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 134: March 23, 2001

134.1 CORRESPONDENCE

- --Kroeber and Angulo (R. Brightman)
- -- "Cohonks" (C. Masthay)
- --Audio clips wanted (M. Bury)
- --Phrase in Apache? (J. Reinert)

134.2 PRICES FOR TAPES OF APTN LANGUAGE PROGRAMS

134.3 UPCOMING MEETINGS

- * Lg Materials on the Web: Ethical Challenges (Austin, April 22)
- * Conf. on Indigenous Bilingual Education (Guatemala, July 25-27)
- * NAAHoLS (San Francisco, January 3-6, 2002)

134.4 WEBSITES OF INTEREST

* Web publication of Zapotec grammar

134.5 THREAD ON DICTIONARY-MAKING SOFTWARE: ONE MORE POSTING

134.6 E-MAIL ADDRESS UPDATES

134.1 CORRESPONDENCE

Kroeber and Angulo

>From Robert Brightman (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)

"Cohonks"

>From Carl Masthay (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 Massachusett), 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

>From Megan Bury (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)

Phrase in Apache?

>From josephine reinert (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)

134.2 PRICES FOR TAPES OF APTN LANGUAGE PROGRAMS

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

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

A Journey Into Aboriginal Languages (SSILA Bulletin #133.3): Copies of the programs are now available for purchase, but because the series is still being aired on APTN (Aboriginal Peoples Television Network) the producers can only start shipping April 26, 2001. However, orders may be placed now.

The basic price is \$29.95 (Canadian to Canadian addresses; \$US to US addresses) per episode, plus shipping and handling and taxes where applicable. The entire 13 episode set can be purchased for \$300. Money orders and purchase orders are accepted, but not personal checks.

The current versions have narration in English. Starting in June all episodes will also be available in French, Mohawk and Cree versions, at the same rates.

To place an order contact Sylvie Condo at:

Mushkeg Media Inc 103 Villeneuve W Montreal, Quebec H2T 2R6 Canada

Tel: 514-279-9576 or 514-279-3507.

Fax: 514-279-7493

E-mail: <u>mushkeg@videotron.ca</u>

134.3 UPCOMING MEETINGS

* Language Materials on the Web: Ethical Challenges (Austin, April 22)

>From Joel F.Sherzer (jsherzer@mail.utexas.edu) 10 Mar 2001:

A parasession on "Archiving Language Materials in Web-Accessible Databases: Ethical Challenges" will form part of the 9th annual Symposium About Language and Society - Austin (SALSA). It will be held at the University of Texas at Austin, Sunday, April 22nd, 1 - 5 pm.

In recent years, the emergence of new technology and standards has made it possible to easily access electronic versions of textual and audio materials stored in digital databases, using web browsers and free internet-downloadable software. This has created an opportunity for applying this new technology to the archiving, dissemination, and analysis of linguistic materials. Language archives using this web-

based technology are now being launched, and it is necessary to consider the ethical implications of these new preservation and dissemination centers.

The purpose of this colloquium is to advance the discussion of the ethical issues raised by these new language archives. The organizers are especially interested in the ethical challenges raised by the use of web-accessible archives for indigenous and endangered languages, but presentations focused on other languages are also welcome.

Participants are invited to make a 10-minute presentation on the topic of this colloquium, reflecting their own experience with traditional archiving of language materials, the use of web-based infrastructure for the archiving or dissemination of language materials, language research in indigenous communities, and/or as a speaker of an indigenous or endangered language.

Those interested in making presentations should send an abstract by e-mail to the following address: ailla@uts.cc.utexas.edu. Please include the abstract in the main body of the email (not as an attachment), and in the subject line of the e-mail include the following: "Colloquium Abstract, [Your Name]". For further information, e-mail ailla@uts.cc.utexas.edu. Abstracts are due by Friday, March 23, 2001.

Registration for SALSA is required of colloquium participants; for more information, please visit the SALSA website at:

http://www.utexas.edu/students/salsa

The First Hemispheric Conference on Indigenous Bilingual Education will be held in Guatemala City, Guatemala, July 25-27, 2001. The Conference is intended to create a dialogue among policy-makers, practitioners, and researchers from countries throughout the Americas where multicultural and multilingual issues impact upon society and the education system. Its primary purpose is to promote a sustainable exchange of pedagogical experiences, methodologies, and policies that yield the structures, programs, and materials needed to support effective bilingual and intercultural education in our hemisphere.

Sponsored by World Learning, with support from the U.S. Agency for International Development and the Guatemalan Ministry of Education, the Conference will facilitate a sustainable exchange of ideas, information, and approaches relating to the development of bilingual and intercultural education throughout the Americas. Among the core areas of dialogue will be:

- -- The educational context of indigenous people of the hemisphere
- --Pedagogical studies and innovative techniques in bilingual and intercultural education
- --Community-based approaches to indigenous education
- --Effective policies for supporting bilingual and intercultural education

The conference will include various programs designed to inaugurate regional collaboration and partnerships among individuals and organizations in North, Central, and South America. Additional highlights of the conference will be a meeting of the Indigenous Parliament of America and a marketplace offering indigenous and bilingual education materials and resources from each of the participating countries.

For additional information or to register for the conference, visit the website at:

www.worldlearning.org

To participate in the workshops as a presenter of innovative methods, materials, or policies, please contact:

In the United States: Naoko Kamioko, World Learning tel: 202/408-5420 (feria@worldlearning.org)

In Guatemala:

Jose' Angel Zapeta, World Learning/PAEBI tel: 502/366-2356 or 366-5451 (feria@worldlearning.org)

* NAAHoLS (San Francisco, January 3-6, 2002)

>From Michael Mackert (gels.llc@michaelangelo.net) 15 Mar 2001:

The North American Association for the History of the Language Sciences

(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).

134.4 WEBSITES OF INTEREST

* Web publication of Zapotec grammar

>From Albert Bickford (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)

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) 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)

134.6 E-MAIL ADDRESS UPDATES

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