

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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147.0 SSILA BUSINESS

Ken Hale steps down

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With considerable regret, Ken Hale has informed the SSILA Executive Committee that serious health problems are likely to prevent him from carrying out the duties of President in 2002, and has submitted his resignation as Vice President/President-elect. A replacement will be chosen in the upcoming elections.

Annual meeting program update

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The Program Committee received 91 abstracts for the Annual Meeting (San Francisco, January 3-6), the largest number ever submitted to an SSILA meeting. The committee is now reviewing these submissions and

hopes to have a provisional program ready by early next week to share with the LSA Program Committee. Once the final schedule is settled, all those who submitted abstracts will be contacted. The full program will be published in the next Bulletin and in the October issue of the SSILA Newsletter.

147.1 CORRESPONDENCE

Misappropriation of website material

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>From Nick Thieberger (n.thieberger@linguistics.unimelb.edu.au)
21 Sep 2001:

This is to inform you of an issue that concerns the representation of endangered languages on the web. We are linguists working with Australian and Pacific languages who have also constructed websites providing authoritative information about those languages.

A website based in Holland and calling itself a "work of art" has appropriated images and text from our sites without reference and without linking to our sites. It has introduced inaccuracies in the process. We requested that the author of the site remove images that he had no right to use and that he link to the sources so that information could be properly verified by users of the WWW.

Of particular concern is his cavalier use of images of indigenous people taken from the website of FATSIL, the national body supporting Australian indigenous languages.

He ignored our repeated requests, and then recently has closed down the Australian section of his site, making fairly outrageous statements linking our requests with the Australian government's appalling policy on asylum seekers.

We support the free interchange of information, as long as it is properly referenced and its sources are acknowledged. There are particular sensitivities in the misappropriation of images of indigenous people whose confidence in us allowed us to make this information available.

Our work is covered by copyright and moral rights legislation in various jurisdictions. If we, collectively, are to have confidence in web publishing of information then we also need to be sure that (1)

the information we produce will not be misappropriated, and (2) when we read information on the web we know whose sites are accurate and provide links to them.

The site ("Small House of Languages") is not an authoritative site on ELs, and the way it is constructed is not helpful to the broader aim of supporting indigenous people and small languages.

--Dave Nathan & Nick Thieberger
Department of Linguistics and Applied Linguistics
University of Melbourne, Australia
(n.thieberger@linguistics.unimelb.edu.au)

Word for "dreams"?
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>From Besselman, Patricia (pbesselman@webershandwick.com) 21 Sep 2001:

I am looking for a Native American translation for "dreams" or "story telling." I am aware that there are hundreds of Native American languages out there. Translation into any of them will do. Can readers of the SSILA Bulletin help me?

--Patricia Besselman
(pbesselman@webershandwick.com)

Computer localization for minority languages
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>From Chuck Coker (chuckc@tyrell.com) 21 Sep 2001:

With most, if not all, modern computer operating systems, one can easily switch back and forth between "localizations".

For example, I am currently using my computer as an English-language computer: English text, English menus, English keyboard layout, English error messages, etc. If I want to, I can change my computer to a Spanish-language computer: Spanish text, Spanish menus, Spanish keyboard layout, Spanish error messages, etc.

I am interested in localizing computers for minority languages. For example, I might want to change my computer to a Hualapai-language computer: Hualapai text, Hualapai menus, Hualapai keyboard layout, Hualapai error messages, etc. Or Cahuilla or Luiseno or Cupeno and

so on.

I have the technical skills to do this for Windows, Macintosh, or Linux computers. Windows and Macintosh are the dominant desktop operating systems by far, as Linux and other Unix flavors are for web servers and other server applications.

What I would like to know is:

1. Has anyone else already done this for minority languages anywhere in the world? I don't want to spend my time reinventing something that already exists.
2. Is there a need for such a product? If I did develop localization "modules" for minority languages, would anybody have an interest in using them? I envision the product being used by people trying to revive a disappearing language. I don't want to waste my time developing something that will never be used.
3. Does anyone have any thoughts about developing localization "modules" to support minority languages? I already know that the audience for such a product would be very small and specialized.

--Chuck Coker
Tyrell Software Corporation
Laguna Hills, California
(chuckc@tyrell.com)

A Montana name?
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>From Smaugie (smaugie@excite.com) 8 Sep 2001:

I just rescued a 5 month old abandoned wolfdog (3/4 wolf and 1/4 husky). Her name is "Nya" (pronounced to rhyme with "Maya"). Nya came from central Montana, in the area of Lewistown. Her previous owner moved away and abandoned her. The reason her name is known is a guy at the shelter where she ended up recognized her and she ran to him when he said her name.

I am told "Nya" is a Native American word. I would be most grateful to know what her name means. I understand how hard it is to find out which language an Indian word comes from, but I would be grateful for any help SSILA people could give. I tried to look up "Nya" myself in the dictionaries I have available but was overwhelmed.

Nya now lives with me and my other wolfdog (Bungo) in Nevada. She is a doll -- a handful, but a doll -- and smarter than most humans I meet in the corporate world.

Thanks for any help you can give.

--Nya & her Mom (Sierra Eagle)
(smaugie@excite.com)

147.2 ATHABASKAN CONFERENCE PROCEEDINGS AVAILABLE

>From Gary Holton (Gary.Holton@uaf.edu) 19 Sep 2001:

The Proceedings of the 2001 Athabaskan Languages Conference (held at UCLA in May) are now available from the Alaska Native Language Center. Papers include:

Lillian Morris, "Yebegh hinic ghiyedic"

Marie Skidmore, "Listen to the elders, include the leaders"

Kathy R. Sikorski, "Strategies used in acquiring an Athabaskan language"

Patrick Marlow, "Why do we emphasize grammar? Grammatical analysis, language teaching, and teacher training"

Bernard Spolsky, "Prospects for the survival of the Navajo language: a reconsideration"

Barbara A. Meek & Leda Jules, "Kaska classificatory verbs: A preliminary analysis"

Willem J. de Reuse, "Prototypes and fuzziness in the system and usage of Apachean classificatory verb stems"

Gary Holton & Irene Arnold, "Orthographic representation of the Tanacross occluded nasal"

Sharon Hargus, "Vowel classes in Ft. Ware Sekani"

Andrea Wilhelm, "Why place and manner pattern differently in the Slavey D-effect"

Melissa A. Epstein & Peter Ladefoged, "Phonation types in Amerindian languages"

Matthew Gordon, "Linguistic aspects of voice quality with special reference to Athabaskan".

Cost is \$10 plus shipping.

Order from ANLC:

(907) 474-7874 [voice]

(907) 474-6586 [fax]

fyandp@uaf.edu

147.3 UPCOMING MEETINGS

* Oklahoma Native Language Conference (Oct. 11-13)

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>From Carol Young (youngc@nsuok.edu) 14 Sep 2001:

The Oklahoma Native Language Association, Northeastern State University Center for Tribal Studies and Native American Studies Program announce the 6th Annual Oklahoma Native Language Conference, to be held October 11-13, in Preston, Oklahoma.

The purpose of the Native Language Conference is to assist Oklahoma tribal communities in developing and expanding the circle of Native language speakers. Nationally known linguists who have worked with Native Languages will highlight strategies and approaches for recreating and strengthening ties between speakers in the contexts of community, home, and school. Tribal language programs are encouraged to share their successes.

Lucille Watahomigie (Hualapai from Peach Springs Arizona), a nationally known trainer and teaching specialist in Native languages, will be the keynote speaker and will lead a workshop along with Akira Yamamoto, Professor of Linguistics at the University of Kansas. They will be assisted by linguists Mary Linn, Marcelinno Berardo & Tracy Hirata Edds. Special guest speaker will be Vaughn Anderson, Director of Bi-lingual Education, Oklahoma State Department of Education. Northeastern State University presenters will include Phyllis Fife, Assistant Professor of Education; Benjamin Kracht, Coordinator, Indian Studies; and Mayrene Bentley, Assistant Professor of English. From the University of Oklahoma will be Leroy Sealy, Choctaw Language Instructor, and Margaret Mauldin, Creek Language Instructor.

Registration (\$20 per day, or \$40 for all three days) includes all conference workshop materials, meals, and use of bunkhouses and camping area. To register and for a detailed program brochure contact Carol Young at the Center for Tribal Studies, Northeastern State University, Tahlequah, Oklahoma (918/456-5511, ext. 4350; fax: 918-458-2073; e-mail: youngc@nsuok.edu).

The conference will be held at the Oklahoma Indian Methodist Missionary Conference Center, which is located off Highway 75 north of Okmulgee, a quarter mile north and one mile east of Preston.

Phil Branigan and Marguerite MacKenzie, "Word Order Variation At the Left Periphery in Innu-Aimun"

Phil LeSourd, "Discontinuous Noun Phrases in Maliseet-Passamaquoddy"

Jane Bannister, "Adverbial hierarchies in Innu-aimun"

9 am - 12:30 pm: Session B

Lawrence T. Martin, "Ojibwe and Menominee Veterans of World War II - An Oral History"

Theresa Schenck, "'That Our Words May Last forever': William W. Warren and the Ojibwe of Lake Superior and the Mississippi"

Lisa Philips Valentine & Allan K. McDougall, "A Separation Agreement Fifty Years in the Making: Kettle Point and Stoney Point (Aux Saubles) Versus Sarnia"

Michael M. Pomedli, "Ojibwa Owls: Giving a Hoot or Giving a Scare?"

2:30 - 5:30 pm: Session A

Charlotte Reinholtz, "On the Characterization of the Cree Question Particle"

Amy Dahlstrom, "On the Morphological Status of Algonquian Prefixes"

David Costa, "Preverb Usage in Shawnee Narratives"

James L. Fidelholtz, "Borrowings in Mi'kmaq From English and French Through (Several) Centuries"

Anne-Marie Baraby, Anne Bellefleur-Tetaut, Louise Canapi, Caroline Gabriel & Marie-Paule Mark, "The Use of Incorporation of Body Part Medials in Today's Innu Language"

2:30 - 5:30 pm: Session B

Kenneth M. Morrison, "Intellectual Ethnocentrism and the Misinterpretation of Algonquian Religious Life"

Jeffrey P. Blick, "The Quiyoughcohannock Ossuary Ritual and the Feast of the Dead"

Morgan Baillargeon, "Plains Cree Beliefs Pertaining to the Afterlife and the Families Responsibility to Feed the Dead"

7:30 pm: Party (370 Dwinelle)

Saturday, Oct. 27 (International House)

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9 am - noon: Session A

Elizabeth Guerrier, "The Symbolic Capital of Mi'kmaw Treaties Across Dissonant Discourses"

Harald Prins, "On the Problem of Interpreting Anglo-Wabanaki Diplomatic

History: Native Rights & the Dummer Treaty (1725)"

Adrian Tanner, "The Influence of Scholarly Representations of Land Tenure on Aboriginal Rights"

Joan Lovisek, "Transmission Difficulties: The Use and Abuse of Oral History in Aboriginal Claims"

Eric Angel, "Algonquian and British Views of Territory in Pre-Confederation Treaty Negotiations"

9 am - noon: Session B

Laurel-Anne Hasler, "Obviation in the Innu-Aimun Story "Ubpush Mbku Umbtshashkuku"

Marianne Milligan & Monica Macaulay, "Narrative Structure of a Menominee Text"

Laura Buszard-Welcher, "Potawatomi Adversative Particles"

Ives Goddard, "Grammatical Gender in Algonquian"

Conor McDonough Quinn, "Penobscot Central Endings as Abstract Finals"

2 - 3:30 pm: Session A

Rhonda Telford, "A Much Reduced Homeland"

Victor Lytwyn, "Sweet Harvest, Bitter Promise: Maple Sugar and Treaty Rights to Forest Products North of Lake Huron"

Allan K. McDougall and Lisa Philips Valentine, "Murky Law: What Is a Reserve, Given the Stoney Point Court Cases?"

2 - 3:30 pm: Session B

Andrew Cowell, "The Arapaho Conjunct Order"

David H. Pentland, "The Ojibwa Language in Early 19th-Century Southern Ontario"

George Aubin, "The Grammatical Comments in ASSM Manuscript #103 (1669/1699)"

4:30 - 6 pm: Plenary Session

Thomas Vennum, Jr., "War Whoops, Hisses, and Animal Cries: Extra-Musical Sounds in Traditional Ojibwe Song Performance"

Michael McCafferty, "Shedding New Light on the Late Prehistoric Homeland of the Miami-Illinois Peoples"

Charles A. Bishop, "The Historic Ojibwa Migration: It Did Happen"

Sunday, Oct. 28 (International House)

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9 am - noon: Plenary Session

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