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

*** SSILA BULLETIN ***

An Information Service for SSILA Members

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Number 29: January 23, 1996

CONTENTS:
29.0 EDITORIAL MATTERS
29.1 CORRESPONDENCE (Archiving Language Collections; Redskin?)
29.2 BLS MEETING HAS SESSION OTHER PAPERS ON NATIVE AMERICAN LANGUAGES
29.3 TUNICA-BILOXI LINGUIST NEEEDED
29.4 U OF COPENHAGEN SEEKS VISITING PROFESSOR FOR SPRING '97
29.5 SYNTAX WORKSHOP IN WINNIPEG FOR NATIVE AMERICAN LANGUAGES
29.6 WORKING CONFERENCE IN MINNEAPOLIS ON INDIAN LANGUAGE TEACHING
29.7 CALL FOR PAPERS: ETHNOBIOLOGY CONFERENCE
29.8 AN ENDANGERMENT SITUATION IN BRAZIL

29.9 FUEGAN WEB SITE

29.0 EDITORIAL MATTERS

The editor must apologize for the long delay since the last SSILA Bulletin (#28, Dec. 13). Several of the postings below have been waiting for several weeks. The reasons for such neglect are the usual ones: the Christmas and New Year's holidays, the beginning of a new term, and general sloth. We will now return to a more regular schedule--roughly every 2-3 weeks.

Among other distractions during the past month was the LSA/SSILA meeting in San Diego. For those of you who were not able to attend, it can be reported that it was very well attended and almost universally acclaimed to be one of the best SSILA meetings to date. We look forward to our next meeting with the LSA in New York City, January 1998. Our 1996 winter meeting will be with the AAA again, in San Francisco, November 20-24. The call for papers for this meeting are being sent out with the January 1996 SSILA Newsletter, which should reach most members no later than the first week in February.

--VG

29.1 CORRESPONDENCE

Archiving Language Collections

>From Joel F.Sherzer, 12 Dec 1995:

Of course I agree with William Poser's commentary on my plea for archiving and documentation. Anyone doing this work must be aware of the issues he raises. Archiving and documentation raise all kinds of challenging issues, technical, political, and personal. But we must take them on.

---University of Texas, Austin
jsherzer@mail.utexas.edu

>From Mark Thiel, 13 Dec 1995:

I am an archivist of mission collections with materials in Lakota and about three dozen other North American languages. I want to first thank Joel Sherzer for advocating the archiving/preservation of indigenous language materials compiled by scholars, and I wish to respond to the concerns raised by William Poser at UNBC. Scholars should archive all of their raw field materials somewhere, preferably as one collection in one repository that is equipped with qualified (and certified) professional archival staff and facilities. Your collection should also fit the subject focus of the repository and the repository should be reporting your collection to OCLC (national online computer library center).

For smaller repositories at least (smaller, say, than a state historical society), placing and keeping specialized restrictions on collections should not be a problem. Purging collections of sensitive information is a bad idea. Instead, collections can be organized into units so that material requiring like restrictions are kept together. The archivist should be able to suggest a variety of ways to provide protection where needed and yet still serve the needs of future generations of users. The agreed-upon restrictions can then be built into your donor agreement.

Redskin?

>From Geoffrey Nunberg, 11 Dec 1995:

I'm doing some expert testimony for a law firm that is representing a group of prominent Native Americans who have petitioned the US Patent and Trademark office to remove several of the Washington Redskins' trademarks from the Federal Register. One crucial point involves the status of the word "redskin" in 1967, the date of original registration. To this end I'm looking for citations of the uses of the word covering the period from around 1920 to 1980 (or later than this if cites are drawn from novels or books rather than from the press, which is largely available on-line for recent years). I'd appreciate it if you could keep an eye out in your readings etc. and send me (electronically or otherwise) any relevant cites by either Native or other writers together with sufficient background or context to make the intended meaning clear and a reference for the source. I'm interested in any cites for the word, not just those that have a clear pejorative sense in context.

--Xerox PARC, 3333 Coyote Hill Road
Palo Alto, CA 94304
nunberg@parc.xerox.com

29.2 BLS MEETING HAS SESSION, OTHER PAPERS ON NATIVE AMERICAN LANGUAGES

The 22nd Annual Meeting of the Berkeley Linguistics Society will feature a special session on "Historical Issues in Native American Languages." It will be held in the International House on Friday, February 16th, the day before the three-day BLS general conference, February 17th-19th (Presidents' Day Weekend). The final program for this session is;

FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 16, 1996:

8:00 Registration for Special Session Opens

MORNING SESSION:

- 9:00 Scott DeLancey, University of Oregon, "The Bipartite Stem Belt: Disentangling Areal and Genetic Correspondences"
9:40 Gregory D. Anderson, University of Chicago, "Interior Salish Reduplication in a Diachronic Perspective"
10:10 Johannes Helmbrecht, Northeast Illinois University, "On the Grammaticalization of First and Second Person Pronominal Affixes in North American Indian Languages"
10:40-11:00: BREAK
11:00 Margaret Langdon, UC San Diego, "Some Mysteries in the Reconstruction of Proto-Yuman"
11:40 Lieve Jooke, Katholieke Universiteit Leuven, "The Grammar of Moluche in Thomas Falkner's A Description of Patagonia"
12:10 Emanuel J. Drechsel, University of Kansas, "The Historical Significance of Indigenous Pidgins in North America"

AFTERNOON SESSION:

- 2:00 Laurel Watkins, University of Colorado, "Reconstructing Person and Voice in Kiowa-Tanoan: Pitfalls and Progress"
2:40 Lynn Nichols, Harvard University, "Toward a Reanalysis of

- 3:10 Richard Rhodes, UC Berkeley, "Sound Symbolism in the History of an Algonkian Semantic Domain"
3:40-4:00: BREAK
4:00 Jocelyn Ahlers, UC Berkeley, "Metonymy and the Creation of New Words in Hupa"
4:30 Rusty Barrett, University of Texas at Austin, "The Effects of Hamean/Kichean Contact in Sipakpense"
5:00 Robert Rankin, University of Kansas, "Deeper Genetic Relationships in North America: A Pessimist's View"

The general sessions (which will be held in the Valley Life Sciences Building) will contain four other papers on American Indian languages:

- * Margaret R. MacEachern (UCLA), "Ordering Restrictions on Aspirated and Ejective Stops in Bolivian Aymara" (Saturday, Feb. 17, 4 pm)
- * David Embick (U of Pennsylvania), "Causativization and Possession in Hupa" (Sunday, Feb. 18, 6:30 pm)
- * Eugene Buckley (U of Pennsylvania), "Levels vs Domains: The Case of Kashaya Vowel Length" (Monday, Feb. 19, 3:15 pm)
- * Eleanor M. Blain (UBC), "The Covert Syntax of Wh-Questions in Plains Cree" (Monday, Feb. 19, 4:30 pm)

BLS registration fees (good for both the special session and the general sessions) are:

Before February 7th, 1996 - \$10 students, \$15 non-students
After February 7th, 1996 - \$20 students, \$25 non-students

Mail registration fees and inquiries to: Berkeley Linguistics Society, 2337 Dwinelle Hall, University of California, Berkeley, CA 94704. For e-mail inquiries contact David Librik (librik@netcom.com).

29.3 TUNICA-BILOXI LINGUIST NEEDED

The anthropologist employed by the Tunica-Biloxi Nation, located at Marksville, Louisiana, is looking for a linguist who could reconstruct the Tunica-Biloxi language, write a pedagogical program to teach it, and pilot the program for a period of one to two years on site. Interested linguists should contact Dr. Catherine Bodin at the following address:

P.O. Box 368, Emmitsburg MD 21727-0368
e-mail: cbodin@msmary.edu
tel: 301/447-2690
fax: (to O'Toole) 301/447-5755

She has no particulars on the funding or requirements for the position but is communicating all names to the on-site anthropologist, Bill Day, in Marksville.

29.4 U OF COPENHAGEN SEEKS VISITING PROFESSOR FOR SPRING '97

The Dept. of Native American Languages and Cultures, University of Copenhagen seeks a visiting professor for the spring semester of 1997 (Feb. 1 to June 1). A shorter stay, however, is negotiable (down to 1-2 months).

The visiting professor will be expected to teach one or two courses in his or her area(s) of specialization. These should relate to one or more

of the following topics: Maya epigraphy, Mesoamerican archaeology, the Aztecs, ethnohistory of one or more Mesoamerican groups, colonial history, the linguistics of Yucatec Maya, a Cholan language, Nahuatl or other Mesoamerican language(s).

A full Lecturer salary and coverage of travel expenses is offered.

Funding for the position as Visiting Professor will be pending until a candidate is selected, at which point an appropriate application will be submitted to the Faculty. This process is expected to take no more than a month or two, however, so interested scholars are urged to apply as quickly as possible.

If you are interested in this position, please send a letter, briefly describing yourself and your research areas, to Soeren Wichmann at:

Dept. of Native American Languages and Cultures
University of Copenhagen
Nielsgade 80
DK-2300 Copenhagen S, DENMARK
e-mail: soeren@cphling.dk

Please use e-mail if possible. Time is of the essence.

29.5 SYNTAX WORKSHOP IN WINNIPEG FOR NATIVE AMERICAN LANGUAGES

A Workshop on STRUCTURE AND CONSTITUENCY IN NATIVE AMERICAN LANGUAGES will be held at the University of Manitoba, Winnipeg, on March 29-31, 1996. Invited Speakers include Leslie Saxon (who will deliver the 1996 Belcourt Lecture), Rose-Marie Dechaine, and Martha McGinnis.

Papers are invited on specific topics which speak to general questions of structure and constituency in the analysis of native languages of North and South America. While papers should speak to structure and constituency, it is hoped that contributions will vary with regard to the kinds of evidence they explore. Individual papers might address questions in, for example, such areas as:

- the inventory of lexical and functional categories
- the projection of lexical and functional categories
- the analysis and formal treatment of syntactic or semantic relations in syntax and morpho-syntax
- the division of labor between syntax and morpho-syntax
- the interface between syntax and morpho-syntax
- structural restrictions on syntactic or semantic relations in syntax and morpho-syntax

Abstracts should be no longer than 1 page (a second page with references and extra examples may be included). Abstracts should be submitted in 5 copies: 1 camera-ready copy with the author's name, and 4 anonymous copies. A 3x5 card giving the title of the paper and the author's name, address, affiliation, phone number, and e-mail address should accompany the abstracts.

Abstracts should be sent to: SYNTAX WORKSHOP, c/o Charlotte Reinholtz, Dept. of Linguistics, Univ. of Manitoba, Winnipeg, Manitoba R3T 2N2 Canada. The deadline for receipt of submissions is February 7th, 1996.

The program will be announced in early March. For further information,

contact Charlotte Reinholtz at the above address or via e-mail at: reinhol@ccu.umanitoba.ca.

29.6 WORKING CONFERENCE IN MINNEAPOLIS ON INDIAN LANGUAGE TEACHING

The Department of American Indian Studies at the University of Minnesota will be sponsoring a working conference on teaching native languages, March 14-16, 1996. The conference will be held in the Twin Cities (near the Shakopee Dakota Community & Mystic Lake Casino).

The specific focus will be on the regional languages of the Upper Midwest (Dakota, Lakota, Ojibwe, Hockak, Oneida, etc.), but any interested person is invited. The intent is to help native language teachers begin to network, to promote sharing of teaching materials and techniques, to foster discussion of critical language issues (English as an "official" language, funding of language programs), to present several topics for discussion (ITV, distance education, etc.) and to help our program and the University of Minnesota generally identify actions it can take to provide better support to the community and to professional development of native language teachers.

If you are interested in attending, send your name and address to:

David O. Born, Chair
Department of American Indian Studies
102 Scott Hall
University of Minnesota
Minneapolis, Minnesota 55455
tel: 612/624-2556 or 625-9438; fax: 612/626-2654
e-mail: dborn@maroon.tc.umn.edu

29.7 CALL FOR PAPERS: ETHNOBIOLOGY CONFERENCE

The 19th Annual Conference of the Society of Ethnobiology will take place at the Santa Barbara Museum of Natural History, March 27-30, 1996. The conference provides a forum for scholarly presentations and interaction among anthropologists, biologists, native people and others interested in zooarchaeology, ethnobotany, paleobotany, ethnozoology, nutrition, linguistics, pharmacology, geography and ecology. The 1996 keynote address by Larry Agenbroad will focus on evidence for human-mammoth interactions. On Saturday, March 30, there will be optional full or half-day field trips to Santa Cruz Island or to Vandenberg Air Force Base archaeology and rock art, a Lotusland tour, and a Whalewatch Cruise.

The registration fee is \$60 regular/\$35 student (\$50/\$30 before Feb.15), waived for Native Americans; banquet \$25; additional charge for field trips.

Abstracts (150-word) for posters and 15-minute oral presentations must be received by January 19, 1996. Presenters must be members of the Society of Ethnobiology (\$35 regular, \$25 student).

Contact: Jan Timbrook, Dept. of Anthropology, Santa Barbara Museum of Natural History, 2559 Puesta del Sol Road, Santa Barbara CA 93105. Tel: 805/682-4711 ex. 307; fax: 805/569-3170; e-mail: anthro@sbmnh.rain.org

29.8 AN ENDANGERMENT SITUATION IN BRAZIL

Nilson Gabas, Jr. (gabas@marajo.secom.ufpa.br) has sent the following request for a letter from either individuals or institutions to support the rights of recently contacted Indians in the Igarape Omere region of Corumbiara, state of Rondonia, Brazil.

History

The Bureau of Indian Affairs (FUNAI) has known since the early 1980s that there were Indians living in the region of the Igarape Omere, in Rondonia, but only recently have these Indians been actually seen and contacted. Two distinct and small groups live there: the Kanoe (four Indians) and another group (seven Indians) who speak a previously unknown (or presumed extinct) language of the Tupari family of the Tupi stock. The land they inhabit includes three large farms, one of which belongs to a landowner involved in a recent massacre involving squatters and hired gunmen.

The situation of these eleven Indians is precarious, because their presence is inconvenient for the ranchers (who have shown considerable ruthlessness in the past). To protect the Indians, a small group of personnel working for the Isolated Indians Department of FUNAI is in touch with them, guaranteeing their survival. This group cannot leave the area (they work in turns of 2-3 weeks) because of the possibility that the ranchers will take measures against the Indians.

Linguistic Situation

Kanoe, according to the classification of Aryon Rodrigues, is an isolated language that not fit into any of the other group of Brazilian languages. Besides the four Indians found in the region of the Igarape Omere, there are fewer than a half dozen other Kanoe speakers known, all elderly, living isolated from one another either in cities or in different Indian reservations.

The major linguistic work with the Kanoe language is an MA thesis on aspects of its phonology that was written by a student of Rodrigues. Other linguistic material includes only a few wordlists. One small paper about general aspects of Kanoe ethnography was published in the 1950s.

The language of the other group of Indians is either a new language or a language previously believed to be extinct. It is genetically affiliated to the Tupari family of the Tupi stock.

Legal Status

A formal request has been made by linguists and anthropologists to interdict the area (about 90,000 hectares) where these Indians live, to guarantee their survival. Interdiction would provide that the land on which the Indians live could not be touched for a specific period of time. This would give time for a working group to study the Indians, and to set up a reservation for them to live on permanently.

The request was published in November in the *Diario Oficial da Uniao*, the official publication of the Federal Government. The next step now is to get the approval of the Minister of Justice, the ministry to which FUNAI belongs.

Request

As a Brazilian linguist (PhD student at UC-Santa Barbara) who has been involved in the process of contacting these Indians and identifying their languages, I am interested in their survival. I would like to request from you (either as an individual or as member of any institution) a letter stating/requesting basically the following:

- You are aware of the question involving the Indians of the Igarape Omere, in Rondonia, Brazil;
- As a linguist (or anthropologist, etc.), you are interested on the maintenance of languages and cultures of these Indians, as well as their physical survival;
- You would like to see measures taken to insure the survival of those groups, and you request that the Minister of Justice of Brazil approves and signs the request for the interdiction of the area, as published in the *Diario Oficial da Uniao* (number 219, of Nov 16, 1995).

You can fax your letter or send it through regular mail to the following address:

Exmo. Sr. Ministro Nelson Azevedo Jobim
Ministerio da Justica
Esplanada dos Ministerios
Bloco T 4o. Andar
70004-900 Brasilia - DF
fax 55-61-322-6817

Also, if you could, please send also a copy of your letter to the President of Brazil (who is sensitive to foreign pressure) at the following address:

Exmo. Sr. Presidente da Republica do Brasil
Dr. Fernando Henrique Cardoso
Palacio do Planalto
Praca dos Tres Poderes
70150-900 Brasilia - DF
fax: 55-61-226-7566

A third copy of the letter, if possible, should be sent to FUNAI, for them to keep track of what is being sent to the Minister. The address of FUNAI is:

FUNAI
Diretoria de Assuntos Fundiarios
DD - Sra. Isa Maria Pacheco, Diretora
Setor de Radio e Televisao Sul
Bloco A Ed. LEX 3o. An

dar

70340-904 Brasilia - DF
Phonefax: 55-61-226-7168

Thank you very much for your understanding and cooperation.

--Nilson Gabas, Jr.
Museu Goeldi, Belem, Brazil
(gabas@marajo.secom.ufpa.br)

29.9 FUEGAN WEB SITE

Oscar Aguilera (oaguiler@abello.dic.uchile.cl) informs us of a new

'site' on the net which offers information (in Spanish for the moment) on Kawesqar (Alakaluf, Fuegian), an almost extinct South American Indian language. This site is planned to be part of a larger one, "Lenguas de Chile," under permanent construction. Contributions and comments are welcome.

The URL is:
<http://www.uchile.cl/facultades/periodismo/rescate.htm>

You may also want to visit Aguilera's homepage:
<http://www.uchile.cl/facultades/periodismo/Oaguiler.htm>

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

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