

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

SSILA BULLETIN

An Information Service for SSILA Members

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121.1 CORRESPONDENCE

A book on Native American translation?

- From Brian Swann (swann@cooper.edu) 23 Aug 2000:

While thinking about a follow-up to "Coming to Light" (see SSILA Bulletin 112.1, April 26, 2000), it struck me that now might be a good opportunity to produce a much-needed book on Native American Translation. While certain scholar/translators have addressed the subject in important ways, there is no collection of different voices on the subject that I'm aware of. So I am sending out this second message to find out if there's enough interest in my editing a volume of essays, formal and informal, long and short, on Translation itself, its theory and practice as it relates to Native American literatures, in all the Americas, not just North America. There are some good books written on Translation Theory, but not one addresses or even includes Native American literatures.

It seems to me that Native American literatures present unique problems, moral and aesthetic, political and personal, and so on. A volume of essays could be very valuable to those people already in the field, those just starting out, and the thinking community in general. I hope that some of you are interested in being part of such a book, and I would appreciate any ideas, comments, leads. I would be particularly happy if you say you want to write something for it. There is no rush. I think a year or two would be time enough for contributors to get their work in to me. But I'd like to hear from interested people before too much more time passes, so I can decide whether to continue.

~Brian Swann
The Cooper Union, New York
(swann@cooper.edu)

Endangered languages in UNESCO magazine

- From Jonathan David Bobaljik (jbobal@po-box.mcgill.ca) 25 Aug 2000:

The UNESCO magazine "The COURIER", devoted the FOCUS section of its April 2000 Issue to the theme "Languages: Conflict or Coexistence." Not quite Indigenous Languages of the Americas, but of related interest.

Here's the abstract:

Today, many minority languages are struggling harder than ever to survive. They are the cornerstone of cultures whose fate depends on the outcome of this struggle. This Focus section looks at the confrontation between dominant and dominated languages. It also presents initiatives to promote the coexistence of languages as a guarantee of cultural diversity and dialogue between peoples.

The full text is available on line at:

http://www.unesco.org/courier/2000_04/uk/index.htm

~Jonathan David Bobaljik
Dept of Linguistics, McGill University
(jbobal@po-box.mcgill.ca)

Shoecabbages

- From Teresa Dowlatshahi (shoecabbage@hotmail.com) 25 Aug 2000:

I do a weekly language feature for kids in "The Kansas City Star" (Missouri, USA, circulation: 400,000+). Every Sunday I introduce kids to a different language and offer an easy-to-say word (a shoecabbage) in that language along with basic information such as where the language is spoken. One week it's Estonian; the next week it's Inuktitut or Tigrinya or Vietnamese. It's a popular feature and helps, I hope, to send the message that there's a whole world out there and English isn't the only language in it.

I have a website that describes my project in greater detail:

<http://msnhomepages.talkcity.com/LibraryLawn/shoecabbage>

Please drop by some time. I'm always looking for new words in different languages.

~Teresa Dowlatshahi

Translation project (again)

- From Eugene Prussakov (eprussakov@yahoo.com) 30 Aug 2000:

My name is Eugene Prussakov, and I am writing on behalf of Langbridge, Inc., a corporation engaged in the field of translation, interpreting and foreign language instruction.

We are currently working on a project involving translation of an 8,000-word English glossary into 225 languages of the world.

The following American Indian languages are still missing from our list:

Apache, Cakchiquel, Chickasaw, Choctaw, Cree, Creek, Crow,
Dakota/Sioux, Keresan, Naskapi, Navajo, Ojibwa, Quiche, Yucatec,
Yupik/Eskimo, Zapotec, and Zuni.

We would be interested in hearing from any English-to-American Indian languages translators who might be interested in working with us on this project.

--Eugene Prussakov
Owner, Langbridge, Inc.
P.O. Box 61250, Raleigh, NC 27661
(eprussakov@yahoo.com)

121.2 SALISH CONFERENCE REPORT

- From M. Dale Kinkade (mdkd@interchange.ubc.ca) 22 Aug 2000:

The 35th International Conference on Salish and Neighboring Languages was held August 16-18, 2000 at the Xit'olacw School, Mount Currie, BC, organized by Martina Pierre (Mount Currie Cultural Centre) and Henry Davis (U of British Columbia).

A few copies of the volume of preprints for the conference are still available (including all except two late papers), and can be obtained from UBC Working Papers on Linguistics. Contact: Sun-Young Oh (sunyoh@interchange.ubc.ca) or UBCWPL c/o Department of Linguistics, University of British Columbia, Vancouver, B.C. V6T 1Z1. The cost is \$20 U.S. or \$25 Canadian.

Next year's Salish conference will be held August 8-10 in Chilliwack, British Columbia, hosted by the Stolo: Nation. Dates are subject to modification, but not by more than a day or two. For information, contact Ethel Gardner (Ethel.Gardner@stolonation.bc.ca). Preprints will again be issued by the UBC Working Papers in Linguistics. Further information will be forthcoming.

121.3 POSITION OPEN

Research position in polysynthesis project at U of Leipzig

- From Nowak (elke.n@t-online.de) 12 Sep 2000:

A research position in the "Lexicon-Syntax-Interface and Polysynthesis" program at Leipzig University, led by Dr. Elke Nowak, Technical University Berlin/Leipzig University Research Group "Linguistic and Conceptual Knowledge".

The position is open for a one year period, a second period of two to three years is possible. An M.A. or Ph.D. in Linguistics is required, with a specialization in morphology and syntax and working experience with non-Indoeuropean languages. Expertise is preferred in an Athabaskan or Salish language, or another polysynthetic (North) American language, or a polysynthetic language from elsewhere in the world.

Salary is according to the German BAT-O scale. Depending on the qualifications of the successful candidate, the position is available as full (BAT IIa-O) or half position.

For further information contact:

Dr. Elke Nowak
Institut fuer Linguistik
Universitaet Leipzig
Bruehl 34-50
D-04109 Leipzig, GERMANY
(elke.n@t-online.de)

(From Sept 14 to Oct. 1, send e-mail to: hirose@rz.uni-leipzig.de).

For detailed information on the project, please visit:

<http://www.uni-leipzig.de/~fgskw/polysynthese>

121.4 E-MAIL ADDRESS UPDATES

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