

**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 100: December 1, 1999

100.1 CORRESPONDENCE

Another site featured by StudyWeb

- From Robert M Leavitt (rleavitt@unb.ca) 16 Nov 1999:

It was good to hear about the recognition given to the SSILA website by “StudyWeb” (Bulletin #99.1). I am pleased to report that the StudyWeb Editing Team has also decided to feature my Maliseet site: <http://ultratext.hil.unb.ca/Texts/Maliseet/dictionary/index.html>

~Robert Leavitt
University of New Brunswick
(rleavitt@unb.ca)

UNESCO declaration supports traditional knowledge and languages

- From Luisa Maffi (maffi@nwu.edu) 29 Nov 1999:

I finally got to read the text of the “Declaration on Science: Agenda and Framework for Action” put out by the UNESCO-International Council for Science (ICSU) at a conference in Budapest last summer--a big-time document that is being widely commented upon. Paragraph 86, under section 3.4 “Modern science and other systems of knowledge”, reads:

86. Governmental and non-governmental organizations should sustain traditional knowledge systems through active support of the societies that are keepers and developers of this knowledge, their ways of life, their ****languages**** [my emphasis], their social organization and the environments in which they live, and fully recognize the contribution of women as repositories of a large part of traditional knowledge.

The full document is on the web at:

http://www.unesco.org/science/wcs/eng/declaration_e.htm

Here is evidence that the argument some of us have been making for the past several years is beginning to be heard internationally. Other paragraphs in the document also speak about the relationship between modern science and traditional knowledge. Now, of course, the proof is in the local pudding, so to speak: i.e., in actions taken by national governments, regional and local institutions, etc., to actually promote and support this perspective.

~Luisa Maffi
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Bear book for your gift list

- From M-L Tarpent (mtarpent.employee.msvu@msvu1.msvu.ca) 30 Nov 1999:

A few months ago I posted a message in the Bulletin asking for words for 'bear' in American languages, for a book that was to be published. Twenty-seven members responded and sent words. The book has now been published: *GRRRR : A Collection of Poems about Bears*, edited by CB Follett (Arctos Press, PO Box 401, Sausalito, CA 94966; e-mail: Runes@aol.com).

This is an attractive softcover book approx. 8" by 9 1/2", 250 pages, containing poems about bears by 141 authors (including names like Ursula LeGuin, N. Scott Momaday, Adrienne Rich, Gary Snyder, etc), illustrated with small pen and ink drawings by a number of artists (one of them my daughter Laura Corsiglia). There are also snippets of Native American legends about bears. The end pages are taken up by words for 'bear' in a large number of languages -- the editor says that a lot of people have told her how much they like this feature. All the SSILA members who sent words are acknowledged along with other people who helped in various ways.

This book would make a nice gift for people (adults) interested in bears. It can be ordered directly from the publisher above for US \$24 (\$1 of which will go to organizations for the preservation of bears), plus \$3 for shipping (in the US; \$1 for additional books). The book can also be ordered through US bookstores but that would take longer than directly from the publisher.

~Marie-Lucie Tarpent
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100.2 WORKSHOP AT LSA ON COMPUTATIONAL SUPPORT FOR LINGUISTIC FIELDWORK

- From Steven Bird (sb@ldc.upenn.edu) 17 Nov 1999:

A day-long workshop on “Linguistic Exploration: New Methods for Creating, Exploring and Disseminating Linguistic Field Data” will be held in the Palmer House Hilton, Chicago, on Thursday January 6, 2000, 9am-6pm, in conjunction with the LSA Annual Meeting. The workshop, sponsored by the NSF TalkBank Project, will focus on computational support for linguistic fieldwork, and will be coordinated by Steven Bird (U of Pennsylvania). The workshop will bring together linguists and computational linguists committed to empirical research on large datasets, through the combination of traditional field methods and new technologies for exploring and visualizing complex datasets. The languages under study may range from the undescribed to the well-studied, and the fieldworker may operate in a village or a laboratory. The focus is the exploratory mode of research, where elicitation, analysis and hypothesis-testing form a tight loop. The workshop will contribute to the evaluation and evolution of methodologies that integrate traditional practices with new technologies, leading to increased accessibility, accountability, and stability of empirical linguistic research.

The workshop will address a selection of the following issues:

1. Representation -- what are good data models for interlinked, heterogeneous, multimodal linguistic field data, including lexicons, (interlinear) texts, field notes, (annotated) recordings, paradigms, grammar sketches, maps, photographs, folios, course notes and problem sets?
2. Tools -- what are the existing and new tools for manipulating linguistic field data, and what are their strengths and weaknesses vis-a-vis creating, browsing, searching, querying and transforming this data? How well do the tools accommodate the fieldworker’s continuously evolving conception of the data? What statistical corpus-analysis methods are suitable for datasets whose items number in the hundreds rather than the hundreds of thousands?
3. Collaborative knowledge discovery -- how can a geographically distributed network of linguists and native speakers cooperate on the construction, validation and enrichment of multimodal field data? How do we bridge the gap between the field and the laboratory?
4. Online repositories -- how can a collection of online multimodal field data covering many languages be archived and curated? What are the corpora that people are currently willing to share? What are the confidentiality issues, and what mechanisms exist to protect privacy?
5. Dissemination and citation -- how are datasets to be accessed by researchers, native speakers, language learners, field-methods students, and so on? How can we facilitate durable citations to shared linguistic resources, and track the provenance of a data item from a published transcription, through any intermediate databases, right back to a digitized speech recording?

The workshop program will consist of a series of invited presentations and demonstrations. The program will be made available early in December at the workshop website:

<http://www.talkbank.org/exploration.html>

A sample of ongoing work which is closely relevant to the topic of this workshop is available at Steve Bird’s “Linguistic Exploration” page: <http://www.ldc.upenn.edu/sb/exploration.html>

To register for the Linguistic Exploration Workshop, and to receive future updates about the workshop and related activities, please contact Steven Bird at: <sb@ldc.upenn.edu>.

Confirmed presentations to date include:

- Brian MacWhinney (The NSF TalkBank Project)
- Mark Liberman (Creating and disseminating linguistic databases: Transcriber and LDC-Online)
- Rich Thomason (Towards computerized support for empirical linguistics: some ideas from computer science)
- Dafydd Gibbon (The Bielefeld-Abidjan documentation project: Information types and dissemination media)
- Larry Hayashi (Discovering and testing linguistic generalizations)
- Jonathan Amith (What's in a Word? The Why's and What For's of a Nahuatl Dictionary)
- Chris Manning (Kirrkirr: Experiences with a flexible software interface to indigenous dictionaries);
- Ronald Sprouse (Two approaches to linguistic field work on the web: The TELL and Ingush projects)
- David Nathan (Data design for endangered languages: increasing the "Linguistic Bandwidth");
- Bill Poser (TBA)
- Chris Cieri (Issues and tools for creating and annotating a corpus of sociolinguistic field data)
- Lev Michael (Plans for a worldwide web archive of the indigenous languages of Latin America)
- Steven Bird (Multidimensional exploration of linguistic databases).

100.3 UPCOMING MEETINGS

Indigenous American languages session at BLS (Berkeley, Feb. 18, 2000)

- From (charon@uclink4.berkeley.edu) 29 Nov 1999:

The 26th Annual Meeting of the Berkeley Linguistic Society (Feb. 18-21, 2000) will feature a day-long special session on "Syntax and Semantics of the Indigenous Languages of the Americas." It will be held from 9 am to 5:30 pm on the first day of the meeting, Friday, Feb. 18, in 370 Dwinelle Hall, UC Berkeley. The invited speakers will be Emmon Bach (U Mass Amherst), Marianne Mithun (UC Santa Barbara), and Jerry Sadock (U of Chicago).

Other papers will include:

Donna B. Gerdts (Simon Fraser U) & Thomas E. Hukari (U of Victoria), "Multiple Antipassives in Halkomelem Salish"

Mercedes Q. Hinkson (Simon Fraser U), "The semantics of the Salishan suffix *an/n'ak"

Connie Dickinson (U of Oregon), "Complex Predicates in Tsafiki"

Scott DeLancey (U of Oregon), "Argument Structure of Klamath Bipartite Stems"

Julia Dieterman (U of Texas-Arlington), "Word Order and Inverse Voice in Isthmus Mixe"

Loretta O'Connor (UC Santa Barbara), "Aspectual classes and non-agentive morphosyntax in Lowland Chontal"

Eve Ng (SUNY Buffalo), "Demonstrative words in Passamaquoddy"

George Aaron Broadwell (SUNY Albany), "Coordination, clitic placement, and prosody in Zapotec"

Roberto Zavala (U of Oregon), "Grammaticalization of Olutec motion verbs under areal contact"

Carrie Gillon (UBC), "Multiple Movement and Wh-in-situ in Inuktitut"

For the full program of BLS-26, as well as information on travel, accommodations, and registration, visit the BLS website: <http://www.linguistics.berkeley.edu/BLS/BLS26.html>

High Desert Linguistics Conference (Albuquerque, NM, April 7-9, 2000)

- From (nordquis@unm.edu) 22 Nov 1999:

The third annual High Desert Linguistics Conference will be held at the University of New Mexico, Albuquerque, NM, April 7-9, 2000. The keynote speakers will be Colette Grinevald and John Haiman. Proposals are invited for 20-minute talks and 10 minute discussion sessions in any area of linguistics from any theoretical perspective. Papers in the following areas are especially welcome: language change and variation, grammaticization, signed languages, Native American languages, and computational linguistics. Please note that selected papers from this conference will be published.

Submissions must include 2 copies of an anonymous abstract and an index card including the following information:

- Name
- Title of Abstract and area (phonology, syntax etc.)
- Affiliation(s)

- Mailing address
- e-mail address

Abstracts must be at most one page with one-inch margins and typed in at least 11-point font. An optional second page is permitted for data and citations. Submissions are limited to one individual and one joint abstract per author. Abstracts may be submitted by e-mail. All submissions must be received no later than January 31, 2000, and will only be considered if they conform to the above guidelines. Send to HDLS, Dept of Linguistics, 526 Humanities Bldg, U of New Mexico, Albuquerque, NM 87131; or by e-mail to <kaaron@unm.edu>.

WAIL-3 (UC Santa Barbara, April 14-16, 2000)

- From Paul T. Barthmaier (ptb0@umail.ucsb.edu) 17 Nov 1999:

The linguistics department at UC Santa Barbara announces its 3rd annual Workshop on American Indigenous Languages (WAIL-3), a forum for the discussion of theoretical and descriptive linguistic studies of indigenous languages of the Americas. It will be held on the weekend of April 14- 16, 2000.

Anonymous abstracts are invited for talks on any topic in Native American linguistics. Talks will be 20 minutes, followed by 10 minutes for discussion. Individuals may submit abstracts for one single and one co-authored paper. Abstracts should be 500 words or less and can be submitted by hard copy or e-mail.

For hard copy submissions, please send five copies of the abstract and a 3x5 card with the following information:

- (1) name
- (2) affiliation
- (3) mailing address
- (4) phone number
- (5) e-mail address
- (6) title of paper.

Send hard copy submissions to:

Workshop on American Indigenous Languages
Department of Linguistics
University of California, Santa Barbara
Santa Barbara, CA 93106

E-mail submissions are encouraged. Include the information from the 3x5 card (above) in the body of the e-mail message, with the anonymous abstract as an attachment. Send e-mail submissions to: wail@humanitas.ucsb.edu.

The deadline for receipt of abstracts is January 30, 2000. Notification of acceptance will be by e-mail by February 15. For further information, contact the conference coordinator by e-mail at

<wail@humanitas.ucsb.edu> or by telephone at (805) 893-3776, or check out the WAIL website at:

<http://linguistics.ucsb.edu/events/wail/wail.html>

Stabilizing Indigenous Languages (Toronto, May 11-14, 2000)

- From Barbara Burbaby (silc@oise.utoronto.ca) 16 Nov 1999:

For updated information and registration forms for the Seventh Annual Stabilizing Indigenous Languages Conference, to be held in Toronto, Ontario, on May 11-14, 2000, please visit:

www.oise.utoronto.ca/MLC/silc

The Conference will be held at the Toronto Colony Hotel, hosted by the Ontario Institute for Studies in Education (OISE) of the University of Toronto. The theme of the meeting will be "Language Across the Community," emphasizing the many ways in which all community members can become involved in indigenous language activities.

Deadline for submission is March 31, 2000. Registration Rates: Before March 31, \$125 Canadian/\$100 US; after March 31, \$150 Canadian/\$125 US. Student rates (with proof of full-time enrolment), \$50 Canadian/\$40 US.

Athabaskan Languages Conference (Smithers, BC, June 8-10, 2000)

- From Sharon Hargus (sharon@u.washington.edu) 29 Nov 1999:

Next year's annual meeting of the Athabaskan Languages Conference will be held in Smithers and Moricetown, BC, Canada, June 9-10, 2000, preceded by a one-day workshop on Athabaskan prosody, June 8. A call for papers will be announced in February 2000. For further information contact Sharon Hargus, Linguistics, U of Washington (sharon@u.washington.edu).

100.4 THE BOOK EXCHANGE

Pawnee grammar needed

I would like to know if there is some other member of SSILA (or someone else) who would be interested in selling a copy of Douglas R. Parks, *A Grammar of Pawnee* (Garland, 1976) -- OR a copy of Parks' original dissertation of the same title (UC Berkeley, 1972, UMI AAG0262076), which is unfortunately no longer available from UMI.

I can not easily be reached by e-mail, so please direct correspondence to me at the postal address below. Thank you!

~Raffaele Girlando
Via Minghetti 8
97013 Comiso (Ragusa), Sicily
ITALY

100.5 ANTI-"CHIEF" RESOLUTION PASSED AT AAA MEETING

During the annual business meeting of the American Anthropological Association in Chicago, November 20, members voted unanimously in favor of an "anti-Chief Illiniwek" resolution offered by SSILA member Brenda Farnell. Echoing the statement adopted at the SSILA Summer Meeting last July, the AAA resolution recommends to the Board of Directors that the Association not schedule another annual meeting in Illinois until the administration and trustees of the University of Illinois, the flagship educational institution of the state, replace their "Chief Illiniwek" mascot with one that does not promote "inaccurate, anachronistic, and damaging stereotypes of Native American people." The resolution affirms the AAA's belief that such officially sanctioned stereotypes "humiliate American Indian people, trivialize the scholarship of anthropologists, undermine the learning environment for all students, and seriously compromise efforts to promote diversity on school and college campuses." A similar resolution will be introduced at the LSA Business Meeting in January.

100.6 WEBSITES OF INTEREST

H-AMINDIAN

As some SSILA members already know, American Indian historians, ethno-historians, archivists, and others “with a professional interest in the indigenous peoples of North America” enjoy a very lively electronic discussion forum, H-AMINDIAN. The list is moderated by J. Wendel Cox and supported by a project at the Department of History, Arizona State University. Postings are archived at the H-AMINDIAN website: <http://www.asu.edu/clas/history/h-amindian/>

Of particular note are the daily postings of “News Items of Interest”. This feature is compiled daily by H-AMINDIAN project staff, and includes news items appearing in a wide range of regional, national, and international newspapers, newswires, and other media outlets. While not comprehensive, it is a representative reference to mainstream media coverage of American Indian issues for the previous day.

Also archived are several discussion threads on select issues, presented in their entirety. Two will be of special interest to SSILA members: “Long Knives: Indian Ethnonyms for Non-Indians” and “Ethnonyms and Exonyms.”

Early Canadiana: linguistic and ethnohistorical sources available on-line

- From Peter Bakker (linpb@mail.hum.au.dk) 29 Nov 1999:

A number of years ago the Canadian Institute for Historical Microreproductions started collecting early books relevant to Canadian history, in order to put these early Canadiana on microfiche. More than 3000 pre-1900 books with Canadian relevance were made available to the public in this way.

Now the whole set of books is also available on-line at a well-organized website: <http://www.canadiana.org>

Every page of these old books can be viewed on one’s own computer, and they can also be downloaded in PDF-format. This means that many hard-to-find and rare books are now within easy reach of researchers. One can search the website in English and French, for words in the titles, authors, subjects, and even do text searches. For linguists it is good to know that many dictionaries, grammars, vocabulary lists of Native languages can now be consulted without cumbersome library searches. There is linguistic work on the following languages, and undoubtedly more: Abenaki, Bella Coola, Chinook Jargon, Chipewyan, Cree, Eskimo (several varieties), Flathead, Gwich’in, Haida, Kalispel, Klamath, Maliseet, Micmac, Mohawk, Ojibwe, Onondaga, Plains Sign Language, Seneca, Siksika (Blackfoot), Sioux, Slave, Tlingit, Tsimshian. Texts are also available, many of them of religious nature. One can find linguistic works by people like Boas, Horatio Hale, Hunter, Lacombe, Lahontan, Petitot, Pilling, Rand and many others.

There are also many missionary reports, travel accounts, and other early imprints available with contents relevant for Native studies. Sometimes these include linguistic material. Even though the focus of the website is on Canada, one can also find sources on other parts of North America (such as Alaska, the Aleutian islands, Florida, Hawaii, and Louisiana).

An early description of the linguistically relevant part of the collection was made by David Pentland in 1993 ("North American languages of Canada, 1534-1900." Facsimile Newsletter/Bulletin Facsimil, 10: 5-16).

This is a very valuable research tool that all SSILA members should know about.

~Peter Bakker
Institute for Linguistics, Aarhus University
DK-8000 Aarhus C, Denmark
(linpb@hum.au.dk)

100.7 DOCTORAL FELLOWSHIPS IN LINGUISTICS AT RICE UNIVERSITY

- From Suzanne E Kemmer (kemmer@ruf.rice.edu) 30 Nov 1999:

The Department of Linguistics at Rice University announces the opening of competition for its doctoral fellowships for 2000-2001. The Ph.D. program at Rice emphasizes the study of language use, the relation of language and mind, and functional approaches to linguistic theory and description. A strong component of the program is field studies in particular language areas. Areas of intensive research activity in the department include cognitive/functional linguistics, language universals and typology, language change and grammaticalization studies, lexical semantics, corpus linguistics, computational modelling, neurolinguistics, phonetics, sociolinguistics, and second language acquisition. Interdisciplinary opportunities are available with the doctoral programs in Cognitive Psychology, Philosophy, Anthropology, the interdisciplinary group in Cognitive Sciences, and the Center for Cultural Studies.

Several members of the faculty have research interests in Amerindian languages: James Copeland (Tarahumara); Philip W. Davis (Bella Coola; Alabama); Spike Gildea (Amazonian linguistics, Cariban languages); and Sydney Lamb (Monachi).

Graduate fellowships include tuition and a cash stipend. Fellowships are normally renewable for four years upon satisfactory performance, and students can apply for a fifth year of support. The department has so far been fortunate to be able to support all its graduate students.

Doctoral students are also eligible for support for travel to conferences and for summer research funds. The department also supports linguistic consultant fees and photocopying accounts for its doctoral students.

Both U.S. and international applicants are admitted on the same basis. Current graduate students include not only U.S. students but also students from Australia, Brazil, China, and Germany. Prospective students of diverse linguistic backgrounds are encouraged to apply.

APPLICATION DEADLINE: February 1, 2000. For more information about the program and the application process, please write: Dept of Linguistics, MS 23, Rice U, P.O. Box 1892, Houston TX 77251-1892. E-mail: Ursula Keierleber (ukeie@ruf.rice.edu) or Philip Davis (pwd@ruf.rice.edu). See also the department home page at: <http://www.ruf.rice.edu/~ling>.

100.8 E-MAIL ADDRESS UPDATES

Aikhenvald, Alexandra Y. a.aikhenvald@latrobe.edu.au [from 12/15/99]
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