

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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Number 220: March 27, 2005

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220.0 SSILA Business  
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- \* 2005 committees  
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Much of the business of SSILA is done by standing committees. One of these, the Nominating Committee, is elected. The members of the other committees are appointed by the President. Listed below are the 2005 standing committees, their membership, and a brief description of their purpose.

Nominations Committee  
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Monica Macaulay (Chair), Willem de Reuse, and Carolyn J. MacKay.

[The Nominations Committee each year selects the slate of nominees that will appear on the annual ballot. These include candidates for Vice-President (and President-Elect), a Member-at-Large of the Executive Committee, and Secretary-Treasurer. The Committee also recommends candidates for the open position on the Nominating Committee, although the formal nominations are made by the Executive Committee.]

Program Committee--2006 Annual Meeting

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Lyle Campbell (Chair), Amy Dahlstrom, Spike Gildea, Leslie Saxon,  
and Anthony C. Woodbury (ex officio).

[The Program Committee determines the format of the Annual Meeting, drafts the call for papers, reviews all submissions, and works with the Executive Committee to structure the final program.]

Ken Hale Prize Committee

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Pamela Bunte (Chair), Nora England, Michael Krauss,  
and Roberto Zavala Maldonado.

[The Hale Prize Committee reviews nominations for the annual Ken Hale Prize, given by SSILA in recognition of outstanding community language work and a deep commitment to the documentation, maintenance, promotion, and revitalization of indigenous languages in the Americas.]

Mary R. Haas Award Committee

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Pamela Munro (Chair), Andrew Garrett, Sérgio Meira, Douglas R. Parks,  
and David S. Rood.

[The Haas Award Committee sets the criteria and reviews submissions for the annual Mary R. Haas Award, which gives recognition to an unpublished work by a junior scholar (often a dissertation) that makes a significant contribution to our knowledge of native American languages. Manuscripts given the Award are eligible for publication in the SSILA-sponsored series, "Studies in the Native Languages of the Americas."]

Wick R. Miller Travel Award Committee

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Stephen Marlett (Chair), Juliette Blevins, and Harriet E. M. Klein.

[The Miller Travel Committee sets the criteria for the granting of one or more subsidies for travel to the Annual Meeting and reviews the applications.]

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220.1 Correspondence  
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\* Opening ceremony for Utah center  
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From Lyle Campbell (lyle.campbell@linguistics.utah.edu) 23 Mar 2005:

Please come join us for the opening ceremony/inauguration for CAIL (the Center for American Indian Languages), April 7, 5:00-8:00 pm, at 618a De Trobriand St., Ft. Douglas, on the University of Utah campus. It will be a major event, with American Indian dancers, singers, and food.

On the following two days, April 8-9, the first Conference on Endangered Languages and Cultures of Native America will meet. For information, visit:

<http://www.linguistics.utah.edu/pdfdocs/CELCNAcall.pdf>

--Lyle Campbell  
Director, Center for American Indian Languages  
University of Utah  
(lyle.campbell@linguistics.utah.edu)

\* Tracking down a name  
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From Jack France (francejr@sbcglobal.net) 24 Mar 2005:

I am an adult adviser to a lodge in California of the Order of the Arrow, the National Honor Society within the Boy Scouts of America.

The Native American name of our lodge is TALAKO, which we thought meant 'High Eagle'. (You can visit us at <http://www.boyscouts-marin.org/oa>). We are trying to determine the Native American nation or tribe from where the word "Talako" came. We have verified that our two original ideas are both wrong:

1. It is \*not\* Cherokee (per the Cherokee Nation HQ, Language Training Department, in Oklahoma), and

2. it is \*not\* Choctaw (per the University of Oklahoma, Western Studies Library).

The Native Information Network at the Smithsonian could not find any reference at all. I thought I may have found a reference in the Seminole language for the word "pea". Can you provide any research assistance to our unit of the Boy Scouts of America to help us find the Native American language that owns the word "Talako"?

--Jack France  
Talako Lodge, BSA  
(francejr@sbcglobal.net)

\* Music, dance and language endangerment  
^^

From Alexander King (a.king@abdn.ac.uk) 14 Mar 2005:

I have a graduate student working on music, dance, and ethnic performances in Alaska, and she asked me what has been done on this topic in connection with endangered languages or language revival efforts. The usual database searches haven't turned up anything directly related.

Please email any references on the incorporation of music/dance in language revitalization and I will post a summary.

--Alex King  
University of Aberdeen, Scotland  
(a.king@abdn.ac.uk)

\* Algonquian listserve  
^^^^^^^^^^^^^^^^^^^^^^^^^^^^^^^^^^^^

From Shannon West (shannon@headingwest.ca) 16 Mar 2005:

I'm a member of a Siouan linguistics e-mail list. Some Algonquian questions have surfaced there, and a suggestion was made to set up a list for Algonquian linguistics. I volunteered, and have finally gotten around to getting it up and running. Anyone who would like to participate should e-mail <algonquian@headingwest.ca> with 'subscribe' in the subject line. Any questions, comments or suggestions should be addressed to me.

--Shannon West  
(shannon@headingwest.ca)

\* More on "Song of the Skyloom"  
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From John E Koontz (John.Koontz@Colorado.edu) 2 Mar 2005:

The Winnebago text of Bernard van Beurden's "Song of the Skyloom" that Mr. Aerts inquired about in Bulletin #218 was discussed on the Siouan List after the original query. Basically, go to:

<http://listserv.linguistlist.org/cgi-bin/wa?S1=siouan>

and search for "Winnebago Song."

--John Koontz  
(John.Koontz@Colorado.edu)

\* Identifying mystery numbers  
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From Carl Masthay (cmasthay@juno.com) 5 Mar 2005:

Back in December 2004, Ives Goddard sent me a query originally from Dr. Robert Corum (corum@ksu.edu), who wrote:

> I recently received a letter from an elderly Ohio gentleman who grew  
> up in Salina. His mother taught him to count in a local language when  
> he was a small boy, and he is very curious about the identity of the  
> language. He transcribed the numbers in his letter:  
>  
> béro, néro, cépha, cottamewy, longta, juben, benney, eawa, wata, jéga

Ives asked if I could identify the language.

Now in SSILA Bulletin #219, I am surprised to see a similar query from DeAnna Jones, with differing numerals:

> I am hoping that you might be able to help me. My grandmother was  
> Native American, although she would never tell us what tribe. She  
> also taught us to count to ten in a language for which I can't  
> determine the source. I think I can write them down:  
>  
> bero (sounds like Beer-o), nero, cefa (C-fa), catamillie, longtie,  
> bena (Ben-a), wena, wee, wa, chuka (Choo-ka).

There is something artificial about both sets, and NO Amerindian language matches either one. It would have been nice to have this sole record of an unknown language, but I fear that they are suspect in construction.

On looking at the first unidentified numeral list, I felt "African language," but no, the slightest hint of Jebel Dair Nubian failed and so did all the rest of the African languages. I found no correspondence with any South American Indian language, and the rest of it failed too. Looking at the list and seeing "Salina," I knew that I had all possible minor Amerindian languages in the Kansas, Oklahoma, and Utah areas and none matched. I also checked all the artificial languages that Pavel Petrov had sent me -- nada!

There is rhyming in both lists. Natural languages I have seen have very little or no rhyming and alliteration in numerals, unless it's a memory substitution for less-well remembered words.

My conclusion is that these are made-up, artificial, fun, or secret numeral lists, corresponding to no real language and certainly not an Amerindian language, especially one in the western USA. One thinks of the so-called "sheep-shearing" Welsh numerals (actually never so used by anyone, but with 70 sets collected from the late 1800s), as in the following set from Cumberland:

yan, tyan, tetherea, methera, pimp, sethera, lethera, hovera,  
dovera, dick

(Compare real Welsh: un, dau, tri, pedwar, pump, chwech, saith, wyth, naw, deg).

--Carl Masthay  
St. Louis, Missouri  
(cmasthay@juno.com)

From Mark Rosenfelder (markrose@zompist.com):

I agree with Carl about the numerals remembered by the elderly Ohio gentleman. I looked through my lists, looking especially for that unusually long #4 and for anything like the #1 (on the assumption that this would be the least likely to be distorted). Nothing matches, and I agree that it's most likely to be made up. It's possible that it's an otherwise undocumented language--a great number of Amerindian languages are lost or represented by wordlists not much better than this informant's--but it's suspicious that the list is so unlike any language families known to be in the western US.

The closest was Achumawi, a language of northeastern California:  
hamís, hak, cásdi, hadá:ma, ládíw, [6 7 8 9], malúsi

Obviously no resemblance on 1 or 2, but cásdi-hadá:ma-ládíw have a passing resemblance to cépha-cottamewy-longta. And although malúsi isn't anything like jéga, 10, in the sister language Atsugewi is djúkci. (Both languages form 6-9 from 1-4 plus another root, nothing like the unknown sample.)

For what it's worth, the closest match to béro #1 is biRÉ in Tarahumara, a language of Mexico, but none of the other numbers even remotely match.

I just offer these as the closest remote possibilities; I think they're coincidences. It's hard to make up numbers from scratch and not match at least some number(s) in the world's 5000+ languages!

--Mark Rosenfelder  
(markrose@zompist.com)

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## 220.2 E-MELD Endangered Language Documentation Workshop

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From Naomi Fox (fox@LINGUISTLIST.ORG) 2 Mar 2005:

SSILA members may be interested in participating in the upcoming E-MELD workshop in July. The E-MELD (Electronic Metastructure for Endangered Languages Data) Project is a five-year project funded by the National Science Foundation with a dual objective: to aid in the preservation of endangered languages data and documentation and to aid in the development of the infrastructure necessary for effective collaboration among electronic archives. As part of the effort to promote consensus on best practices in digital language documentation, E-MELD is hosting its 2005 workshop from July 1-3, 2005 in Cambridge, Massachusetts. The E-MELD workshop will be held in conjunction with the 2005 LSA Linguistic Institute.

The 2005 E-MELD workshop on digital language documentation, sponsored by the National Science Foundation, is entitled "Linguistic Ontologies and Data Categories in Morphosyntactic Annotation." The goal of the workshop is to invite community participation in the development of GOLD, the "General Ontology for Linguistic Description" developed by the E-MELD team at the University of Arizona. However, we welcome participation by all linguists interested in morphosyntactic annotation

and/or the use of ontologies in linguistic description.

If you use morphological terms, you will be interested to know which ones have been proposed for GOLD. This emerging standard will allow comparison across large sets of languages with specified ways of determining morphological categories. If you have a particularly challenging set of phenomena that you are sure are not yet covered, please bring it to a working group on the ontology. If you are concerned about making linguistics more coherent and explicit, please plan to attend a working group. Limited support may be available for workshop participants selected in advance. Please submit a short description of your work or research interests related to the themes of the workshop.

The workshop will begin with invited papers that explain how GOLD works and lay out the vision for a community of practice built around it. In addition we are soliciting papers on the theme of ontologies, and in particular linguistic ontologies, that could inform the foundation of the GOLD Community. Topics might include:

- the nature of linguistic ontologies in general;
- the place of linguistic concepts within existing upper ontologies;
- specifications for the ontology of linguistic subdomains that are not yet covered by GOLD;
- lessons learned in trying to apply GOLD to the annotation of linguistic resources;
- reports on attempts to build tools or services based on GOLD;
- methods of markup for linking resources to an ontology;
- requirements for tools or services that will be needed by the GOLD community;
- exploration of the "smart search" capabilities that a linguistic ontology will enable.

If you would like to make a 20 minute presentation at the workshop on such a topic, please send an abstract in Word, pdf, or plain text format to the organizing committee.

ADDRESS FOR SUBMISSION: [emeld@linguistlist.org](mailto:emeld@linguistlist.org).  
LENGTH: 300 words maximum.  
DEADLINE: Mar 28, 2005.

For further information about the workshop visit the E-MEDL website:

<http://emeld.org/workshop/2005/>

Or contact Naomi Fox at <[foxlinguistlist.org](mailto:foxlinguistlist.org)>.

For more information about GOLD, see:

<http://www.linguistics-ontology.org>

<http://emeld.org/tools/ontology.cfm>

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From Janne Underriner (jlu@darkwing.uoregon.edu):

The Northwest Indian Language Institute (NILI) was created at the University of Oregon in 1997 as an answer to tribal requests for Native language teacher training. NILI provides training in applied language teaching and in linguistics to Native American language teachers of the Northwest through a summer institute and on-site trainings. NILI also offers consultation services to tribes in the areas of language program design, assessment, policy, linguistics, language documenting and archiving, and grant writing.

The 2005 NILI summer institute will be held from July 5 to July 22.

Classes will include:

- Language Instruction in Ichiskin (Sahaptin), Chinuk Wawa, Northern Paiute
- Introduction to Linguistics for Teachers and Students of Northwest
- Advanced Linguistic Study in: Klamath, Sahaptin, Nez Perce, Chinuk Wawa, Old Chinook (Wasco-Wishram/Kiksht), Northern Paiute
- Immersion and bi-lingual language teaching methods
- Language teaching with 'Talking Cards'
- Early literacy learning in preschool children
- Materials Development
- Technology: Practical use of the computer to make what you want and need
- Special workshops (still being arranged) may include, Songs, Storytelling, and Grant writing.

The instructors will be:

- Virginia Beavert, Yakama Sahaptin
- Henry Zenk, Chinuk Wawa
- Tony Johnson, Chinuk Wawa, Immersion Language Learning
- Ruth Lewis and Tim Thornes, Northern Paiute
- Modesta Minthorn, Computers
- Judith Fernandes, Teaching Methods and Materials Development
- Tim Thornes, Linguistics
- Scott DeLancey, Linguistics
- Janne Underriner, Materials Development
- Patsy Whitefoot, Early Literacy

Tuition is \$1,250 for 8 UO credit hours (including \$75 computer lab fee). University housing is available: single room plus meals--\$48.00 per day; double room plus meals--\$38.00 per day. Meals only: Breakfast \$5.00, lunch \$6.00, dinner \$7.75; full meal ticket \$18.75 per day.

For further information contact:

Janne Underriner  
NILI/Dept. of Linguistics  
University of Oregon  
Eugene, OR 97403  
(jlu@darkwing.uoregon.edu)

Or visit the NILI website:



<http://babel.uoregon.edu/nili/>

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220.4 SLA Student Essay Prize

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From Leanne Hinton (hinton@berkeley.edu) 17 Mar 2005:

The Society for Linguistic Anthropology invites graduate and undergraduate students to submit a paper on linguistic anthropology. Graduate student winners will receive \$100 and an invitation to submit their papers for review in the Journal of Linguistic Anthropology (JLA), and have their names and abstract published in Anthropology News (AN). An undergraduate prize will also be awarded if the quality and number of entries merits it. Undergraduates will receive \$100, and will be recognized (along with the faculty member for whom the paper was written) in AN.

Papers will be judged on originality; organization, quality, and clarity of writing; cogency of argument; contributions to theory with use of empirical materials; and timeliness.

Papers should be no more than 45 double-spaced pages, including bibliography, and should be written using the JLA style sheet. Papers that have been submitted for publication, but have yet to be accepted are eligible. Articles already accepted or published are not eligible. Limit one submission per student. Applicants need not be members of the SLA to apply. Prizes will be announced at the SLA business meeting at the AAA Annual Meeting. Send four copies of the manuscript to Leanne Hinton, Dept. of Linguistics, 1203 Dwinelle Hall, University of California, Berkeley, CA 94720-2650. Be sure to include a cover letter with submission that includes mailing address, telephone number, email address and institutional affiliation, and specify whether it is a graduate or undergraduate submission. The first page of each paper should specify paper title, but should not include author's name. Faxed and e-mailed submissions will not be accepted.

Deadline for submission is June 15, 2005.

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220.5 Opera about Conquest of Mexico performed in Prague

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The world premiere of Lorenzo Ferrero's opera "La Conquista" (renamed "Montezuma" for this production) took place in Prague on March 12 at the Czech Republic National Theater. Although the opera's plot does not adhere strictly to the facts of Cortés' conquest of Mexico, the story is based on a wide range of historical and literary sources and the Spanish and Aztec figures who make an appearance (Doña Marina, Montezuma, Hernán Cortés, Bartolomé de Olmedo, Pedro de Alvarado) use their actual native languages.

Nahuatl scholar Fran Karttunen, who co-authored the libretto, was present at the opening night. She reports that went off very well and that it

was fun being there and taking curtain calls with Ferrero. An album of first-night photos can be viewed at:

<http://skydivetech.com/Premiere/index.htm>

There is further information at:

[http://www.narodni-divadlo.cz/\\_predstaveni.asp?insc=4556&dat=120320051900&jz=en](http://www.narodni-divadlo.cz/_predstaveni.asp?insc=4556&dat=120320051900&jz=en)

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## 220.6 Websites of Interest

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### \* Southern Oregon Digital Archives (SODA)

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The modestly named Southern Oregon Digital Archives, created by the Southern Oregon University Library, in Ashland, contains a hidden treasure of full-text pdf versions of hundreds of primary ethnographic, linguistic, and historical sources on the native groups of southern Oregon and adjacent northern California (Takelma, Klamath, Shasta, Modoc, Achumawi, Oregon Athabaskan, and others). You will find here, for example, Dorsey's "The Gentile System of the Siletz Tribes" (1890); Sapir's "Takelma Language of Southwestern Oregon" (1922); all four parts of Gatschet's "The Klamath Indians" (1890) -- even Waterman's "Yurok Geography" (1920). A very useful resource for anyone with an interest in the indigenous languages and cultures of this region.

The URL is: <http://soda.sou.edu/>

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## 220.7 E-Mail Address Updates

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

Beam de Azcona, Rosemary	.....	rosemarybdea@gmail.com
Colmes, A. Scott	.....	ascalmes@gmail.com
Feest, Christian	.....	christian.feest@ethno-museum.ac.at
Fleck, David W.	.....	d.fleck@latrobe.edu.au
Fox, Leonard	.....	rockandhawk@att.net
Henne, Rich	.....	rhenne@indiana.edu
Jacobs, Adam	.....	jacobs00@potdam.edu
Kendall, Daythal	.....	dckendall@evenlink.com
Levin, Erik	.....	elevin@uchicago.edu
McDowell Wijayratne, Ramona	.....	rem_dw@w-link.com
Miyashita, Mizuki	.....	mizuki.miyashita@umontana.edu
Oquendo, Luis	.....	profesorquendo@hotmail.com
Rose, Françoise	.....	rose@vjf.cnrs.fr
Spaulding, Patricia A.	.....	pspaulding@rosettastone.com
Suslak, Daniel	.....	dsuslak@indiana.edu
White, Louellyn	.....	whitel@email.arizona.edu

If your e-mail address changes, please notify us (golla@ssila.org).

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

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