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THE SOCIETY FOR THE STUDY OF THE INDIGENOUS LANGUAGES OF THE AMERICAS

*** SSILA BULLETIN ***

An Information Service for SSILA Members

Number 10: November 11, 1994

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10.1 COPRESPONDENCE

From Alex King (aking@virginia.edu) 28 Oct 1994:

I am a graduate student in anthropology and linguistics, and I am starting work on learning Koryak, a language (or maybe group of closely related languages) in the Russian far East. I am trying to meet other people who are interested in Koryak or Chukchee, another closely related language to the north. If you are interested in the native language and culture of the Russian east arctic, please write or e-mail me.

Alex King
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From Fran Karttunen (liar457@utxvms.cc.utexas.edu) 5 Nov 1994:

I have compiled a bibliography of studies of the effects of contact on indigenous languages of Spanish (and hypothetically of Portuguese) in Latin America. The bibliography is rather rich in studies of contact in Mesoamerica and the Andes. I have found absolutely nothing in print about the effects of Portuguese on any indigenous language. Also I have come up empty-handed for contact studies dealing with the languages of Amazonia. If anyone knows of anything I have missed, I would be deeply grateful for references.

On another topic: There's a free review copy of my recent book, *Between Worlds: Interpreters, Guides, and Survivors* (Rutgers Univ. Press 1994) available from the book review editor (Daniel Seely) of LINGUIST. It's getting rather frustrating. It took me a while to get Rutgers to send a copy to LINGUIST. When they finally did, it languished over the summer and into the fall because nobody was taking care of book reviews. It was finally advertised it as available, under "History of Linguistics," but it's been nearly two months now and nobody has asked for it. Surely someone would like a free book! I would certainly like to see a discussion of it on LINGUIST. Anyone who would like to start the discussion should contact Seely at (eng_seely@emunix.emich.edu). [For a summary of the contents of *Between Worlds* (a fascinating book) see "Recent Publications" in the April 1994 SSILA NEWSLETTER. --V.G.]

Frances Karttunen
Linguistics Research Center
University of Texas at Austin
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10.2 "LANGUAGE IN THE ANDES"

From Peter Cole (pcole@strauss.udel.edu):

The Latin American Studies Program and the Department of Linguistics of the University of Delaware are pleased to announce the appearance of *Language in the Andes*, edited by Peter Cole, Gabriella Hermon and Mario Daniel Martin. The papers in the volume are selected from those presented at a conference entitled "International Conference on Language, Language Policy and Education in the Andes" which was held Oct. 28-30, 1991. The papers included are were written by many of the leading Andean linguists. It includes papers on sociolinguistics (Pedro P. Plaza, Utta von Gleish & Wolfgang Wolck, Anna Maria Escobar, Diana Weber); on syntax (Willelmo Adelaar, Sabine Dedenbach-Salazar Saenz & Juan de Dios Yapita Moya, Rick Floyd, Pieter Muysken, Nicholas Ostler, Simon van de Kerke, David Weber); on phonology (Raul Aranovich, Rodolfo Cerron-Palomino, Peter Landerman); and on language teaching (Roger Andersen, Jaime Luis Daza & Richard Robison).

The volume is No.4 in the occasional monographs series of the Latin American Studies Program of the University of Delaware. The Program has priced the 400 pp. book at only US \$12 for individuals (\$20 for libraries

and other institutions) in order to make the book accessible. Prices include shipping and handling. To order, send the Program a check in U.S. dollars drawn on a U.S. bank made out to the University of Delaware. The address is: Latin American Studies Program, c/o Dept. of Anthropology, Ewing Hall, Univ. of Delaware, Newark, DE 19716. Note that these books are not automatically purchased by university libraries. We request that you recommend the book to your library. Proceeds from sales will be used to publish additional books in the future.

10.3 T-SHIRT FOR AMERICANISTS

The graduate students in the Linguistics Department at the University of Kansas finance the Kansas Working Papers in Linguistics partially through selling books and T-shirts. They are especially concerned with continuing to publish a volume on Native American languages, and to this end their latest T-shirt venture features (on the front) a multi-color map of the indigenous languages of North America. Shown are: Eskimo-Aleut, Athabaskan, Wakashan, Salish, Klamath-Sahaptin, California Penutian, Algonquian, Siouan/Catawban, Iroquoian, Caddoan, Muskogean, Hokan, Coahuiltecan, Uto-Aztecan, Otomian-Pame, and Mayan, with other groups and language isolates in white. (This map is adapted from one in O'Grady, Dobrovolsky, and Aronoff's *Contemporary Linguistics, an Introduction*. They reference Voegelin and Voegelin's 1977 *Classification and Index of the World's Languages*, but the classification departs from the Voegelins in several respects.)

On the back is the wording: University of Kansas, Linguistics, 1994-95. The shirt is 100% white cotton, and is available in sizes Large and X-tra large. It costs \$16.00 (including postage and handling). Send check or money order to Linguistics Graduate Student Association, Linguistics, University of Kansas, Lawrence, KS 66045.

10.4 MIT WORKSHOP SERIES ON ENDANGERED LANGUAGES/LINGUISTIC DIVERSITY

From Rob Pensalfini (rjpensal@mit.edu) 28 Oct 1994:

Those of you who will be in the Boston area between January 12 and February 2 are warmly invited to attend any or all sessions of a workshop on ENDANGERED LANGUAGES AND LINGUISTIC DIVERSITY. The sessions will be held in Room 66-154, Massachusetts Institute of Technology, Cambridge, Massachusetts, 1pm-4pm, Thursday Jan 12, 19, 26, and Feb 2, 1995.

The sessions will be on the following topics, with session leaders as indicated:

Jan 12, 1-4pm: General Issues in Endangerment and Diversity (including a survey of the state of the world's languages, what does 'endangerment' mean, why is this a problem, what is lost when a language is lost..) led by Jonathan Bobaljik & Rob Pensalfini

Jan 19, 1-2:30pm: South America led by Luciana Storto
2:30-4pm: Central America led by Wayne O'Neil & Maya Honda

Jan 26, 1-2:30pm: North America

2:30-4pm: Australia leader to be announced (too many choices)
led by Rob Pensalfini

Feb 2, 1-2:30pm: The Far North led by Jonathan Bobaljik
2:30-4pm: Ireland led by Andrew Carnie

The sessions on specific areas of the world will focus not only on the situation in each of these regions and the kinds of projects that have been undertaken, but also on addressing the question "What works in language maintenance?"

If you have any comments or questions the workshop, please don't hesitate to e-mail the workshop organizers, Rob Pensalfini (rjpensal@mit.edu) or Jonathan Bobaljik (jdbobalj@mit.edu). They can also be contacted via regular mail c/o Dept of Linguistics and Philosophy, MIT room 20D-213, Massachusetts Institute of Technology, Cambridge MA 02139, USA.

10.5 REVIEW OF "SQUANTO"

From Marie-Lucie Tarpent (mtarpent@linden.msvu.ca) 2 Nov 1994:

I wrote this review a little while ago, just after seeing the new film SQUANTO. Readers of the SSILA bulletin might be interested.

* * *

I have just seen the premiere of the movie SQUANTO, which took place today a few blocks from where I live, as part of the annual Atlantic Film Festival. As a non-American, I confess that I had never heard of Squanto, but I am told that the screenplay is based (very loosely according to a historian friend) on the true story of an Indian who was taken to England and returned home in time to prevent the Pilgrim Fathers from getting killed or starving and to help them celebrate the First Thanksgiving.

The film was shot entirely in Cape Breton Island in Nova Scotia, where the reconstructed French fortress of Louisbourg provided a reasonable facsimile of 17th-century Plymouth (in England), and a number of Mikmaq people of the nearby Eskasoni reserve had roles as extras. Some of them came to the premiere and put on a show of chanting, drumming and dancing, first outside the theatre, then inside when the director, Xavier Koller, and the star, Cree actor Adam Beach, arrived.

The Mikmaq (mi'kmaq) language is still spoken by all ages in Eskasoni, and that is the Indian language heard in the film. Squanto is a "Patuxet" and his fellow captive Apinow is a "Nansett". I don't know whether these names are historically correct, but as the real Squanto probably spoke an Eastern Algonquian language, Mikmaq is not too far off the mark. Jim Augustine from Eskasoni has a short part as a medicine man, for which he sings in his language. For other Mikmaq-speaking parts, actors were coached by Mikmaq elder Harold Jeddore, also from Eskasoni. There is a fair amount of Mikmaq spoken at the beginning of the film (with English subtitles), but much less later: for instance, after Squanto and Apinow have learned English while captive in Plymouth (Apinow, it seems, by listening alone), they speak English to each other on the ship that is bringing them home.

Not knowing any Mikmaq, I cannot comment on the quality of the actors' pronunciation, but the English spoken in the film is often definitely anachronistic. I don't mean that the actors should have spoken 17th-century English, but, for instance, people did not talk about 'culture' and 'values' in those days, or say 'you're fired', at least not in those words.

I recommend that linguists go see this movie accompanied by school-aged children. It is a Walt Disney production and was appropriately shown in the youth section of the festival. There is a lot of typical Hollywood-style action: spectacular chases and stunts, daring rescues, etc. with the presence of Native American characters providing a few new twists on the well-worn formulas. Of course you always know that the hero is going to triumph in the end. It would be too much to expect subtlety in characterization or development. The British characters are for the most part either villainous buffoons or the epitome of political correctness. Adam Beach as Squanto is strikingly handsome in any costume, but I got tired of looking at a face that only seemed capable of two expressions.

--Halifax (Nova Scotia, Canada) Sept. 26, 1994

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