

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

*SSILA BULLETIN*

An Information Service for SSILA Members

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Correspondence should be directed to the Editor

Number 89: June 7, 1999

## 89.0 SSILA BUSINESS

### **SSILA Summer Meeting Program**

The 1999 Summer Meeting of SSILA will take place on the campus of the University of Illinois, Urbana-Champaign, from Friday evening, July 9 through Saturday July 10, in conjunction with the 1999 Linguistic Institute. Two sessions of papers have been scheduled, a morning and an afternoon session on Saturday, July 10. The program is as follows:

#### SESSION I: Saturday morning, July 10

Coffee and pastries (8:30-9:30)

- 9:30: Jose' Alvarez (Universidad del Zulia), "Split intransitivity in Kari'n~a and other Cariban Languages"
- 9:50: Linda Cumberland (Indiana U), "Obstruent Alternation in Assiniboine: An Account in Optimality Theory"
- 10:10: Raimundo Medina (Universidad del Zulia), "Is Yukpa an Ergative or Accusative Language?"
- 10:30: Break
- 11:00: Marianne Milligan (U of Wisconsin, Madison), "Menominee Vowel Harmony: A Feature Geometric Analysis"
- 11:20: Zsuzsa Nagy (Rutgers U), "On the Position of Reduplicants in Lushootseed"
- 11:40: Luis Oquendo (Universidad del Zulia/ U of New Mexico), "The Imperative in the Japreria Language"

#### SESSION II: Saturday afternoon, July 10

- 1:30: Javier Ruedas (Tulane U), "Marubo Discourse Genres and Domains of Influence"
- 1:50: Muriel Saville-Troike & Ellen Courtney (U of Arizona), "Learning to Build Complex Verbs: Evidence from Navajo and Quechua"
- 2:10: Patricia A. Shaw (U of British Columbia), "Reduplicative Non-Identity in Nisga'a"
- 2:30: Break
- 3:00: M. Paul Shore (Arlington, Virginia), "A Proposed Method for Employing a Facet of Modern Consumer Culture to Foster Lay Awareness of Indigenous American Languages"
- 3:20: Sarah G. Thomason (U of Michigan), "Snap, Crackle, Pop, Plop, Twinkle in Montana Salish"
- 3:40: Frank R. Trechsel (Ball State U), "Possessor Ascension in Tzotzil"

Summer Business Meeting (4:00-5:00)

## **Protest over use of Indian mascot at U of Illinois**

- From the SSILA Executive Committee:

In recent weeks the Society has received several messages from Native American organizations and from interested individuals, including members of the Society, urging us to cancel the summer meeting and boycott the University of Illinois as a gesture of solidarity with those protesting the continued use of the mascot "Chief Illiniwek" by the university at football games and other events. Despite repeated calls to do away with what many consider an offensive and demeaning caricature, the Illinois trustees and administration, citing strong alumni support for the school's "beloved symbol", have declined to take action. The issue is one of considerable importance to many Native Americans, particularly in the Midwest, and several correspondents have expressed dismay at what could appear to be SSILA's insensitivity to their concerns.

The SSILA Executive Committee has taken this matter seriously. Our decision is to follow through with the meeting as planned, but we have also accepted a proposal put forward by Brenda Farnell, a member of the Anthropology faculty at Illinois and an SSILA member, to lend our voice to the debate over Chief Illiniwek during the few days we will be present on campus. Professor Farnell wrote:

- > Although a small group, SSILA could have quite an impact if, for
- > example, a representative were willing to meet with the Provost and
- > other top administrators. Perhaps someone would be willing to do a
- > brief radio interview. The "Chief" issue could be mentioned in the
- > opening remarks and so forth. SSILA would then be making useful
- > contributions to educating people on this issue and so become part
- > of the positive force for change. I am persuaded that these
- > individually small actions might accumulatively make a greater impact
- > than a boycott...

Vice President Sarah G. Thomason (who is also the Collitz Professor at the Linguistic Institute) will be the presiding officer of the summer meeting, in the absence of President Karl Teeter. She will work with Professor Farnell and others on the Illinois campus to make the Society's voice heard regarding the continued use of the Chief Illiniwek mascot.

We anticipate a lively debate at the Business Meeting on Saturday afternoon, July 10. However, since it is likely that relatively few members will be able to attend this meeting, the Executive Committee would like to hear from members at large about this matter. E-mail should be directed to Vice President Thomason ([thomason@umich.edu](mailto:thomason@umich.edu)), with a copy to the Secretary-Treasurer ([gollav@humboldt.edu](mailto:gollav@humboldt.edu)). Written comments can be sent to SSILA, P.O. Box 555, Arcata, CA 95518.

Members and other readers of the Bulletin who would like further information about "Chief Illiniwek" and details of the dispute over the retention of this mascot can obtain a

great deal of information at two websites. The Native American perspective can be found at:

<http://www.prairienet.org/prc/prcanti.html>

"Pro-Chief" views are expressed at:

<http://www.savethechief.com/>

## 89.1 CORRESPONDENCE

### Directory information

- From Donald Frantz ([frantz@uleth.ca](mailto:frantz@uleth.ca)) 21 May 1999:

Would you like members to send additional information about ourselves that we would like to see added to the directory?

--Don Frantz  
Lethbridge, Alberta, Canada  
([frantz@uleth.ca](mailto:frantz@uleth.ca))

[The Editor replies:

A number of people over the years have suggested that we include more detailed information about members' interests in the SSILA Directory. It sounds good, but it requires more time and editorial attention than yours truly has available. The "Index of Language Interests" is, I realize, only barely adequate, but even this is not easy to keep up to date.

Our website directory DOES have a facility for adding more detailed information. It's a do-it-yourself thing, and can be accessed directly at the site. Only a few members have taken advantage of this so far, but others might wish to.

--VG]

### Games in language revitalization?

- From Luisa Maffi ([maffi@nwu.edu](mailto:maffi@nwu.edu)) 21 May 1999:

A Colombian sociolinguist working with the Pa'ez people sent me the message below. He asks whether anyone has had experience with the kind of language revitalization experiment they are doing there (developed by a group of bilingual teachers), via the use of table games. At present, only 30% of Páez in the community speak the language nasa yuwe). If anybody has any relevant information or would like to correspond on this, they can write Pedro Cortés or William García at <[wgarcia@atenea.ucacua.edu.co](mailto:wgarcia@atenea.ucacua.edu.co)>. Pedro speaks English too.

~Luisa Maffi  
Dept. of Psychology, Northwestern University  
Evanston, IL  
([maffi@nwu.edu](mailto:maffi@nwu.edu))

>Date: Wed, 19 May 1999  
>From: Pedro Cortes Lombana <[pcortes@multi.net.co](mailto:pcortes@multi.net.co)>  
>To: Terralingua <[maffi@nwu.edu](mailto:maffi@nwu.edu)>  
>Subject: de Colombia  
[...]  
>  
>En una comunidad indígena Páez del sur de Colombia, departamento del  
>Cauca, se está desarrollando un proyecto de investigación participa-  
>tiva sobre la utilización de juegos de mesa (naipe, parkés, bingo)  
>para la recuperación de la lengua nativa, la cual ha venido  
>progresivamente siendo sustituida por el Español hasta el punto de  
>que hoy día menos del 30% de la comunidad habla dicha lengua (nasa  
>yuwe). El proyecto lo desarrollan un grupo de maestros indígenas  
>bilingües con la asesoría del Grupo de Estudios en Educacio'n  
>Indígena y Multicultural de la Universidad del Cauca.  
>  
>Estamos interesados en intercambiar información y experiencias con  
>proyectos similares. Pueden escribir a Pedro Cortes o William García  
>a la siguiente dirección: [wgarcia@atenea.ucacua.edu.co](mailto:wgarcia@atenea.ucacua.edu.co)

### **Hunter-gatherer calendrics across the Bering Strait**

- From ([bers@mail.tomsknet.ru](mailto:bers@mail.tomsknet.ru)) 28 May 1999:

I am interested in the concept of Time in Hunter-Gatherer societies. At present I am trying to investigate and compare the calendrical systems of two aboriginal peoples of Siberia (the Selkups and the Kets) and those used by American Indians. Since I must use the available literature in Russian, I am not entirely sure that the American tribes from which I have taken data (Cree, Salteaux (Algonquian), and Halkomelem (Salish)) are technically Hunter-Gatherers. I would be very grateful if someone could advise me on this matter, and also point me to literature concerning my problem in other languages.

~Svetlana Kolesnikova  
Department of Linguistics  
Tomsk State Pedagogical University  
Tomsk, Russia

([bers@mail.tomsknet.ru](mailto:bers@mail.tomsknet.ru))

(web: <http://www.tspu.edu.ru/pages/Sveta/index.html>)

## 89.2 MYSTERY LANGUAGES REVEALED

[In Bulletin #88.3, John Johnson asked if anyone could identify two "mystery vocabularies" that he recently discovered in a notebook used in the late 18th and early 19th century by a Franciscan missionary in California. Here is John's report on the replies he received.]

- From John R. Johnson ([jjohnson@sbnature2.org](mailto:jjohnson@sbnature2.org)) 19 May 1999:

I was flabbergasted by the prompt response to my query of Monday morning! Immediately my request to identify the mystery languages is transmitted to all SSILA members via the online Bulletin and I am inundated with suggestions.

The first unidentified vocabulary is Nootka. Everyone agrees (Kinkade, Robertson, Howe, Bright, Poser). These respondents also noted that some of the words became incorporated into Chinook jargon, as you first mentioned.

The second word list turns out to be Hawaiian. The missionary evidently misunderstood the English name for the Hawaiian Islands to be "San Luis" instead of "Sandwich."

Now that we have certainly identified the languages, I have now been able to identify the missionary who compiled these vocabularies. It was Fr. Jose' de la Cruz Espi' who was in Nootka in 1789 and later served at several of the California missions. An English ship arrived from Hawaii during that year, so presumably this is why a Hawaiian vocabulary was recorded. Subsequent inimical relations between the Spanish captain and the English captain led to the "Nootka Crisis." England and Spain almost went to war over the ensuing dispute. This is the larger historical context of how these word lists came to be recorded.

~John Johnson  
Santa Barbara Museum of Natural History  
Santa Barbara, CA 93105-2998  
([jjohnson@sbnature2.org](mailto:jjohnson@sbnature2.org))

The reply John received from Dale Kinkade about the Nootka vocabulary was especially detailed:

- From M D Kinkade ([mdkd@interchange.ubc.ca](mailto:mdkd@interchange.ubc.ca)) 19 May 1999:

First of all, the list is not Chinook Jargon, even though it includes some of the words that ended up in Chinook Jargon. I've now checked all the words of the data you posted, and they are clearly central Nootkan as written by a Spaniard (<tyy> is the only question; it's clearly [tayi], but it now seems to mean 'firstborn son'; it must have meant something more earlier, as it does in Chinook Jargon). Guessing from the inclusion of words for

`bear skin' and `otter skin', the vessel from which this vocabulary was collected must have had some interest in fur trade.

I do think it's of sufficient interest to have it published. As far as I know, it's one of the earliest Nootka word lists. There are three from Cook's voyage of 1778, one from Walker in 1785-86, one from Manuel Quimper in 1790, and there is Mozino from 1792 (the transcriptions of your new vocabulary are significantly different from Mozino). I don't know of anything else earlier. If your deductions are correct, your vocabulary had to have been collected before 1795, so it is surely one of the earliest known Nootka vocabularies, and therefore important.

....Ideally, its authorship and date should be tracked down, if that's possible. It would be good to know just when during that early period it was compiled, by whom, and from what vessel, although judging from your description of where you found it those things may not be possible.

--M. Dale Kinkade  
Vancouver, BC, Canada



### 89.3 "MOTHER TONGUE" #4 TO APPEAR SOON

- From John Bengtson ([john.bengtson@co.hennepin.mn.us](mailto:john.bengtson@co.hennepin.mn.us)) 19 May 1999:

"Mother Tongue" IV (December 1998), the Journal of the Association for the Study of Language in Prehistory, is near completion. The table of contents is as follows:

Introduction and Guide to Deep Classifications: The Editors

#### THE YENISEIAN LANGUAGES:

The Kets and Their Language: Edward J. Vajda  
Reconstructing Proto-Yeniseian: Heinrich Werner  
Some Yeniseian Isoglosses: John D. Bengtson

#### THE AINU LANGUAGE:

The External Relations of Ainu: Problems and Prospects: Paul Sidwell  
Some Morphological Parallels Between Ainu and Austronesian: Yoshizo Itabashi  
The Contact and Genetic Relationships of Ainu: Peter Norquest  
Review of Patrie 1982: John D. Bengtson  
Why Do the Ainu Look "Caucasoid"?: John D. Bengtson

#### APOPHONY IN LINGUISTIC PREHISTORY:

Apophony in Proto-Edoid: Roger W. Wescott  
Consonantal Apophony in Indo-European Animal Names: Roger W. Wescott  
Consonantal Ablaut in Proto-Human: John D. Bengtson

#### BOOK REVIEWS:

The Bronze Age and Early Iron Age Peoples of Eastern Central Asia: Reviewed by Daniel F. McCall

Indo-European, Nostratic and Beyond: Festschrift for Vitalij V. Shevoroshkin: Reviewed by Roger W. Wescott

A Comparative Vocabulary of Five Sino-Tibetan Languages (by Peiros & Starostin): Remarks by Paul K. Benedict

MISCELLANEA: Corrections and Clarifications: The Editors

"Mother Tongue" is sent to all members of ASLIP. If you are already an ASLIP member, please make sure you have paid dues through 1998 to get MT IV. If not yet an ASLIP member, please contact the ASLIP Treasurer, Peter Norquest (1632 Santa Rita Ave, Tucson, AZ 85719; [norquesp@U.Arizona.edu](mailto:norquesp@U.Arizona.edu)). Dues are \$25 per year.

--John D. Bengtson, President, ASLIP  
156 15th Avenue NE, Minneapolis, MN 55413  
([john.bengtson@co.hennepin.mn.us](mailto:john.bengtson@co.hennepin.mn.us))

## 89.4 ON-LINE NORTH AMERICAN LANGUAGES COURSE FROM UTAH STATE

- From John McLaughlin ([mclasutt@brigham.net](mailto:mclasutt@brigham.net)) 20 May 1999:

Utah State University (USU) is now offering a complete suite of on-line undergraduate Linguistics courses, including a course entitled "The Languages of Native America" taught by SSILA member John McLaughlin.

These courses are fully accredited and offer USU undergraduate credit which can be transferred to another institution or used in fulfillment of a USU undergraduate degree. These courses are being offered continuously as Independent Study so students can start them at any time and take up to a year to complete. The courses are being offered not as a substitute for classroom-based Linguistics programs, if available, but as a supplement to a limited offering of Linguistics courses at a specific school, as a Linguistics course of study for students at a school not offering any Linguistics courses, and for prospective graduate students and others not attending a school who need to fulfill Linguistics prerequisites or simply want to expand their understanding of the subject. The classes are all open enrollment, so matriculation at USU is not necessary. For more information, go to the USU On-Line Linguistics web site at:

<http://english.usu.edu/lingnet>

or contact John McLaughlin at ([mclasutt@brigham.net](mailto:mclasutt@brigham.net)).

## 89.5 ADDENDUM TO STABILIZING INDIGENOUS LANGUAGES PROCEEDINGS

- From M-L Tarpent ([mtarpent.employee.msvu@msvu1.msvu.ca](mailto:mtarpent.employee.msvu@msvu1.msvu.ca)) 25 May 1999:

My paper resulting from a workshop conducted at the Fifth Annual Stabilizing Indigenous Languages Symposium (Louisville, Ky, 1998) could not be included in the published proceedings ["Revitalizing Indigenous Languages", see April 1999 Newsletter, p. 11]. It is:

"Concretizing linguistic structure: a 'Sentence Puzzle Kit' for modeling and practicing grammatical Nisg\_a'a sentences"

I will send a printed copy to anyone interested.

The paper describes the grammatical structures involved, the design coding by shape and color) of the puzzle pieces in the kit, and some of its uses in the classroom with students of various ages and levels, as well as some possible adaptations for different languages. Apart from its pedagogical use with language learners, a concrete representation such as the 'sentence puzzle kit' can also play a role in helping to bridge the gap between linguists and native speakers.

~Marie-Lucie Tarpent  
Mount Saint Vincent University  
Halifax, Nova Scotia B3M 2J6, Canada  
([marie-lucie.tarpent@msvu.ca](mailto:marie-lucie.tarpent@msvu.ca))

## 89.6 STIPENDS AVAILABLE FOR NAHUATL INSTITUTE AT YALE

>From Jonathan Amith ([jonathan.amith@yale.edu](mailto:jonathan.amith@yale.edu)) 25 May 1999:

Yale University and the Title VI Consortium of New England has recently accessed funds to provide a full tuition stipend and \$2,400 in living expenses to students who wish to attend the Nahuatl Summer Language Institute II at Yale University (21 June to 13 August 1999). We apologize for the lateness of this announcement but would welcome those who wish to take an intensive course in Nahuatl but for financial reasons were unable to apply. Those interested should contact Jonathan D. Amith (coordinator and co-instructor) at [jonathan.amith@yale.edu](mailto:jonathan.amith@yale.edu) or at either of the following telephone numbers: 203/432-3197 or 203/624-5209. The application should include a letter of application and, if possible, a recommendation and/or transcript. However, given the lateness of this announcement we will be flexible in this regard.

Information on the course can be obtained at the website:

<http://www.yale.edu/nahuatl>

Nahuatl Summer Language Institute II, which is part of the Yale Summer Language Institute, will be held June 21-August 13, 1999, and offers intensive language training in Classical, colonial, and modern Nahuatl.

## 89.7 METHODS IN LINGUISTIC ANTHROPOLOGY AT LINGUISTIC INSTITUTE

- From Gary B. Palmer ([gbp@nevada.edu](mailto:gbp@nevada.edu)) 21 May 1999:

We are happy to report that NSF has approved funding for a Summer Institute on Methods in Linguistic Anthropology, which will run concurrently with the LSA Linguistic Institute at the University of Illinois, Urbana-Champaign during the period from July 19 to 31, 1999.

This is an unprecedented opportunity to earn credits, learn the methods of linguistic anthropology, and enjoy all the other academic benefits of the Linguistic Institute. Please help us to notify students who may be interested.

The courses to be offered are listed below. The instructors are highly qualified. Information regarding registration, schedules, tuition, and lodging can be found on the LSA Summer Institute home page at <<http://www.beckman.uiuc.edu/groups/cs/linginst/>>. Our courses will be offered in the session on Anthropological Linguistics.

Our thanks to the students who expressed interest, and to the colleagues who helped with planning and who may have supported our proposal. We hope to see you and your students in Urbana.

~Gary Palmer, Co-director  
Elizabeth Brandt, Co-director

Basic Methods of Elicitation, 2 week course, Bert Vaux (Harvard) and Marlyse Baptista (Georgia)

Gesturing and Speaking about Space: A Cross-cultural Perspective, 2 week course, Sotaro Kita (Max-Planck Institute for Psycholinguistics, Nijmegen)

The Uses of Videotape in Linguistic Anthropology, 2 week course, Elizabeth Keating (University of Texas at Austin)

The Use of Computers in Linguistic Anthropology, 2 week course, David Tuggy (SIL)

The Interface of Language and Gesture (Cross-listed from the 1999 LSA Linguistic Institute), 2 week course, Brenda Farnell (UIUC)

## 89.8 SOUTHWEST JOURNAL OF LINGUISTICS SOLICITS MANUSCRIPTS

- From Gary B. Palmer ([gbp@nevada.edu](mailto:gbp@nevada.edu)) 3 Jun 1999:

The \*Southwest Journal of Linguistics\* is renewing its call for manuscripts. The journal publishes papers, written in either Spanish or English, across a broad range of topics in linguistics, though essays and research papers dealing with the languages of the southwestern United States and northern Mexico are especially encouraged. The journal also publishes scholarly reviews of the literature, book reviews, and occasional commentary on topics of concern to the journal's readership. Each 240-page volume of the journal is published in two numbers, one in June and one in December.

The June 1999 issue of the journal, now in press, includes an essay on 'public linguistics' written by Robert D. King; an article on the use of the ingressive airstream in women's speech in Tohono O'odham, written by Jane Hill and Ofelia Zepeda; a cognitive grammar analysis of two Korean motion verbs, written by Jeong-Hwa Le; an analysis of taboo words in southern California, written by Rong Chen; a treatment of epistemic and evidential modality, written by Ferdinand de Haan; and a sociolinguistic study of Spanish in El Paso, Texas, written by Joseph Weyers. The issue also includes seven book reviews.

For further information contact the editor, Jon G. Jonz (Department of Literature & Languages, Texas A&M-Commerce, Commerce, TX 75429 ([jon\\_jonz@tamu-commerce.edu](mailto:jon_jonz@tamu-commerce.edu)), or visit the journal's website at:

[www.tamu-commerce.edu/swjl](http://www.tamu-commerce.edu/swjl)

## 89.9 E-MAIL ADDRESS UPDATES

Agee, Fred ..... [frdnss@earthlink.net](mailto:frdnss@earthlink.net)  
Chavez-Cappellini, Yolanda..... [yolandach@worldnet.att.net](mailto:yolandach@worldnet.att.net)  
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Nowak, Elke ..... [nowak@rz.uni-leipzig.de](mailto:nowak@rz.uni-leipzig.de)  
Piper, Michael J. .... [michael\\_piper@sil.org](mailto:michael_piper@sil.org)