

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-- <<--

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134.1 CORRESPONDENCE

Kroeber and Angulo

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>From Robert Brightman ([Robert.Brightman@directory.reed.edu](mailto:Robert.Brightman@directory.reed.edu)) 8 Mar 2001:

I am currently working on an essay (for a forthcoming volume in the History of Anthropology series) dealing with the professional and personal relationships between Jaime de Angulo and Alfred Kroeber in the interwar years. Having gone through what's currently in print and also some archival sources, I would appreciate hearing from anyone with either firsthand or mediated information on the subject. I'm also interested in assessments by specialists in California Native languages of the quality of Angulo's linguistic work relative to that of his

contemporaries.

--Rob Brightman  
Reed College, Portland, Oregon  
([robert.brightman@reed.edu](mailto:robert.brightman@reed.edu))

"Cohonks "  
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>From Carl Masthay ([carl.masthay@harcourt.com](mailto:carl.masthay@harcourt.com)) 8 Mar 2001:

Re: John Lord's query about whether "cohonks" in a "Virginia language" meant 'wild goose', 'winter', or 'year' (as in '5 cohonks old'):  
In Virginia we are reduced to labeling anything from that area as "Virginian" because the dictionary manuscript of that language area was destroyed in a library fire in England in 1666, and little is now extant for answering any such questions. It is almost futile to do so. 'Goose/geese' for "cohonks" is surely correct, but using it for a derived 'winter' or 'years' is a bit stretching the concept. So one is forced to look at the "arrival of geese in the winter" as representing the usual common Algonquian /pepon/, /peponash/ 'winter' (in Massachusetts), and each arrival of geese as another 'year'. That is as far as one can ever go because all glosses from that area are scanty.

--Carl Masthay  
St. Louis, Missouri

Audio clips wanted  
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>From Megan Bury ([megb@exploratorium.edu](mailto:megb@exploratorium.edu)) 7 Mar 2001:

I work at the Exploratorium, a non-profit museum of art, science and perception, located in San Francisco, California. We've recently produced a poster called "Language Families of the World," along with a teaching supplement, "The Evolution of Languages." Merritt Ruhlen was a huge help in producing this poster, making it a wonderful teaching resource, and he also wrote an article for the supplement. The text of his article is on the web at:

<http://www.exploratorium.edu/exploring/language/TMP936731335.htm>

There's also a small (rather pathetic) thumbnail image of the poster on view at:

<http://www.exploratoriumstore.com/lanfamofwor.html>

In order to make the poster a more meaningful on-line resource, we plan to create a scan of it large enough to scroll across and possibly zoom in on. We've also been toying with the idea of adding short audio clips of the different languages, along with an English translation.

If readers of the SSILA Bulletin have audio clips they would like to share with us in this project, we would be delighted to hear from them. We would also appreciate any ideas or recommendations people might have on the subject, including both positive and negative experiences with web projects of a similar nature incorporating audio clips of languages.

--Megan Bury, Publications Specialist  
The Exploratorium  
3601 Lyon Street, San Francisco, CA 94123  
([megb@exploratorium.edu](mailto:megb@exploratorium.edu))

Phrase in Apache?  
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>From josephine reinert ([jreinert@juno.com](mailto:jreinert@juno.com)) 15 Mar 2001:

I'd like to request your help in identifying the source of a phrase. My grandmother remembers my great-grandfather (who was an Indian from around San Antonio, Texas) using this phrase when he called his kids to the table to eat. It was something like:

Shawala tee tee

My grandmother thinks it meant 'food is on the table'. Can any reader of the SSILA Bulletin identify it? My great-grandfather's name was Jesus Lopez, and he was born in the 1850s. My guess is that he was Apache. Thanks in advance.

--Josie Reinert  
([jreinert@juno.com](mailto:jreinert@juno.com))

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#### 134.2 PRICES FOR TAPES OF APTN LANGUAGE PROGRAMS

>From mushkeg ([mushkeg@videotron.ca](mailto:mushkeg@videotron.ca)) 12 Mar 2001:

For all those interested in the Canadian TV series, FINDING OUR TALK--







(NAAHoLS) will hold its next annual meeting in conjunction with the LSA in San Francisco, January 3-6, 2002. Papers are invited relating to any aspect of the history of the language sciences. Papers presented at recent meetings included: Humanism and linguistics (Mark Amsler); The Brazilian connection in the history of North American Linguistics (Cristina Altman), Leonard Bloomfield's contributions to linguistics in the United States (John Fought); Chinese and its dialects in western eyes: one language or many? (Chris Hutton); Origins of morphophonemics (E. F. K. Koerner); Language and knowledge in early modern philosophy (Danilo Marcondes); Syntactic concepts and terminology in mid-20th century American linguistics (James McCawley); Philosophical language and the reform of higher education in 17th-century England (Joseph Subbiondo); Why the accusative is called accusative (Daniel Taylor); and The significance of Babel in western conceptualization of second language learning (Margaret Thomas).

All presenters must be members of the Association (see the NAAHoLS website at <<http://linguistlist.org/~naahols/>> for membership details). Papers will be 20 minutes, with 10 minutes for discussion. Abstracts may be submitted as hard copies or as file attachments (MS Word only) and should not exceed 200 words. Do not use smaller than 12-point type for the abstracts.

The deadline for abstracts is Sept. 1, 2001. Submit to: Michael Mackert, Secretary, NAAHoLS, German-English Language Services, 445 Madigan Avenue, Morgantown WV 26501-6426 ([gels.llc@michaelangelo.net](mailto:gels.llc@michaelangelo.net)).

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134.4 WEBSITES OF INTEREST

\* Web publication of Zapotec grammar  
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>From Albert Bickford ([albert\\_bickford@sil.org](mailto:albert_bickford@sil.org)) 16 Mar 2001:

I am happy to announce the electronic publication of the following item on the SIL-Mexico website:

Pickett, Velma B., Cheryl Black, y Vicente Marcial Cerqueda.  
Gramatica popular del zapoteco del istmo, segunda edicion  
(electronica). Juchitan, Oax.: Centro de Investigacion y  
Desarrollo Binniza y Mexico DF: Instituto Linguistico de Verano.  
x, 125.

It can be viewed at:

<http://www.sil.org/mexico/zapoteca/istmo/G023a-GramaticaZapIstmo-ZAI.htm>

Congratulations to the authors and my thanks to all those who helped in preparing it for publication.

--Albert Bickford  
SIL-Mexico  
([albert\\_bickford@sil.org](mailto:albert_bickford@sil.org))

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#### 134.5 THREAD ON DICTIONARY-MAKING SOFTWARE: ONE MORE POSTING

[After our re-posting of the discussion thread on dictionary-making software from the Endangered Languages List (SSILA Bulletin #133.5) the following message was added. It has some interesting information on SIL's Shoebox and LinguaLinks packages. --Ed.]

>From Peter Constable ([Peter\\_Constable@SIL.ORG](mailto:Peter_Constable@SIL.ORG)) 5 Mar 2001:

>Hi all,  
>I'm surprised noone's mentioned Shoebox yet! ...

Shoebox is certainly a good choice. One weak area, though, is that it doesn't enforce consistency in your data. I believe version 5 added some features to help in that regard, and you can maintain consistency if you make a point of using the relevant features and of being careful about how you work.

There is also SIL's LinguaLinks. The package includes a lexical database tool that has some features that make it better than Shoebox for research purposes. For example, there is a bunch of stuff built in for assigning senses to semantic domains. (I think it comes with Louw & Nida's semantic domain hierarchy, which isn't perfect -- none is, but I also think you can customise it. It also has OCM category tags built in.) You can also set up semantic relations; e.g. identify antonyms, synonyms, superlatives, etc.

The LinguaLinks package also comes with a collection of useful reference material. A lot of people buy the package just for that.

The software does have a couple of failings that need to be acknowledged, though.

First, it was created in SmallTalk and it was necessary to create all the user-interface widgets (controls), which means that it doesn't conform to



Windows' user interface conventions.

Second, the user interface is awkward in places. In large part this is because everything is fully object oriented and highly relational. Entering some things can involve several steps as you establish all the links. The data modelling is great, but the implementation still needs some work.

Third, there's no Mac version -- and there won't ever be. There was going to be one, until the SmallTalk vendor dropped Mac support and Mac development got killed. Just around the time the development project was nearing completion on version 1 (late 1995), the SmallTalk vendor folded. And so there is not going to be any significant development of the Windows version of the software tools, either. That doesn't mean there isn't an upgrade path, however. A new set of software tools -- "FieldWorks" -- is being developed that will replace both Shoebox and LinguaLinks. It should have better functionality than either. It'll be a couple of years before lexical tools for the FieldWorks suite are available, though.

--Peter Constable  
Non-Roman Script Initiative  
SIL International, Dallas  
([peter\\_constable@sil.org](mailto:peter_constable@sil.org))

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#### 134.6 E-MAIL ADDRESS UPDATES

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