

**The Society for the Study of the  
Indigenous Languages of the Americas**

*SSILA BULLETIN*

An Information Service for SSILA Members

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## 46.0 SSILA BUSINESS

### **Mouton Renews Book Offer**

Mouton de Gruyter has agreed to continue its longstanding offer of deep discounts to individual members of SSILA for a number of its publications on American Indian languages and related subjects (including all titles in the Mouton Grammar Library). No new titles will be added to the 1996 offer, and the prices and postage/handling charges will remain the same as last year. Members may use the 1996 order form until a 1997 brochure and order form are distributed with the April SSILA Newsletter.

### **Further Details on the Summer Meeting (Cornell University, July 5-6)**

A small registration fee (\$5) will be collected on-site. It will be necessary to have at least minimal registration formalities (something we usually dispense with at our summer meetings) because SSILA will have to reimburse Cornell for the use of the space based on the number of attendees. The fee will also subsidize coffee and doughnuts.

Short-term on-campus housing will be available at a cost of \$17.75 per night for a single room, \$14.75/person per night for a double room. Rooms will be located in Balch and Risley, residence halls located a short walk from the Arts Quad where most Linguistic Institute activities (including the SSILA meeting) will take place. For reservations, call 607/255-6290 or e-mail <br20@cornell.edu>. For information on the 1997 Linguistic Institute see the LI website:  
<http://www.sce.cornell.edu/CUSS/LSA.html>.

## 46.1 MORE AMERICANIST PAPERS AT AAAS

**From Dale Kinkade (mdkd@unixg.ubc.ca) 24 Feb 1997:**

In the January issue of the SSILA Newsletter (XV:4, p. 3) you announced that a session on “The Pacific Northwest as a Linguistic and Cultural Area” would be part of this year's meeting of the American Association for the Advancement of Science, in Seattle. That was correct, and the session went off as planned on Monday morning, February 17.

It should be noted that two other sessions at the AAAS meetings had papers on Native American languages. A session on “Expressing Meaning through Word Structure and through Syntax” (Monday afternoon, Feb. 17) included:

Stephen R. Anderson, “Change and the Morphosyntactic Economy of Kwakw'ala”

Susan Steele, “Inflectional Morphology: The Relationship between Words and Sentences”  
[dealt with Luiseño]

Jerrold M. Sadock, “Incorporation” [dealt with Greenlandic Eskimo]

Another session, entitled “Cultural Connections on the Ancient Pacific Perimeter” (Saturday morning, February 15) included a paper by Mary Ritchie Key on “Linguistic Similarities between Austronesian and South American Indian Languages.” This session included other papers espousing trans-Pacific connections of various sorts; Mary LeCron Foster was one of the discussants.

## 46.2 TWO LANGUAGE-FAMILY CONFERENCES IN MID-MAY

### **Siouan-Caddoan Conference**

The 17th annual Siouan and Caddoan Languages Conference will be held at Wayne State College, Wayne, Nebraska on May 16-17. For information contact:

Catherine Rudin  
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Wayne State College  
1111 Main St.  
Wayne, NE 68787

(tel: 402-375-4316; e-mail: [crudin@wscgate.wsc.edu](mailto:crudin@wscgate.wsc.edu))

### **Athabaskan Languages Conference**

The Athabaskan Language Conference for 1997 will be held on the campus of University of Oregon in Eugene, May 17-18, 1997. Linguists, anthropologists, native speakers, educators, and other interested parties are welcome to attend. We welcome abstracts of presentations about any aspect of Athabaskan languages--descriptive, theoretical, or pedagogical. Abstracts are due March 15, 1997. For further information contact Chad Thompson:

([thomsoc@cvax.ipfw.indiana.edu](mailto:thomsoc@cvax.ipfw.indiana.edu)) or visit the Athabaskan Conference page at his website:

<http://cvax.ipfw.indiana.edu/~thomsoc/athabaskan.html>

## 46.3 “KENJOCKETY” TRACKED DOWN

**From William Bright (brightw@spot.colorado.edu) 20 Feb 1997:**

William M. Beauchamp, Aboriginal Place Names of New York (New York State Museum, Bulletin 108, 1907, pp. 65-6), says, in his section on Erie County:

“Kenjockety creek was so called by early settlers from an Indian family living on it. John Kenjockety, its head, was said to be the son of a Kah-kwa Indian, and lived on the creek a little east of Niagara street. His Seneca name was Sga-dynh'-gwa-dih, according to Marshall, or Sken-dyough-gwat-ti, according to Asher Wright, meaning beyond the multitude. French gave the creek's name as Scajaquady, and in a treaty it appeared as Scoy-gu-quoi-des, flowing into Niagara River east of Grand Island. The present name is a corrupt form.”

Perhaps Wally Chafe can shed some light on the Seneca etymology of this word?

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**From Wallace Chafe (chafe@humanitas.ucsb.edu) 20 Feb 1997:**

With an initial S and a W after the CK, the etymology of “Kenjockety” seems clear. It must come from Seneca skenjohkwatih, where en is a nasalized vowel and there is an accent on the o. It means “on the other side of the crowd” (or “multitude”, as Asher Wright said). The verb root is -ati- “be on the other side of”, with an incorporated noun root -ijohkw- “crowd”. The neuter prefix ka- (as in Canada) combines with the I of the root to yield the nasalized en. -ati- requires the prepronominal prefix s- “repetitive, again, back”. The name Schenectady has a parallel etymology, differing only in having the noun root -hneht- “pine”. It means “on the other side of the pines” and refers to Albany in the Iroquoian languages. Albany lies on the other side of the pines from Mohawk territory, and the name probably originated in Mohawk, where I believe its form is skahnéhtatih, with an accent on the e.

It has some interest to me that Kenjockety was written with voiceless stops, suggesting perhaps a later voice onset time than is present in Seneca today. Current speakers would want to write the word skenjohgwadih, with voiced stops. I suspect that voice onset time has migrated to an earlier position in fairly recent times, perhaps under the influence of English.

## 46.4 “LINGUA OREGONICA” IS INTERIOR SALISH

**From Marie-Lucie Tarpent (Marie-Lucie.Tarpent@msvu.ca) 24 Feb 1997:**

The very day after my request for help in identifying a mysterious “Oregonic” language was posted in SSILA Bulletin # 45, I received the following message from Ivy Doak, a Salishanist who has kindly agreed to let me share it with Bulletin readers:

- I saw your Lord's Prayer, and thought it looked familiar, e.g. “spoe-oez” resembled Coeur d'Alene spu7s `heart', etc.; but Cr has no k, which does occur in Flathead-Kalispel-Spokane and Colville-Okanogan. The F-K-S word for `heaven' matches your text, the Cv doesn't (it has k' instead of ch).
- I found an old (not so old as yours: revised 1983) book entitled qua'y-Lem u en-cho'w-men: a collection of hymns and prayers in the Flathead-Kalispel-Spokane Indian Language. Recorded, transcribed and edited by Thomas E. Connolly, S.J.; published by Steve Matt Fund, Salish Kootenai College, Box 117, Pablo MT 59855. In it, the “Prayer of our Lord Jesus Christ” is the title given to the Lord's prayer, and it goes like this:

ky le-e'u Lu7l chi-chi-ma's-ket u ku el-tse'e, a's-quest ks  
ha-me'n-chL-tem, ku che'l-tich's t'e-tsee-ya' spu-u's; a'stsen-te'ls  
ks ku'-lee ye'l stu'-leeh., e-tse-hu'L Lu7l schi-chi-ma's-ket. ky  
wh.e'e-tseLt yetL-wh.a' Lu kys ee-ap-ste'e-nem, kyL kaL-wh.e'l-Lilt  
Lu ky wh.eel-wh.e'elt, e-tse-h.y'L Lu7t kam-pee-le' kys kaL-whe'l-  
tem Lu epLwh.eel-wh.e'elt l'kam-pee-le'; kys olk-shi'-Lilt ta ka-  
ky's que'-stem Lu te'y-ye; kyL wh.eelwh.e'el-Lilt Lu tel te'y-ye.  
Ko-me'e e-tse-h.y'L

- (' following a vowel or y is stress, following a consonant it is glottalization; 7 is glottal stop; L is a lateral fricative; period (.) following h is a subdot under h, probably representing a back velar fricative)
- It certainly looks like Interior Salish.
- 

Ivy Doak  
doak@unt.edu

This is not the only case of vague identification or misidentification of a language in my book of 250 versions of the Catholic Lord's Prayer, originally published in 1869 (cf. Bulletins # 41 and 42). For instance, “Shavannic” has been identified by Blair Rudes as a dialect of Huron. Perhaps, if a missionary had worked in two different areas, a document in a language from one area was assumed to be from the other area. Some other languages are correctly identified but the prayer

appears poorly translated. In many other cases though, the text can be a valuable resource as an early record of a language.

## 46.5 QUERY: “AKITA”?

**From George Gomoll (GAGBAG@aol.com) 25 Feb 1997:**

I am trying to locate more information on the name “akita.” So far, all I know is that it is an Indian word meaning 'discovery'. I would like some verification of this, and information on what tribe's language it comes from. The name is being considered as a name for a camp and we need all the information we can get.

We do know that Ruth Nichols, an early aviator, named her plane Akita.

Any help would be appreciated.

## 46.6 PHONETIC FONTS OVER THE WEB

**From Paul Frank (Paul-Maggie\_Frank@sil.org) 28 Feb 1997:**

I read in the latest the SSILA Bulletin that you all are working on a way to transmit material with phonetic fonts over the WWW from the SSILA Web page. You may already be aware of this, but...have you considered using Adobe Acrobat to prepare the material? We are experimenting with it now and I am impressed with it. Here are a few details.

Adobe created what they call the Portable Document Format, a cross-platform file format for the distribution of documents that can include both formatted text and graphics and embeds the fonts in the file so that the recipient need not have the fonts resident on his or her computer to see the formatted file. Then they have created PDF readers for DOS, Windows, Mac, Unix (and maybe a couple of others) which can be distributed FREE. What you have to pay for is the software to create the PDF files. Commercially it costs several hundred dollars. We have recently bought a copy for just over a hundred, I believe. There are several ways to generate PDF files. You can write the file through a postscript driver then convert the resulting postscript file to a PDF file. There are also “printer drivers” that write directly from a program (such as Microsoft Word) to a PDF file. Then there is software to doctor up the resulting PDF files by combining them, reating hot links between different parts of the document, making indices, etc.

SIL Colombia is going to begin generating PDF versions of all our linguistic publications and offer the electronic copy as well as the print version. The electronic version will be the exact copy of the print version -- the two will be generated from the same postscript files. The first to come out in that way is going to be a Tunebo-Spanish dictionary (Chibchan). It is in the print shop now, and when we know that there are no more changes (i.e., when the book is actually printed!) then we will offer the PDF file. We'll probably request our central offices in Dallas to put the file on the SIL Internet server for downloading. We'll let you know when it has been



placed on the server. The SIL web page, by the way, has links to where one can download the Acrobat readers.

Paul S. Frank  
SIL-Colombia

## 46.7 ENGLISH-ONLY UPDATE #9

**From Jim Crawford (73261.1120@CompuServe.COM) 4 Mar 97:**

### Supreme Court Punts in Arizona Case

Yesterday (March 3) the U.S. Supreme Court declined to rule on the constitutionality of Arizona's English Only amendment -- in effect, dismissing the case after eight years of litigation without ruling on its merits.

Article 28 of Arizona's constitution -- also known as Proposition 106, adopted by voters in 1988 - requires all levels of state and local government to "act in English and no other language." Two lower federal courts have overruled the measure as a violation of the First Amendment right to freedom of speech for state employees and elected officials. But yesterday the Supreme Court threw out those decisions on procedural grounds.

The unanimous, 35-page opinion by Justice Ruth Bader Ginsburg, sets new limits for federal court review of state laws -- an apparent victory for foes of "judicial activism." Clearly, during oral arguments last December, the justices were more intent on sending such a message than on reviewing the constitutional issues raised by Arizonans for Official English v. Arizona (Case No. 95-974).

For now the practical impact will be negligible, according to Arizona's attorney general, Grant Woods. A separate challenge to Article 28, Ruiz v. Symington, is under consideration by the Arizona Supreme Court and the measure has already been ruled unconstitutional by a lower state judge. So, until that case is resolved, the English Only amendment will not be enforced, Woods told the Arizona Daily Star.

Any decision by the Arizona Supreme Court could, of course, be appealed to the U.S. Supreme Court -- further delaying a final disposition of the case.

In yesterday's decision Justice Ginsburg cited several flaws in the rulings of the federal district court for Arizona and the Ninth U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals:

- Maria-Kelly Yniguez, the Spanish-speaking state employee who brought the case, suffered no injury under the English Only policy and left her job in 1990. Thus the lower courts should have recognized there was no longer any "case or controversy" -- a requirement in federal litigation and should have dismissed the case as "moot."
- After Gov. Rose Mofford decided not to appeal the district court's ruling against Article 28, the Ninth Circuit erred in allowing the political action committee that sponsored Proposition 106 to do so. Ginsburg expressed "grave doubts" about the legal "standing" of the group, Arizonans for Official English.
- A 1989 opinion by Arizona's attorney general minimized the restrictive impact of Article 28, arguing that it would not prohibit employees from using languages other than English "to

facilitate the delivery of government services.” But this narrow reading, which seemed to contradict the express wording of the English Only amendment, was rejected by the federal courts. Instead, they should have deferred to the Arizona Supreme Court on how to interpret the measure, Ginsburg said.

Theoretically, it might still be possible for other aggrieved employees -- who still work for the state of Arizona -- to file another lawsuit in federal court alleging injury under Article 28. But Peter Tiersma of Loyola Law School says that, according to Ginsburg's opinion, federal judges “would have to await an authoritative interpretation from the Arizona court.”

The Ruiz v. Symington case, now before the Arizona Supreme Court, includes as plaintiffs several state lawmakers currently in office. These include senators Victor Soltero (D-Tucson) and Joe-Eddie Lopez (D-Phoenix) and Rep. Linda Aguirre (D-Phoenix). This lawsuit, which had been on hold pending a ruling by the U.S. Supreme Court, is expected to proceed expeditiously.

Meanwhile, back in Washington, the political impact of yesterday's decision is difficult to gauge. Last year Congressional opponents of English Only legislation argued against voting on such measures until the Supreme Court had ruled in the Arizona case. The House went ahead and passed H.R.123, the “English Language Empowerment Act of 1996,” by a 259-169 vote. But the Senate failed to act before adjournment and so the bill died.

H.R. 123 has been reintroduced in the 105th Congress. But thus far it appears to lack influential backers. The lead sponsor, Rep. Randy “Duke” Cunningham (R-Calif.), has a new committee assignment and no longer chairs the subcommittee on Early Childhood, Youth, and Families, which has jurisdiction of the bill. The new chairman, Rep. Frank Riggs (R-Calif.), is said to have little interest in English Only legislation. The same is true of Rep. William Goodling (R-Pa.), chairman of the full committee on Education and the Workforce, which would have to approve the bill. At this writing no action has been scheduled. As became clear last summer however, all of this could change quickly under pressure from the House Republican leadership.

Sen. Richard Shelby (R-Ala.) reintroduced a Senate version of the bill, S.323, on February 13. But again a supportive committee chairman, Sen. Ted Stevens (R-Alaska), has moved on to greener pastures (Appropriations). His replacement at the helm of the Governmental Affairs Committee, Sen. Fred Thompson (R-Tenn.) is not known as an English Only proponent. More important, Thompson will have his hands full this year running an investigation into campaign finance abuses in the 1996 election.

COMING SOON...A Language Policy Web Site with easy access to legislative information, court decisions, book excerpts, articles and other resources on English Only activity. A formal announcement is imminent -- i.e., as soon as Compuserve solves its Web server problems.

Meanwhile, yesterday's Supreme Court decision in Arizonans for Official English v. Arizona is available at:

<http://supct.law.cornell.edu/supct/html/95-974.ZS.html>

Jim Crawford  
73261.1120@compuserve.com

## 46.8 INDIGENOUS LANGUAGES SYMPOSIUM AT NORTHERN ARIZONA U

Northern Arizona University's Center for Excellence in Education is pleased to announce that the 4th Annual Stabilizing Indigenous Languages Symposium will be held at the University's south campus duBois Conference Center on May 2-3, 1997. The Symposium is designed to allow community, preschool, K-12, college, and university American Indian language educators and activists to share ideas and materials for teaching American Indian languages.

The program will include presentations dealing with language renewal programs for: Apache, Arapaho, Cherokee, Cree, Deg Xinag (Ingalik Athabascan), Hawaiian, Hualapai, Keres, Maori, Nahuatl, Navajo, Northern Cheyenne, Tewa, Unangan (Eastern Aleut), and Yaqui. Presenters are coming from New Zealand, Mexico, Canada, and the United States.

Keynote speeches include: Dick Littlebear (President, Dull Knife Memorial College), "Some Rare and Radical Ideas for Native Language Preservation"; Gina Cantoni (Regent's Professor, Northern Arizona University), "Keeping Indigenous Languages Alive: The School's Responsibility"; and Evangeline Parsons Yazzie (Northern Arizona University, Symposium Co-chair), "The Power of Navajo Communication."

For more information -- and an e-mail flyer with a registration form -- contact:

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## 46.9 MIT WORKING PAPERS ON ENDANGERMENT & DIVERSITY

MIT Working Papers in Linguistics is pleased to announce the publication of its 28th volume, "Papers on Language Endangerment and the Maintenance of Linguistic Diversity", edited by Jonathan David Bobaljik, Rob Pensalfini, and Luciana Storto. The collection grew out of a workshop series held at MIT in January 1995. The workshop placed a particular emphasis on the thorny question of 'what works in language maintenance?', and in addition to papers presented at the workshop the editors have collected papers from other authors recommended by presenters, and have compiled a preliminary bibliography.

The contents are:

- Jonathan Bobaljik & Rob Pensalfini, "Introduction" (general questions of endangerment and survival)
- Antonio Mercurio and Rob Amery, "Can Senior Secondary Studies Help to Maintain and Strengthen Australia's Indigenous Languages?"
- Thomas Green, "The Ulwa language wakes up"
- Luciana Storto, "A report on language endangerment in Brazil"
- Andrew Carnie, "Modern Irish: A Case Study in Language Revival Failure"
- Peter Slomanson, "Explaining and Reversing the Failure of the Irish Language Revival"
- Ken Hale, "Universal grammar and the roots of linguistic diversity"
- Mahendra K. Verma, "Language Endangerment & the Non-indigenous Minority Languages in the UK"
- The LSA's Policy Statment on the need for the documentation of linguistic diversity
- A Preliminary Bibliography on Language Endangerment and Preservation (Jonathan Bobaljik, Rob Pensalfini & Luciana Storto)

The volume costs US \$12 (+postage/handling of \$2-\$3 surface, \$5-\$12 air) and can be ordered from: MIT Working Papers in linguistics, MIT Room 20D-219, Cambridge MA 02139, USA (e-mail: mitwpl@mit.edu).

## 46.10 SOME WEBSITES OF INTEREST

Visitors to the SSILA website (<http://cougar.ucdavis.edu/nas/ssila>) will know that we have developed a page of "Internet Resources for American Indian Linguistics." Over 130 websites are noted, including a number devoted to specific languages. Here is a sampler of interesting and useful sites of various types:

- ❖ Ethnologue (13th Edition, 1996) -- new edition, just out!  
<http://www.sil.org/ethnologue/ethnologue.html>
- ❖ \* Lisa Mitten's home page -- a very rich resource, maintained by a Native American librarian/bibliographer at the U of Pittsburgh  
<http://www.pitt.edu/~lmitten>
- ❖ Audio-Forum -- one of the largest publishers and distributors of self-instructional materials in the country. They currently have available 275 courses in 96 languages, including a dozen American Indian language: Cherokee, Chickasaw, Choctaw, Kiowa, Lakota, Lenape, Mohawk, Navajo, Ojibwe, Passamaquoddy, Salish, and Tlingit.  
<http://www.agoralang.com/audioforum.html>
- ❖ \* John Peabody Harrington Web Site (maintained by Bob Edberg) -- devoted to J. P. Harrington and his notes. Bibliography; newsletter archive  
<http://www.questorsys.com/jph>
- ❖ Marquette University Archives -- Catholic Indian mission records, including 19th & 20th century material on Lakota, Cheyenne, Choctaw, Ojibwa, and about 35 other languages.  
<http://www.mu.edu/library/collections/archives/indians.html>
- ❖ Smithsonian Institution Research Information System (SIRIS) -- Web link to Smithsonian library and archive catalogues, including the National Anthropological Archives  
<http://www.siris.si.edu/>
- ❖ Schoenhof's Foreign Language Books (Cambridge, MA) - Dictionaries, grammars, instructional materials in hundreds of languages, including a substantial number of Native American languages  
<http://www.schoenhofs.com/>
- ❖ Cherokees of California Homepage -- organization of people of Cherokee heritage interested in preserving and passing on Cherokee traditions, history and language. Cherokee language lessons (by Richard Francis) are available at this site.  
<http://www.Powersource.com/cocinc/>
- ❖ Cheyenne Page (maintained by Wayne Leman). -- Leman has worked with the Cheyennes for over 20 years, producing both scholarly and language-learning materials.  
<http://www.mcn.net/~wleman/cheyenne.htm>

- ❖ Prairie Band Potawatomi (maintained by Smokey McKinney) -- homepage of the Prairie Band Potawatomi Language Project, begun in 1992 by Jim McKinney and Smokey McKinney, both enrolled PBP members, and supported by the Kansas Humanities Council. Good background information and an on-line dictionary (1200 entries, 80 sound files).

<http://www.public.iastate.edu/~jsmckinn/>

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