

THE SOCIETY FOR THE STUDY OF THE INDIGENOUS LANGUAGES OF THE AMERICAS

*** SSILA BULLETIN ***

An Information Service for SSILA Members

Editor - Victor Golla (golla@ssila.org)

Associate Editor - Scott DeLancey (delancey@darkwing.uoregon.edu)

-->> --Correspondence should be directed to the Editor-- <<--

Number 150: November 15, 2001

150.0 SSILA BUSINESS

--Memorial meeting for Ken Hale

--Further program changes

150.1 CORRESPONDENCE

--Language shift and gender (P. Marlow)

--Literature and endangered languages (D. Holt)

150.2 POSITION OPEN

* Linguistics position at Metropolitan State College, Denver

150.3 UPCOMING MEETINGS

* Workshop on American Indigenous Lgs (Santa Barbara, April 26-28)

* Society for Caribbean Linguistics (Trinidad & Tobago, Aug.14-17)

150.4 WEBSITES OF INTEREST

* Cheyenne language site moves

* Mohawk software demo

150.5 E-MAIL ADDRESS UPDATES

150.0 SSILA BUSINESS

Memorial meeting for Ken Hale

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Members who wish to take part in an SSILA memorial for Ken Hale that will be scheduled during the Annual Meeting in San Francisco should contact the Secretary (golla@ssila.org) before December 21. Members may also want to prepare short written tributes (including reminiscences) for publication in the January number of the SSILA Newsletter. These should be submitted (preferably by e-mail to the address above) no later than January 8.

A full-page obituary of Ken was published in The Economist, November 3-9, 2001 (p. 89).

Further program changes

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The following two papers have been withdrawn from the Annual Meeting program:

Anna Hyun-Joo Do & Shanley Allen, "Antipassive Constructions in Inuktitut"

Sidney da S. Facundes, "Arawak Internal Relationships in South-western Amazon"

150.1 CORRESPONDENCE

Language shift and gender

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From Patrick E. Marlow (ffpem@uaf.edu) 7 Nov 2001:

I am working on a research project into the interaction between traditional gender-based communication patterns and language shift. I have had difficulty locating references through the usual databases/channels and I was wondering if anyone was aware of work in this area.

Specifically, there may be evidence here in some Alaskan Athabascan communities that, as language shift occurs, it may overlay traditional male-female communication patterns, such that men are more likely to continue using the language with other men and speak English with women who are themselves Native speakers, and vice versa.

This research is only in its initial stages. Later this winter we will begin interviewing a few key elders, to begin to define/understand traditional Athabascan male-female patterns of interaction and to try and correlate these patterns with modern language usage -- to try, in short, to understand the gender-based patterns that language shift may be overlaying.

From there we plan to see how traditional patterns of interaction are being undermined or reinforced in the schools. After that we hope to figure out how to work with existing patterns (rather than against them) in order to improve language teaching specifically, and education in general.

Any help/references people can provide would be greatly appreciated.

Patrick E. Marlow
Alaska Native Language Center
Fairbanks, Alaska
(ffpem@uaf.edu)

From Jo-Anne S. Ferreira (jo-anne@trinidad.net) 5 Nov 2001:

I'd like to let people know about the upcoming conference of the Society for Caribbean Linguistics, which will be held at the University of the West Indies, St. Augustine, Trinidad and Tobago, on 14-17 August 2002. Of possible interest to SSILA members is the keynote address by Prof. Mervyn Alleyne on Caribbean Indigenous Languages.

Some of the other events planned include special colloquia on Language Advising, Teaching English in Standard/Creole-speaking societies, and Linguistics and the Education system. There will also be sightseeing tours and local entertainment. For further details contact Dr. Valerie Youssef at <libarts@carib-link.net>.

150.4 WEBSITES OF INTEREST

* Cheyenne Language site moves

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From Wayne Leman (wayne_leman@sil.org) 14 Nov 2001:

Our local ISP got changed so I had to change to a different server for my Cheyenne Language website. The address is now:

http://www.geocities.com/cheyenne_language

--Wayne Leman

(<http://www.geocities.com/wayne-leman>)

* Mohawk software demo

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From Monica Lamb (msagentdesign@aol.com) 3 Nov 2001:

I am originally from the St. Regis reservation and am re-learning my first language, Mohawk. I have not lived at St. Regis since I was a child, and do not have access to other Mohawk speakers. To help me to relearn the Mohawk language I developed voice/speech recognition software that allows me to speak or type, or click on an English word, using my computer microphone, keyboard, or mouse, and to immediately hear the Mohawk word or sentences spoken back to me and spelled for me, in real time. This also helps me to be able to instant message, chat,

and e-mail to the few Mohawk speakers that I have been lucky to find online.

I have a demo for Windows viewers at:

<http://www.buycny.com/msagent/mohawk.shtml>

--Monica Lamb
Saratoga Springs, NY
(msagentdesign@aol.com)

150.5 E-MAIL ADDRESS UPDATES

The following additions or changes have been made to the SSILA mailing list since the last Bulletin:

Davidson, Jill(See Greer)
Greer, Jill D.jgreer@mvip.net
Higinio, H. P.arzu@us.ibm.com
Sabino, Robinsabinro@auburn.edu
Sheedy, Cory R. C.sheedy@ucalgary.ca
Utens, Tamaracastle3@gte.net

THE SOCIETY FOR THE STUDY OF THE INDIGENOUS LANGUAGES OF THE AMERICAS

Victor Golla, Secretary-Treasurer & Editor

P. O. Box 555
Arcata, California 95518-0555 USA

tel: 707/826-4324 - fax: 707/677-1676 - e-mail: golla@ssila.org

Website: <http://www.ssila.org>
