

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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250.0 SSILA Business

* Preregistration for the Anaheim Meeting

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If you're planning on attending the Annual Meeting in Anaheim next month (and we hope you are), don't forget to preregister on-line before this Monday's 5:00 pm (EST) deadline. By registering in advance, you receive a discount on your registration.

If you are a member of LSA in addition to SSILA, go to the LSA website preregistration page at:

<http://www.lsadc.org/meetings/registration1.cfm>

and log in using the "Member login" link at the top of the page.

If, however, you are a member only of SSILA, the procedure is more complicated. Go first to the LSA homepage:

<http://www.lsadc.org>

and click on top button "Meetings". On the next screen under the "Annual Meeting" bullet, click on "here" highlighted in blue. On the next screen the 3rd bullet will indicate "If you are a member of a sister society 'click here' to register." On the screen that follows you will be given the "Sister Society" preregistration form. Choose SSILA as your Sister Society and enter "SSILA07" as the Passcode. Your "Membership Type" (Student/Regular/Emeritus) is for registration purposes only and does not refer to the rate of dues you pay to SSILA. (If you encounter problems, contact Rita Lewis at [rlewis@lsadc.org](mailto:rlewis@lsadc.org)).

Please keep in mind that hotel reservations at the Hilton Anaheim should also be made by December 18. After Monday the guaranteed rate of \$135 (Single/Double) will be available only on a space-available basis.

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250.1 Correspondence  
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\* In support of SSILA resolution  
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From Rudolph Troike (rtroike@email.arizona.edu) 7 Dec 2006:

I applaud the statesmanly statement and proposal regarding the ISO standards, and would vote for it if I were present (if you need it, you may have my proxy). However, I would offer two motions, one serious and one half-serious. The first would be to commend the SSILA Board for the excellent formulation that was developed (footnoting only that the list of contributions by SIL overlooks the fact that several generations of academic linguists were trained with the indispensable textbooks developed by Pike [Phonemics] and Nida [Morphology], both of whom served as presidents of the Linguistic Society of America). The second would be to recommend that Prof. van der Voordt, perhaps with others who support his position, be willing to assume responsibility for the financial burden that SIL has been contributing to the profession through paying the salary of Joan Spanne. I do not believe that just because some people are opposed to SIL, the rest of the profession should be taxed to support their goals. It will be a financial gift to SIL to relieve them of this responsibility.

Again, congratulations on the truly outstanding statement and proposal.

--Rudy Troike
Tucson, Arizona
(rtroike@email.arizona.edu)

* Question about copyright for dictionaries
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From Elena Benedicto ([ebenedi@purdue.edu](mailto:ebenedi@purdue.edu)) 12 Dec 2006:

I would like to ask around about who has had experience dealing with matters of copyright for dictionaries of indigenous languages. We are finishing one now and I would like to find a way to recognize the community's ownership of the linguistic data. The dictionary will be distributed to schools at no cost, but nobody has thought (yet) about how to sell it and who keeps whatever profit there might be. The

dictionary has been prepared by a team formed by indigenous linguists and an external linguist.

--Elena Benedicto  
Purdue University  
([ebenedi@purdue.edu](mailto:ebenedi@purdue.edu))

\* In defense of SIL  
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From John McLaughlin (nuwitaivottsi@yahoo.com) 8 Dec 2006:

I read with concern the recent correspondence about SIL in recent SSILA Bulletins. I am concerned about the state of academic objectivity expressed by those who discount the work of SIL simply because they are a religious organization. Since when does academia judge the quality of one's work based on a confessional stance? It is the politically-correct version of book-burning. Are we now supposed to tell our students that Gothic is an extinct language with no written records? Are modern textbooks on Gothic now filled with "John kissed Mary" exemplars?

Let me tell you a little bit about SIL based on the life of one of my mentors. Many of you knew Wick Miller. If you ever met Wick, you would quickly learn that he was an "active" atheist. But Wick never let that stand in the way of his judgement. Wick never let confessional stances get in the way of good linguistics. When he was taken from us, his memorial volume was planned, edited, and produced by Gene Casad and Tom Willett. This atheist's memorial was the result of a labor of love by two members of SIL. Not only did Wick not let his atheism get in the way of working with men of faith who were good linguists, but these two men from SIL did not let their own confessional stance get in the way of working with an atheist who was a good linguist. Indeed, the list of linguists from SIL that Wick respected or collaborated with was long.

Without the work of good linguists from SIL, I daresay that there would be about half the amount of documentation for South American and Meso-american languages that there is today. Before translating a word of the Bible, SIL linguists regularly produce good grammars and dictionaries of the languages they work with. It is only by linguists standing united in the pursuit of documenting the world's languages that our task will be accomplished. There are not enough of us on any side of the confessional line to discount the work of those on the other side.

As far as Ethnologue vis-à-vis the ISO standard is concerned, there is only the cumbersome coding of the Linguasphere to compete. Linguasphere is also not perfect. If you think that Ethnologue has errors in your area of specialization, you have only yourself to blame. The editors of Ethnologue have provided convenient on-line forms to correct errors. I have corrected several errors and expanded entries for languages that I am familiar with. Ethnologue is a universal resource for linguists, not a confessional document. The "argument" that correcting and improving the Ethnologue only supports missionary efforts is ridiculous on its face.

--John McLaughlin
Utah State University
(nuwitaivottsi@yahoo.com)

* Call for essays on Southwest Native American translations
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From David Kozak ([Kozak\\_D@fortlewis.edu](mailto:Kozak_D@fortlewis.edu)) 7 Dec 2006:

I have been asked by the University of Nebraska Press to assemble a collection of essays on translations of Southwest Native American verbal literatures. It is a long overdue volume.

The collection will offer translations of newly recorded or produced materials and retranslations of previously recorded and published Native literatures. It will offer extensive examples of the aesthetic diversity and creativity found in Southwest Native verbal arts. Some of the contributions in this volume will be the result of collaboration between a Native specialist and a non-Native scholar.

If you are interested in participating in this important project, please send me an e-mail or note indicating your interest. Then, please send me a one page proposal no later than February 20, 2007.

The overall project deadline for submission to the University of Nebraska Press is the summer of 2008, giving us plenty of time to put this volume together.

If you wish to discuss the details of this project, please don't hesitate in giving me a call (970-247-7498).

--David Kozak  
Center of Southwest Studies  
Fort Lewis College  
Durango, Colorado 81301  
([kozak\\_d@fortlewis.edu](mailto:kozak_d@fortlewis.edu))

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250.2 Breaking News  
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\* Esther Martinez Act passes  
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[From news sources]

H.R. 4766, the Esther Martinez Native Languages Preservation Act of 2006, has passed both houses of Congress and has been signed into law by President Bush. The bill was introduced by Representatives Heather Wilson (R-NM) and Rick Renzi (R-AZ) and passed the House on a bi-partisan vote in September. It passed the Senate on December 6 during the lame duck session and was signed by the President this week. It is now Public Law 109-394.

PL 109-394 does not create a new program. Instead, it permits new uses of grant funds in the current program of assistance to heritage language restoration efforts through the Administration for Native Americans. In particular it will allow a focus on grants that help create Native language fluency through immersion programs. The Act does not alter English proficiency requirements contained in current law, but simply provides additional opportunities to preserve Native languages.

For the full text of the Esther Martinez Act go to:

<http://thomas.loc.gov/cgi-bin/bdquery/z?d109:h.r.04766>:

250.3 Summer Language Study

* Chicago and Yale offer intensive summer courses in Aymara and Nahuatl
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From Joshua Beck ([jpbeck@uchicago.edu](mailto:jpbeck@uchicago.edu)) 13 Dec 2006:

During summer 2007 the Center for Latin American Studies, University of Chicago, will offer a course in Intensive Aymara:

<http://clas.uchicago.edu/aymara.shtml>

and, in collaboration with Yale University, a course in Intensive Nahuatl:

<http://www.yale.edu/ycias/lais/summer.htm>

Please contact Josh Beck at <[jpbeck@uchicago.edu](mailto:jpbeck@uchicago.edu)> or (773) 702-8420 for further details.

Both the Aymara and Nahuatl programs meet the minimum requirements to be eligible for Foreign Language and Area Studies (FLAS) fellowship funding. Graduate students at institutions that award Summer FLAS fellowships should contact their home institution's Center for Latin American Studies for instructions about how to apply. Students in the Aymara course may also apply for FLAS fellowships through the University of Chicago Center for Latin American Studies. For application information see:

<http://grad-affairs.uchicago.edu/programs/flas.html>

Students in the Nahuatl program may also apply for FLAS fellowships through Yale University's Council on Latin American and Iberian Studies. For more information contact <[jean.silk@yale.edu](mailto:jean.silk@yale.edu)>.

Graduate students at CIC institutions (University of Illinois-Chicago, University of Illinois-Urbana/Champaign Indiana University, University of Iowa, University of Michigan, University of Minnesota, Michigan State University, Northwestern University, Ohio State University, Pennsylvania State University, Purdue University, University of Wisconsin-Madison, University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee) may directly enroll in the Aymara course without change in registration or increase in tuition, through the CIC Traveling Scholars program. For application details, visit:

<http://www.cic.uiuc.edu/programs/TravelingScholars/index.shtml>

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### 250.4 E-Mail Address Updates

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

Good, Jeff ..... [jcgood@buffalo.edu](mailto:jcgood@buffalo.edu)  
Helmbrecht, Johannes ..... [johannes.helmbrecht@sprachlit.uni-regensburg.de](mailto:johannes.helmbrecht@sprachlit.uni-regensburg.de)  
Kozak, David ..... [Kozak\\_D@fortlewis.edu](mailto:Kozak_D@fortlewis.edu)  
McLaughlin, John ..... [nuwitaivottsi@yahoo.com](mailto:nuwitaivottsi@yahoo.com)

When your e-mail address changes, please notify us ([golla@ssila.org](mailto:golla@ssila.org)).

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

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

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The SSILA Bulletin is distributed electronically to all members of SSILA. Non-members may subscribe free of charge by sending their e-mail address to the editor ([golla@ssila.org](mailto:golla@ssila.org)).

SSILA also publishes a quarterly hard-copy Newsletter that contains book reviews, notices of journal articles and recent dissertations, and other news and commentary. The Newsletter and other publications of the Society are distributed only to members or to institutional subscribers.

SSILA welcomes applications for membership from anyone interested in the scholarly study of the languages of the native peoples of North, Central, and South America. Dues for 2007 are \$16 (US) or \$20 (Canadian) and may be paid in advance for 2008 and 2009 at the 2006 rate. Checks or money orders should be made payable to "SSILA" and sent to: SSILA, P.O. Box 555, Arcata, CA 95518. For further information, visit the SSILA website (<http://www.ssila.org>).

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