

**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 74: September 30, 1998

## 74.1 CORRESPONDENCE

### The sociolinguistics of "Squaw"

- From William Bright ([william.bright@colorado.edu](mailto:william.bright@colorado.edu)) 16 Sept 1998:

In July 1998, newspapers in the US and overseas reported an action by the Board of Geographic and Historical Names of the state of Arizona, concerning the official name of a summit called Squaw Peak. Many American Indians object to the use of the word "squaw" in placenames, claiming that it is offensive and demeaning to Native Americans; and a group in Arizona had petitioned the state Board to change the name Squaw Peak to Iron Mountain. The Board, however, rejected this petition.

Some Indian activists have objected to the word "squaw" on grounds of both historical origin and present-day usage. From the historical viewpoint, the claim has been made that the word is derived from Mohawk *\_otsi'skwa\_* [acute accent over the "i"] 'female genitals'. However, the Arizona Board gave greater weight to evidence from Ives Goddard, of the Smithsonian Institution, who demonstrated that the word "squaw" represents a widespread Algonquian word for 'woman', first borrowed into English from Massachusett *\_squa\_*, and attested from the Plymouth Colony in 1634.

Apart from the historical argument however, Indian activists have claimed that the word "squaw" is felt to be insulting by many Native Americans. It has been noted that, since the 1970s, many English dictionaries have listed the word with labels like "disparaging," "derogatory," and "offensive". However, it has also been reported that, in some areas, Indians do not find the term offensive.

It seems to me that Goddard has effectively countered the etymological argument regarding "squaw", but the sociolinguistic issues remain: How has the word been used, historically and currently, and what attitudes have been held regarding the word? These questions apply to usage and attitudes of both Anglos and Indians, in the US and Canada.

I'd like to present a paper on this subject in January 1999, at a joint session of the American Name Society with the Linguistic Society of America, in Los Angeles. I'm collecting bibliographical references, published materials (including newspaper clippings), and personal impressions from anyone who's interested. Please let me hear from you! Please also feel free to forward this message to other people.

~William Bright  
1625 Mariposa, Boulder, CO 80302  
fax: 303-413-0017  
([william.bright@colorado.edu](mailto:william.bright@colorado.edu))

## Text editing software

- From Kathleen Bragdon ([bkbrag@facstaff.wm.edu](mailto:bkbrag@facstaff.wm.edu)) 25 Sept 1998:

I'm looking for software I could adapt for editing and some grammatical analysis of a 200 page Massachusetts language document. Are there any Algonquianists or other American Indianists using or working on such software? I'd be happy to buy it, borrow it, download it, or whatever.

~Katie Bragdon  
Dept. of Anthropology, College of William & Mary  
Williamsburg, VA 23187  
([bkbrag@facstaff.wm.edu](mailto:bkbrag@facstaff.wm.edu))

## 74.2 MESSAGE FROM THE EDITOR OF IJAL

- From David S. Rood ([rood@spot.colorado.edu](mailto:rood@spot.colorado.edu)) 28 Sept 1998:

Most SSILA members are probably aware, via the very active grapevine in our small field, that for the last three years IJAL has been having trouble keeping up a proper schedule for publishing and for responding to authors.

I am happy to announce that this period seems to be over. The members of the Editorial Board helped out a few months ago, and during the past 4-5 months I have managed to communicate with most authors. Almost all of the backlogged manuscripts are now being processed. The October 1998 and January 1999 issues of the journal are in press, and we could be back on our traditional schedule by the April 1999 issue.

Consequently, this is an invitation to you and your colleagues and students to submit appropriate manuscripts for consideration, without fear that they will be lost in some sort of limbo for inordinate lengths of time. Time between the arrival of a paper in Boulder and an answer to you about acceptance should be back to 3-4 months in most cases. Although I am personally teaching in Germany this year, I expect to maintain full activity on the journal, thanks to the magic of e-mail and the generous help of the staff in the Linguistics Department at the University of Colorado.

If you have the capability of sending a copy of your submission to me via e-mail, that's great; but even if you don't that's ok. In either case, please send the traditional 3 copies to me as editor of IJAL, Dept. of Linguistics, Campus Box 295, University of Colorado, Boulder, Colorado 80309-0295. My German e-mail address is [rood@uni-koeln.de](mailto:rood@uni-koeln.de), but the one in the SSILA Directory ([rood@colorado.edu](mailto:rood@colorado.edu)) works, too.

~ David Rood  
Editor, IJAL

## 74.3 WEBSITES OF INTEREST

### Northwest Coast Knowledge Base

- From Margaret Anderson ([anderson@unbc.ca](mailto:anderson@unbc.ca)) 16 Sept 1998:

Readers of the SSILA Bulletin are welcome to visit a site I am currently developing, called the "Northwest Coast Knowledge Base." It is still very much a work in progress, and I would appreciate it if it were not linked to search engines or other sites yet, although I would value the comments of SSILA visitors. The URL is:

<http://vaughan.fac.unbc.ca/anderson>

So far, it includes a fairly extensive Northwest Coast bibliography; a not-yet-comprehensive bibliography of Tsimshianic literature; a brief sample of Sm'algyax (Coast Tsimshian) -- please respect the speaker's copyright on this; and a number of annotated bibliography items that are linked to the entries in the main lists. Expansion of this "Notes and Quotes" annotation component is my main priority, aimed at making this a useful working annotated bibliography of the literature.

An example of the direction i am trying to go with this page is the set of linked annotations of bibliography items on the topic of structural studies of myth, and particularly Tsimshian oral literature, 40 years after Levi-Strauss' analysis of the Story of Asdiwal. Adding more such linked annotated references throughout the bibliography is now a priority for the site. If readers of the SSILA Bulletin would like to contribute by providing a Notes and Quotes entry on one or more bibliography items, I will be delighted -- and if someone wishes to offer a counter-view of one of the items I have done, that would be even better.

My own interest is in things Tsimshian, and if others wished to link their own bibliographies of other NWC groups to this site, or to put such collections onto this site, that would be great. If it would be useful to download the Northwest Coast Bibliography file and extract the items for one language family, to use as the skeleton of a new section, please feel free to do so, with appropriate acknowledgement. If readers have essays on specific topics that would be useful guides to a part of the Northwest Coast literature, those could also be posted to this page or linked to it.

~Margaret Anderson  
Univ. of Northern British Columbia  
([anderson@unbc.ca](mailto:anderson@unbc.ca))

## **Transcriber machines**

- From Jim Kari ([ffjmk@aurora.alaska.edu](mailto:ffjmk@aurora.alaska.edu)) 17 Sept 1998:

For those who use transcriber machines or would like to know more about features of transcriber machines, there is a web-site that features an array of second-hand transcribers of various brands, at good prices, as well as repair and service. The URL is:

<http://home.sprynet.com/sprynet/boki>

It's maintained by R.T. King Co., 2971 Plaza Del Amo # 278, Torrance, CA 90503 (tel: 310/320-6691).

~Jim Kari  
Fairbanks, Alaska

## **Linguistic Olympics**

- From Tom Payne ([tpayne@oregon.uoregon.edu](mailto:tpayne@oregon.uoregon.edu)) 19 Sept 1998:

For one possible approach to raising public awareness of endangered languages, readers of the SSILA Bulletin may be interested in the "Linguistic Olympics" website. It can be found at:

<http://darkwing.uoregon.edu/~tpayne/lingolym/lingolym.htm>

I would appreciate any and all comments.

~Tom Payne  
Eugene, Oregon

## **Bibliography of Ioway-Otoe-Missouria**

- From Jimm G. GoodTracks ([jgoodtracks@juno.com](mailto:jgoodtracks@juno.com)) 19 Sept 1998:

For your information, my bibliography of materials on Ioway-Otoe-Missouria (Siouan language(s)), including everything in regard to language, directly or indirectly, may now be found at:

<http://spot.colorado.edu/~koontz> OR MORE FULLY  
<http://spot.colorado.edu/~koontz/tracks/jgtiombib.htm>

Additions, corrections, and updates will be edited from time to time.

~Jimm G. GoodTracks  
Lawrence, Kansas

## **John Koontz's site**

- From the Editor ([gollav@axe.humboldt.edu](mailto:gollav@axe.humboldt.edu)):

Since Jimm GoodTracks' bibliography (above) is being hosted by John Koontz at his personal website, people might be interested in some of the other pages that John has posted there. My favorite is a FAQ page, with serious and detailed answers to about a dozen questions that specialists in American Indian languages--particularly Plains languages—often have posed to them. Among them are: "What are the Siouan languages?", "What is the origin of the term Sioux?", "How many dialects of Dakota(n) are there, anyway?", "What is the meaning of Cheyenne?", "I want to give my child a Native American given name", and "I want to give my dog a Native American dog name." The URL is:

<http://spot.colorado.edu/~koontz/faq.htm>

## 74.4 UPCOMING MEETINGS

### **Oklahoma Native Language Use Conference (October 8-10, 1998)**

- From Greg Bigler ([gdbigler@gorilla.net](mailto:gdbigler@gorilla.net)) 22 Sept 1998:

The 3rd annual Oklahoma Native Language Use Conference will be held in Preston, Oklahoma, on October 8-10. The Conference will discuss ways to ensure the survival of Indian languages and provide training in language retention and teaching. People working to continue the use of their language are invited to share their experiences and learn of other tribal language work. The focus will be on the practical problems and solutions of individuals working with their Tribal language.

Topics will be: Master/Apprentice programs, Community Classes, Immersion Camps, and Practical Linguistics. The Conference also provides time for people to share their language through song or stories.

Invited speakers include Akira Yamamoto (U of Kansas); Nancy Richardson-Steele (Master/Apprentice trainer, Humboldt State U); and Jerry Hill (Oneida Nation, Wisconsin).

The Conference will be held at the Northeast District Center of the United Methodist Church, which is located a quarter mile north and 1 mile east of Preston, OK off Highway 75. Preston is five minutes north of Okmulgee, OK. Camping and dorm facilities are available.

Conference registration will be \$30, payable to the Center for Tribal Studies, and will include all workshops, meals and use of bunkhouses or camping area. Since space in the bunkhouses is limited, early registration is encouraged. Persons interested in presenting should contact Gregory Bigler, P.O. Box 1927, Sapulpa, OK 74067 (tel: 918/227-0659). For information and registration contact: Carol Young, Center for Tribal Studies, Northeastern State University, Tahlequah, OK 74464-2399 (tel: 918/456-5511, ex. 4350). The e-mail contact is: [gdbigler@gorilla.net](mailto:gdbigler@gorilla.net).

## 30th Algonquian Conference (Boston, Oct. 22-25)

- From Karl V. Teeter ([kvt@fas.harvard.edu](mailto:kvt@fas.harvard.edu)) 25 Sept 1998:

The 30th Conference on Algonquian Studies will take place Oct. 22-25, 1998, at the Boston Marriott Hotel, in Burlington, MA, some 10 miles from the city. The Conference will be dedicated to the memory of Dr. Frank T. Siebert, Jr. (1912-1998). Papers are welcome on topics from any discipline related to the Algonquian speaking peoples. The registration fee is \$50 (students \$40). Early registration will be \$40 (students \$30).

To allow a wider participation, the deadline for abstracts (1-page) and for early registration has been extended to September 30. [Since this notice will not reach readers of the SSILA Bulletin before that date, anyone who would like to be on the program and/or to preregister should e-mail, fax, or telephone Karl Teeter immediately, at the address below. -Ed.]

To reserve a room at the meeting hotel at the special conference rate of \$95, call 781-229-6565 or fax 781-229-7973, specifying the 30<sup>th</sup> Algonquian Conference. Information on how to reach the hotel (public transportation to Boston and Cambridge is available) will be sent with the meeting program to all preregistrants and others who request it.

Abstracts and requests for further information should be sent to:

Karl V. Teeter  
14 1/2 Woodbridge Street  
Cambridge, MA 02140-1220  
tel: 617-495-8888  
fax: 617-495-0403  
e-mail: [kvt@fas.harvard.edu](mailto:kvt@fas.harvard.edu)

## **Comparative Penutian Workshop (Vancouver, BC, August 1999)**

- From Scott DeLancey ([delancey@darkwing.uoregon.edu](mailto:delancey@darkwing.uoregon.edu)):

A 1-day Comparative Penutian Workshop is being planned for inclusion in the 14th International Conference on Historical Linguistics, which will be held at the Univ. of British Columbia, August 9-13, 1999. It will be concerned with historical linguistic problems connected with the proposed Penutian stock of western North America. A particular concern of the workshop will be the problem of applying historical linguistic methods at the time depth represented by Penutian. Papers are solicited dealing with comparative problems of the overall Penutian hypothesis (as defined by DeLancey & Golla, IJAL 63:171-201, 1997), possible subgroups within Penutian, internal reconstruction in Penutian languages, or comparison within lower-level families ascribed to the Penutian stock. Linguists interested in participating should send one-page abstracts, by MARCH 31, 1999, to:

Scott DeLancey  
Department of Linguistics  
University of Oregon  
Eugene, OR 97403, USA

E-mail submission is fine (ASCII text only, please) to:

[delancey@darkwing.uoregon.edu](mailto:delancey@darkwing.uoregon.edu)

For general information about the 14th ICHL, contact the Conference Organizer: Laurel Brinton, Dept. of English, #397-1873 East Mall, Univ. of British Columbia, Vancouver, BC, V6T1Z1 CANADA (fax: 604/822-6906; e-mail: [brinton@unixg.ubc.ca](mailto:brinton@unixg.ubc.ca)).

## 74.5 E-MAIL ADDRESS UPDATES

Charney, Jean..... [charney@verinet.com](mailto:charney@verinet.com)  
Davis, John ..... [davis@usdoj.gov](mailto:davis@usdoj.gov)  
Jackson, Jason Baird ..... [bjackson@webzone.net](mailto:bjackson@webzone.net)  
Kofod, Frances ..... [f\\_kofod@topend.com.au](mailto:f_kofod@topend.com.au)  
Rood, David (1998-99) ..... [rood@uni-koeln.de](mailto:rood@uni-koeln.de)