Chuukese Storytelling

Telling, Preserving, and Promoting Traditional Narrative through Web Technology

Aucheani Kapasen Fonuwach

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Honorific Greeting

Tirow nááng,
I bow to heaven,

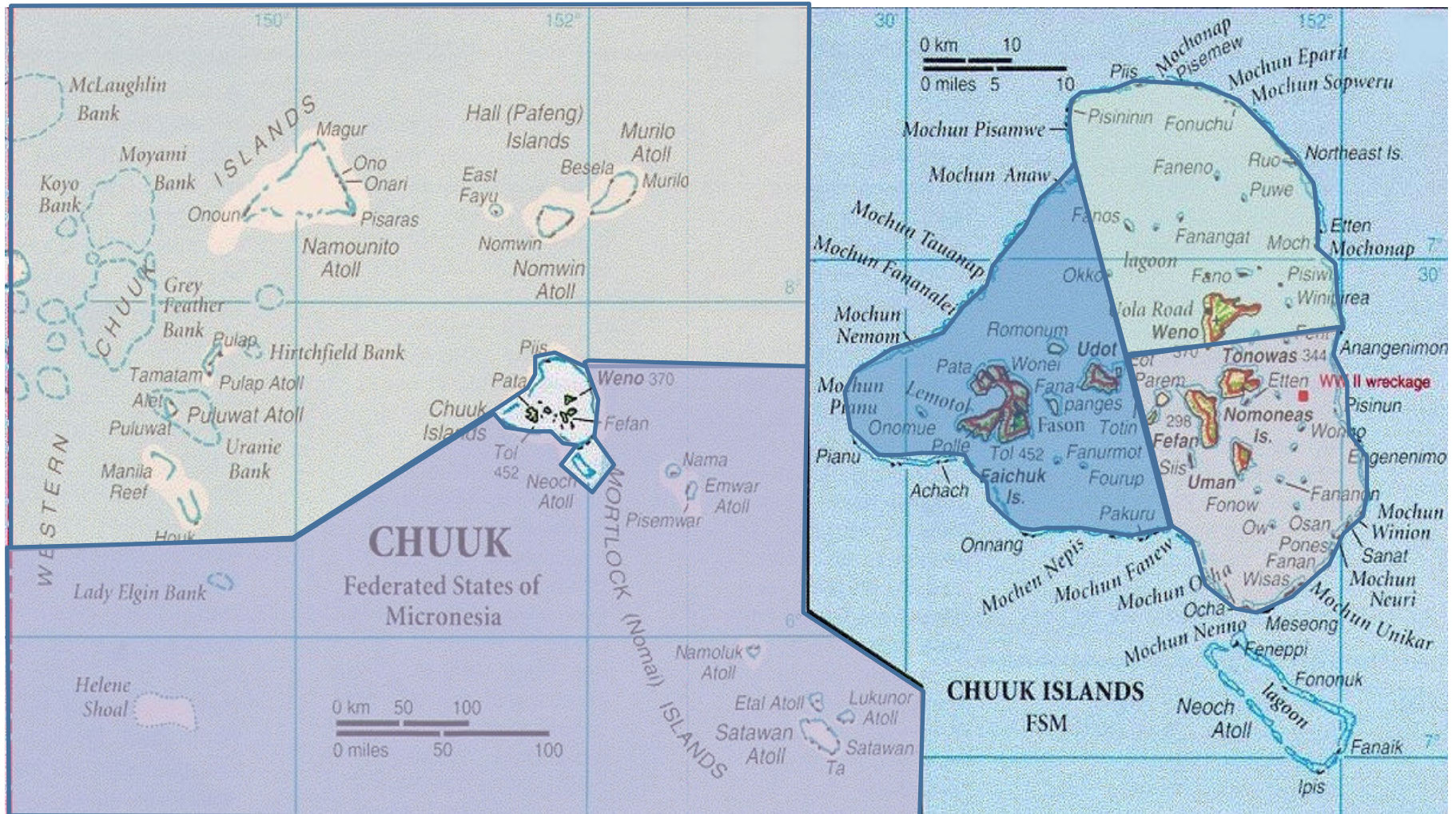**Tirow pwún,**
I bow to the land,

Tirow mataw,
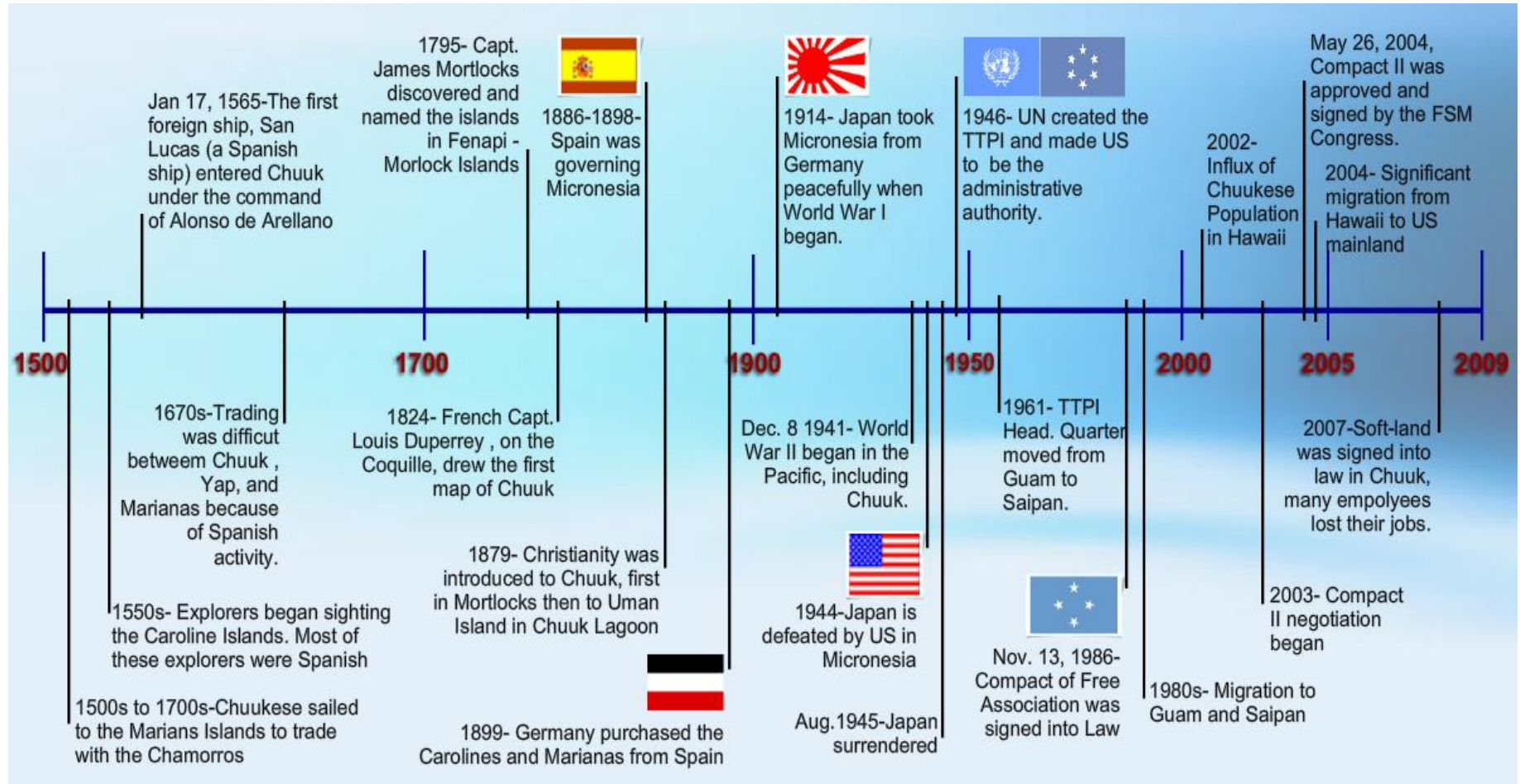I bow to the sea,

Tirow womi meinisin.
I bow to all of you.

Overview of Chuuk

Overview of Chuuk

Population	53,595

Political Status	Compact of Free Association with the United States
	- State Government
	- Municipal Government
	- Traditional Chiefs System
	     - *Samon*
	     - *Soupun*

Language	Chuukese, English
Economy	Compact Funds Foreign Aids Grants Fishing Licensing Remittance

Historical Background

1795- Capt. James Mortlocks discovered and named the islands in Fenapi - Morlock Islands

Jan 17, 1565-The first foreign ship, San Lucas (a Spanish ship) entered Chuuk under the command of Alonso de Arellano

1886-1898- Spain was governing Micronesia

1914- Japan took Micronesia from Germany peacefully when World War I began.

1946- UN created the TTPI and made US to be the administrative authority.

2002- Influx of Chuukese Population in Hawaii

May 26, 2004, Compact II was approved and signed by the FSM Congress.

2004- Significant migration from Hawaii to US mainland

1500   **1700**   **1900**   **1950**   **2000**   **2005**   **2009**

1670s-Trading was difficut betweem Chuuk , Yap, and Marianas because of Spanish activity.

1824- French Capt. Louis Duperrey , on the Coquille, drew the first map of Chuuk

Dec. 8 1941- World War II began in the Pacific, including Chuuk.

1961- TTPI Head. Quarter moved from Guam to Saipan.

2007-Soft-land was signed into law in Chuuk, many empolyees lost their jobs.

1550s- Explorers began sighting the Caroline Islands. Most of these explorers were Spanish

1879- Christianity was introduced to Chuuk, first in Mortlocks then to Uman Island in Chuuk Lagoon

1944-Japan is defeated by US in Micronesia

Nov. 13, 1986- Compact of Free Association was signed into Law

2003- Compact II negotiation began

1500s to 1700s-Chuukese sailed to the Marians Islands to trade with the Chamorros

1899- Germany purchased the Carolines and Marianas from Spain

Aug.1945-Japan surrendered

1980s- Migration to Guam and Saipan

Historical Overview

Pre-Contact: *(Muun Rochopwak)*
- Each clan/island has its own history
- Recorded in stories, chants, songs, dances, and arts

Post-Contact: *(Muun Saram)*
- Spaniards- (1886-1898)
- German- (1899- 914)
- Japanese- (1914-1944)
- Americans- (1945-2014)
  - Naval Administration- 1945-1946
  - Trust Territory of the Pacific Islands- (1946-1986)
  - Compact of Free Association I- (1986-2003)
  - Compact of Free Association II- (2003-2014)

Cultural Overview

- **Polytheism**
  - Ennun Naang- gods of the heaven
  - Ennunu Pwun- gods of the land
  - Ennuset- gods of the sea
- **Matrilineal Society**
  - Einang – the mother's clan
  - Efekkur – the father's clan
- **Titles and properties**
  - Traditional titles are handed down to sons
  - Properties are given to the daughters (sons are the stewards of the land)
- **Oral Tradition**
  - History
  - Skills/Knowledge/Wisdom
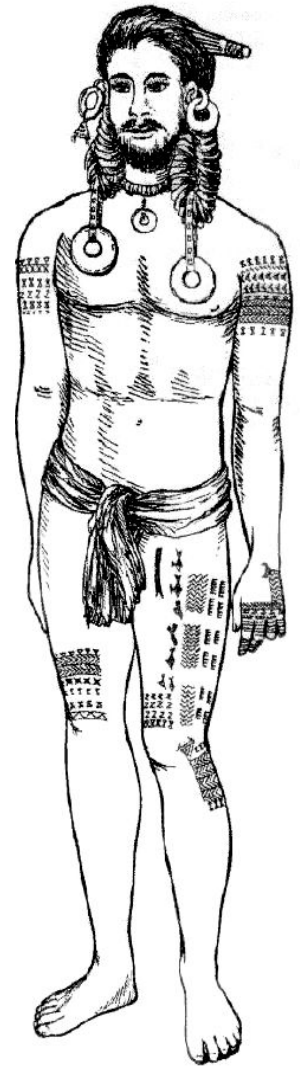
Oral Tradition

Kaapas mei manaw, kapas mei oochoch.

In language there is life, in language there is death.

Puung, Puung, Puung, Puungun Fonu.
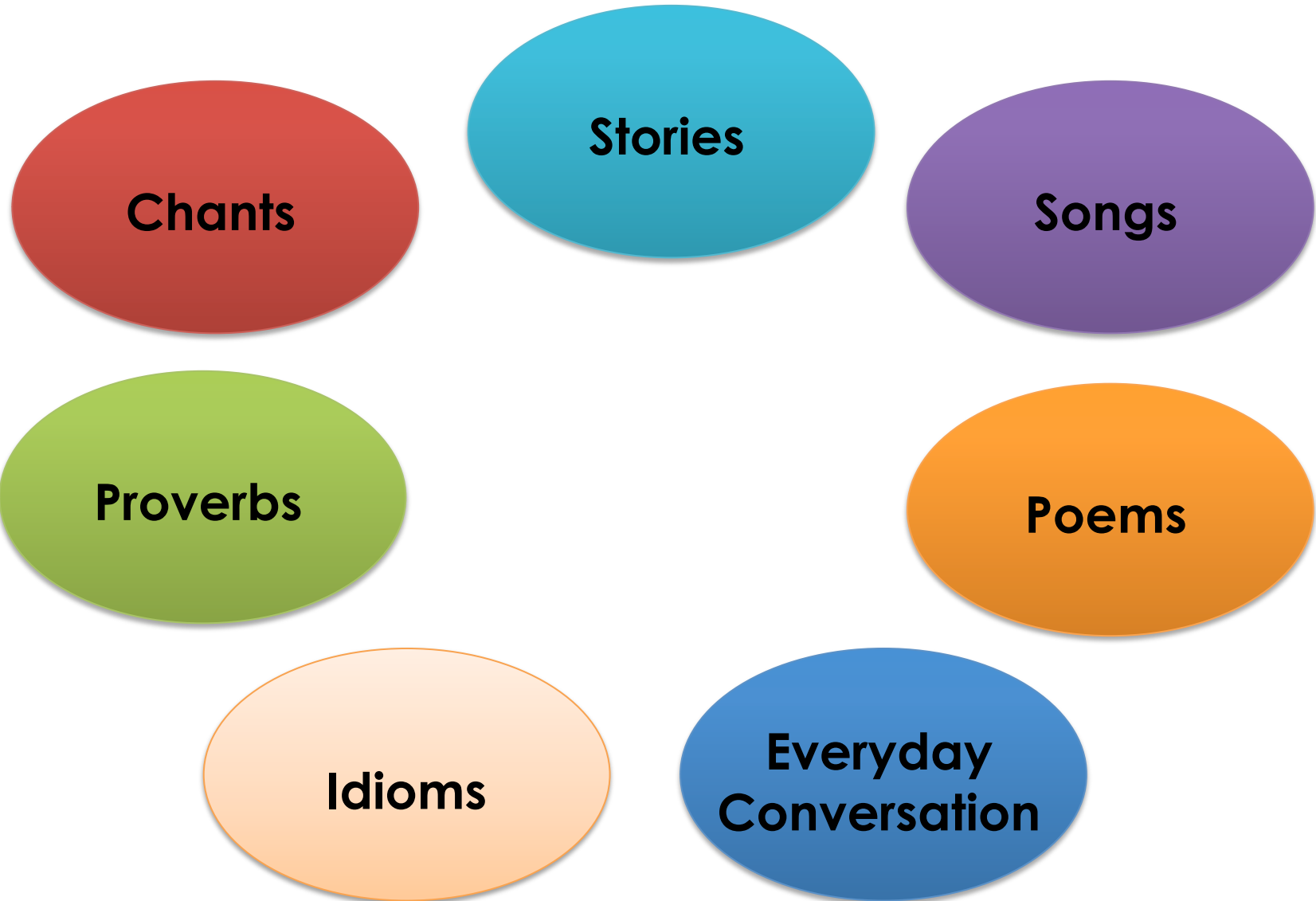**Raaw, Raaw, Raaw, Raawen Fonu.**
Kapas!

Deciding, deciding, deciding, deciding the land.
Stratifying, stratifying, stratifying, stratifying the land.
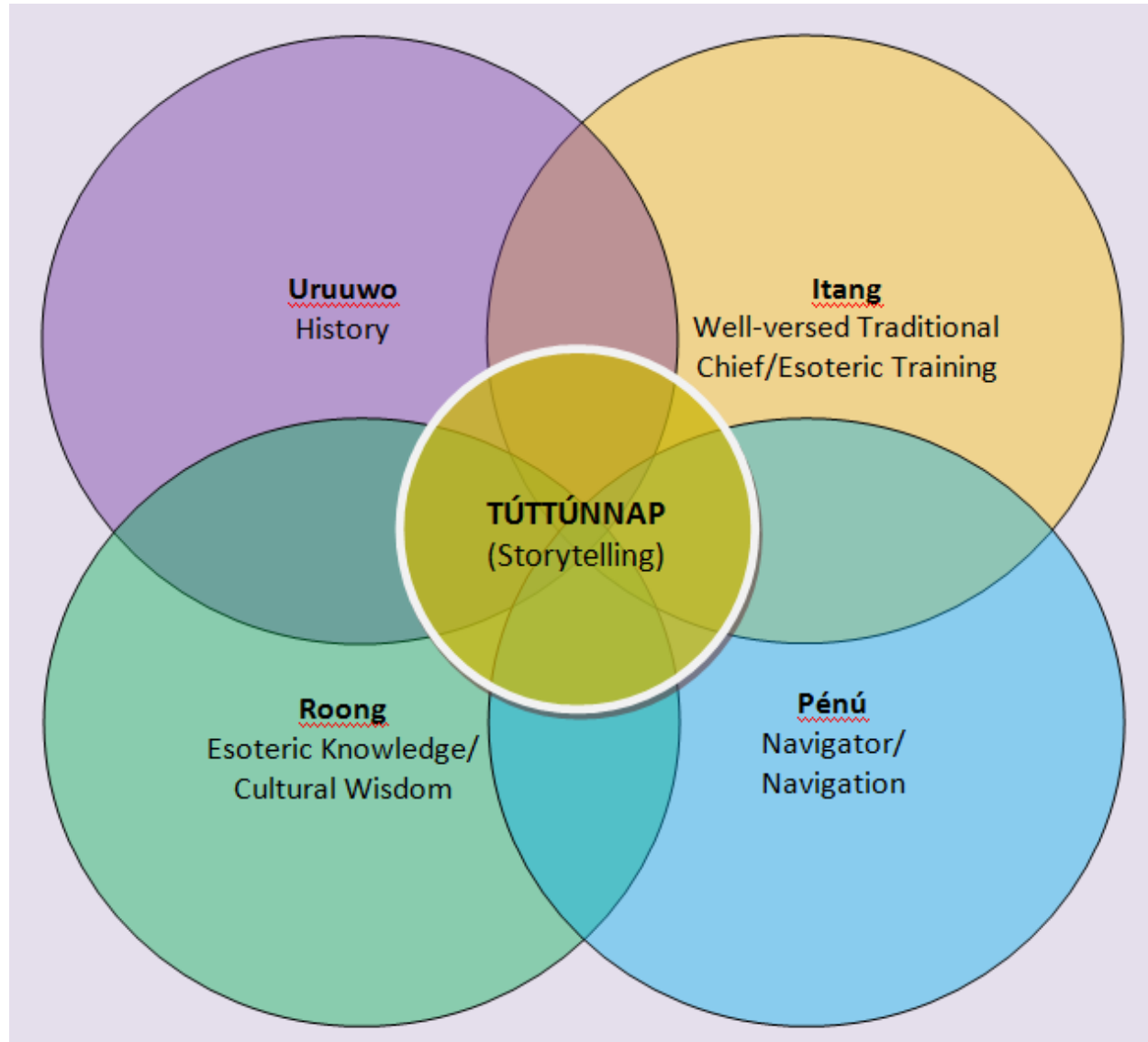Language!

Existing Problems
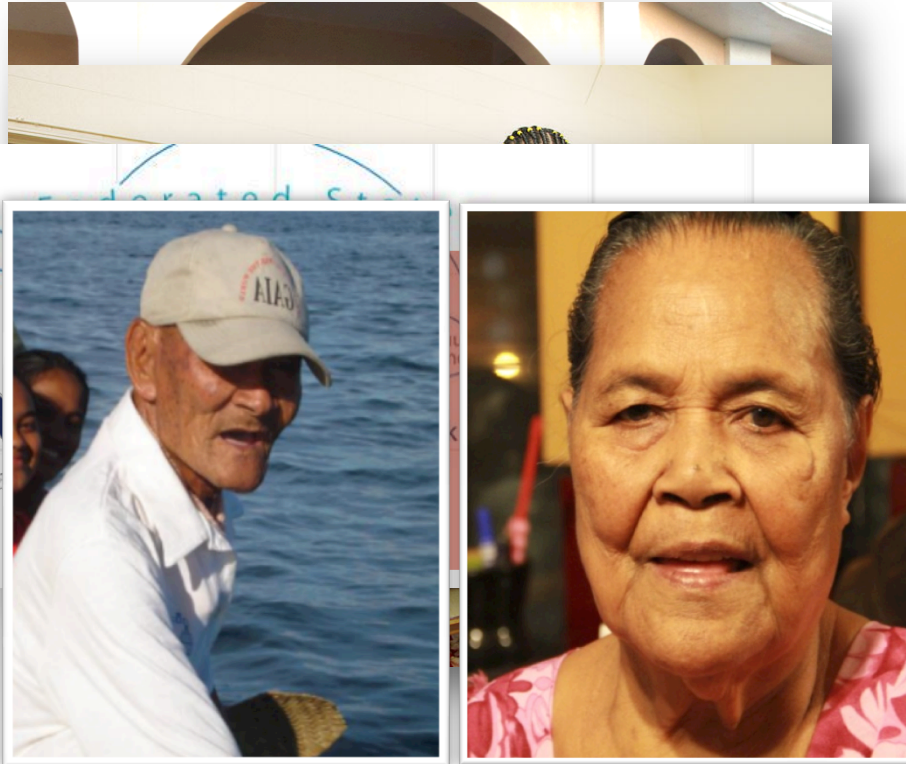
- **Social Changes**
  - Ways of Living
  - Cultural Values
  - Traditional Practices
  - Education

- **Curriculum/Instruction**
  - Adopted Curriculum
  - Foreign Instructional Materials

- **Increase Migration**
  - Within FSM
  - Guam, CNMI, Hawaii, and other states in the US

- **Passing of our elders**

Existing Problems

- Stories
- Chants
- Songs
- Proverbs
- Poems
- Idioms
- Everyday Conversation

Culture and Storytelling

Importance of Storytelling

Uruwo
(Records or Document Historical Events)

Kapas Mwenunur
(Addressing Issues and Taboos)

Tuuttunnap
Storytelling

Isofoos me Isorong
(Preserving Knowledge and Wisdoms)

Emwenin me Affaten Ekkiek
(Conveying Experience and Ideas)

Kaait ika Assukun
(Teaching and Learning)

Importance of Storytelling

- **Koki (1998)**
  - "Stories help tribe members to make sense of their collective experiences, such as illness, death, and conflict, as well as interrelationships, including courtship, marriage, childbirth, and stewardship of nature" (p. 3).
- **Harris (2007)**
  - "We are all stories. Stories make us who we are. Stories inform us of our past, support our present, and shape our future" (p.111).
- **MacLean & Wason-Ellam (2006)**
  - "Stories hold a key to the traditions, the rituals, and the social ways of Indigenous passed on messages about loyalty, respect, reasonability, honesty, humility, trust, and sharing all those qualities that helped them within the relationships in their daily lives. Storytelling was much more than a pastime" (p. 9).

Study Purpose

The purpose of this design based research study was
(1) to investigate whether a design-based website is viable in documenting, preserving and sharing Chuukese stories and
(2) to examine what user preferences of web technology would influence a participatory approach among Chuukese to continue telling and protecting their stories. The site will provide a resource for informal learning as well as a potential resource for formal classrooms.

Research Questions:

Q1: How does the use of technology influence Chuukese to document, share and preserve their stories?

Q2: What are some attitudes that Chuukese have toward the use of technology as a means to document, preserve, and share their stories?

Q3: What are some important values that should be considered when designing a traditional narrative site?

Research Design and Methodology

Design and Method:
- Design Based Research
- All contents in Chuukese

Setting:
- Virtual and F2F

Study Participants:
- 18 & older
- Fluent Chuukese speaker
  - **3** Design Experts(DE),
  - **30**Sample Population (SP)
  - **5** Interview Participants (IP)
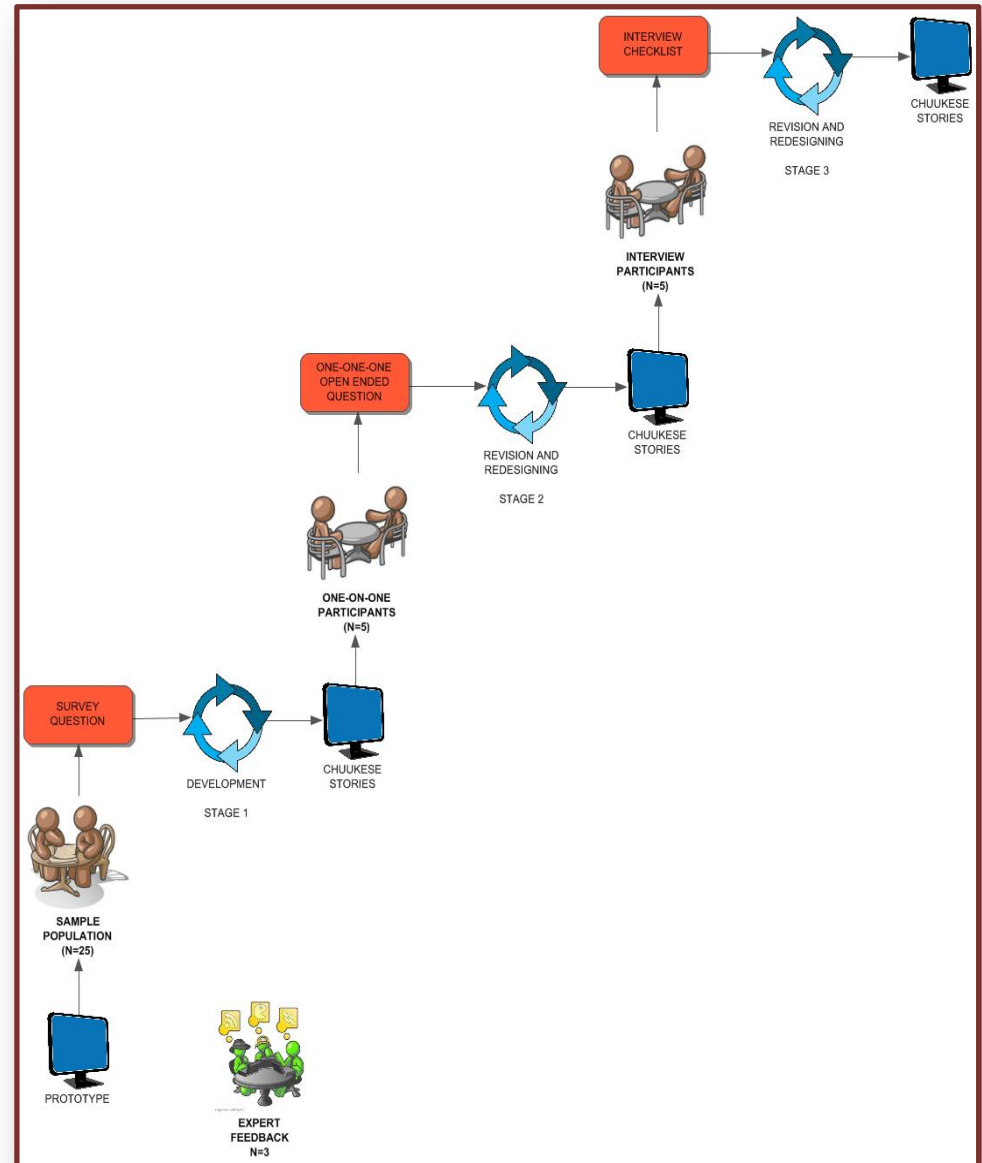
Instruments:
- DE- Questionnaires
- SP- Survey Questionnaires
- IP- Interview Questionnaires

Data Collection:
- Surveys (SP), Interviews (IP), Checklist (IP).
- *Memo and observations*

Data Analysis:
- Ranking and Scoring
- 3 Coding Cycle
- At Lasti and MS Excel 2010

Previous Projects

- **Chuukese Idioms**
  - UH Manoa, Linguistic Department
- **Translating the Human**
  - International Conference
- **Chuukese Love Songs**
  - UH Manoa, Center of the Pacific Islands Studies (CPIS)

- **Tuuttunnapen Chuuk**
  - Depart of Educational Technology (ETEC)
  - **Revisions to the site**

Kinisow Chapur