmes/loglan.org/holmes_stuff/Peter%20Hill%20dictionary%20project/L-to-E--RDC.html. These are made easier to update by Peter Hill’s dedicated software for building HTML Loglan dictionaries. The latest exciting development is that there is a new effort to upgrade the dictionaries and put them in a standard format, led by a Loglanist with the email handle `Torra Nuva` (with advice from Peter Hill, I believe). He has been hunting down lots of minor defects in the dictionary entries.

I have been working for several years on a reference grammar, still admittedly untidy, reflecting the views I take in the implementation of my parser. This can be viewed here: https://math.boisestate.edu/~holmes/loglan.org/holmes_stuff/reference_grammar_proposed.pdf Like the parser (which it tracks), this is largely finished for the moment.

Another asset we have is Alex Leith’s novella *A Visit to Loglandia*, which I have revised to the extent that I can parse the whole thing (in a couple of

hours). This can be seen on my Loglan page.

Thanks to the Swedish poet Laura for letting me post my translations of some of her poems. English poetry presents lots of interesting challenges for the Loglan translator! (These can be found on my page).

When I list all of our assets, it looks rather respectable! And I am partially satisfied to serve as the curator of a largely dormant intellectual project. This is not to say that I would not enjoy it if it were to be revived by new interest into a more active language community.