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

*** SSILA BULLETIN ***

An Information Service for SSILA Members

Editor – Victor Golla
Associate Editor – Scott DeLancey

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20.1 LATEST PROGRAM UPDATES FOR ALBUQUERQUE MEETINGS

* SSILA Summer Meeting

Paper withdrawn: Tim Montler

* Hokan-Penutian Workshop

Revised schedule for Thursday, July 6:

9:00 am  Richard Rhodes, "Southern Sierra Miwok Verb Agreement, Gestalts, and Construction Grammar"

9:30 am  Marvin Kramer, "The Development of Head-Marking in Eastern Miwok: Implications for Contact with Proto-Yukon"

10:00 am  Break

10:30 am  Catherine A. Callaghan, "Yuk-Utan Revisited"

11:00 am  Amy Miller, "Choctaw Lexical Structure"

12:00 noon  Lunch

1:30 pm  Anthony P. Grant, "Morris Swadesh and his Penutian Vocabulary Survey; Aims and Results"

2:00 pm  Marie-Lucie Tarpent, "Reattaching Isolating to Penutian"

3:30 pm  Break

3:45 pm  Sally McLendon, "Fluid Case-Marking ('Fluid S-marking') in Eastern Pomo"

3:30 pm  William H. Jacobsen, Jr., "Inventory of Nasho Lexical Prefixes"

4:00 pm  Mauricio Mico, "Cochimi-Yuman"

* J. P. Harrington Conference

The Harrington Conference will consist of a single session, Friday morning, July 7, 9 am to noon (Bobo Room, Hodgins Hall). It will be an overview of Harrington's work, and the conditions of working with his notes. There will be a special update on the progress of the NAA's transfer of JH's aluminum disks to tape.

* Special presentation of Assiniboine CD-ROM

Brenda Farrell will demonstrate her interactive CD-ROM, "Niuta: Assiniboine Storytelling with Signs" (soon to be available through the Univ. of Texas Press) and will discuss the potential for presenting extensive linguistic documentation—including collections of narrative texts and cultural data—in this format. This presentation will take place at 1 pm, Friday, July 7, tentatively in the Bobo Room, X-env. If not, there is a good possibility that a better facility will be available, so if so, it will be announced.

20.2 CENSUS ERRORS

>From George Aaron Broadwell (g.broadwell@albany.edu) 20 June 1995:

Many readers of this Bulletin will probably have seen my note in the latest issue of IJAL (Jan., 1995) on "1990 Census Figures for Speakers of American Indian Languages." One of the points I tried to make in this
note is that there are significant distortions in the numbers of speakers the census reports for some languages. Some of the numbers are quite surprising, such as 88 speakers of Klamath, or 101 speakers of "Mountain Maidu."

One of the sources of error that I briefly mentioned (but didn't elaborate on) was the census sampling techniques. As I understand this, they only tabulated results of the language question from a sample of the forms, and then extrapolated the results to the population at large. I don't know the exact figures they used -- it doesn't seem to be a simple, multiplier, given figures like 3, 4, 5 (for Chemehuevi, Kalispel, and Klamath, respectively). But at any rate, we do know that when a figure like 108 is listed for Mountain Maidu that the actual number of people who speak this down is some fraction of the number, and that 108 is the census projection based on the sample.

Then there is the matter of which languages are listed separately, and which grouped together. I mention in the note the case of Choctaw and Chickasaw being treated as one group. I wonder if the Americanist community could prevail upon the Census Bureau to change some of these classifications before the next census (e.g., to count Choctaw and Chickasaw separately). Perhaps this is something we might discuss at the summer meetings or in the SILLA Newsletter of Bulletin.

George Aaron Broadwell
Anthropology SUNY-Albany
Albany, NY 12222
email: g.broadwell@albany.edu

20.3 INFORMATION PLEASE!

* New Words in Native Languages*
>From Laura Roller (laura.roller@asu.edu) 10 June 1995:

I am a graduate student in the Department of Anthropology at Arizona State University, working under the direction of Dr. Elizabeth Brandt. I am researching new words coined in Native American languages (including Native Hawaiian) for their semantic content. This research is part of a larger project investigating Native American language renewal. I am seeking examples of newly coined words, along with their morphological and semantic analysis. If you have any kind of information, I would like to hear from you! (Return of information will be considered your consent to participate in the research. Contact the initial contact, some follow-up questions via e-mail or by telephone may be necessary.)

* Names For Days*
>From Jan Ten (TENJ@asp.ac.fj) 9 June 1995:

Last November I sent a request to the LINGUIST list asking subscribers whether they could supply me with the delictic day names of languages they were familiar with. I was quite overwhelmed by the response. More than 60 people replied, providing me with data from 77 languages. Unfortunately, I received only a few examples of American Indian languages, those being Quechua, Kaliseet-Passamaquoddy, Cahuilla, Cherokee, Luiseno, and Northern Paiute.

In the hope of getting some examples of American Indian languages I put in a request to the LINGUIST list. The response was good. I received data for the following languages: Chickasaw, Maya, Chibcha, Capanahua, Asheninka, Naskapi, Cheyenne, Choctaw, and Guahibo.

However, I would still like to get more examples from both North and South America.

This is the sort of thing I'm after:

English:
- the day before yesterday -2
- yesterday -1
- today 0
- tomorrow +1
- the day after tomorrow +2

Dutch:
- vannacht +3
- onvannacht +2
- morgen +1
- overmorgen +2

Kalam (PNG):
- pakenst +4
- tugugst +3
- asonst +2
- manst +1
- toyt +1
- toy +2
- toy menk +3
- gostr +3
- tugui +2
- paben +1

Hausa:
- she'ka'ra'ni jily'adu -2
- ya'antu -1
- present diurnal span
- go +1
- go menk +2
- gostr +3
- she'ka'ra'ni c'tta -5

I am interested in symmetrical and especially asymmetrical systems of delictic day names. I have found that systems can exhibit symmetry or asymmetry at a numerical level (i.e., in the number of day names recognized either side of today) or at a morphological level.
The only systems that I have found that have only one day named either side of today (i.e., 1-0+ systems) are in Cheyenne, Luseno, Cherokee, and other nations. I’m interested in finding out how many more such systems exist.

I thank you in anticipation.

Mr. Jan Ten
Department of Literature and Language, School of Humanities
The University of the South Pacific
P.O. Box 1168, Suva, Fiji

20.4 CALL FOR PAPERS FOR THE LSA/SSILA MEETING IN SAN DIEGO

* SSILA Annual Meeting

SSILA will hold its annual meeting this winter with the Linguistic Society of America, in San Diego, California, January 4-7, 1996. This will be a joint meeting of the two societies. The SSILA sessions will be organized separately from the LSA sessions, but will run concurrently and be announced in the LSA Meeting Handbook. Participants in the SSILA sessions will be required to pay the LSA meeting registration fee (US$125.00), but will not have to be members of the LSA.

All registered participants are welcome to attend sessions of either group. SSILA participants are also eligible for the special hotel rates negotiated by the LSA.

Paper proposals are invited from all members of SSILA in good standing. The following information must be provided to the SSILA program committee:

--- NAME OF AUTHOR (OR AUTHORS) ---

--- AFFILIATION ---

--- FULL MAILING ADDRESS, TELEPHONE, FAX, AND E-MAIL ADDRESS ---

--- TITLE OF PAPER ---

--- THREE KEYWORDS IDENTIFYING THE SUBJECT OF THE PAPER ---

--- FIELD TASK REQUESTS: Overhead projector; slide projector; cassette tape recorder; reel-to-reel recorder. (Only the equipment can be provided at no cost. If other equipment is needed, it may be possible to arrange it for an extra charge.) ---

--- ABSTRACT (up to 250 words) ---

--- SHORT ABSTRACT (FOR PUBLICATION IN THE MEETING HANDBOOK) ---

The format of the short abstract is of particular importance. It must conform to the photo-reproduction requirements of the LSA, and should be a form that will be distributed with the July SSILA Newsletter. This form is nearly identical to the Short Abstract form on p. 64 of the LSA Bulletin, No. 146, December, 1994, and the latter may be used.

Submissions should be mailed to:

Victor Golla, SSILA
Department of Ethnic Studies
Humboldt State University
Arcata, California 95521

Submissions must reach SSILA mailbox no later than Friday, September 8, 1995. Registration and hotel forms supplied by the LSA will be included with the SSILA mailing, and must be separately returned to the LSA or the hotel. SSILA abstracts must NOT be sent to the LSA.

Presentation of a paper in a SSILA session will not preclude presentation of the same paper in an LSA session. Submissions will be separately reviewed by the two program committees, to minimize overlap with the LSA session. The SSILA Program Committee will strive for a complementary focus on the languages of Africa, Eurasia, and Oceania as well as languages of predominantly non-Native communities in the Americas.

* Field Reports (Endangered Languages Papers, LSA Sessions)

At last year’s LSA Annual Meeting in New Orleans, the Committee on Endangered Languages and their Preservation presented a two-part organized session titled: Field Reports/Endangered Languages.

Beginning with this year’s Meeting (San Diego, January 4-7, 1996), ‘Field Reports’ (Endangered Languages) is listed on the LSA ‘Abstract Submittal Form’ as one of the ‘primary areas of linguistics’ addressed by regular submissions to the LSA Annual Meeting in San Diego. If enough abstracts designating this category are accepted, then ‘Field Reports/Endangered Languages’ may be assigned the title of one or more regular sessions at the meeting.

Papers in this category are expected to report on the results of recent field work, especially (but not necessarily) on languages that are endangered, and to focus on any of the major themes in the work of field linguistics, which include: (a) the scientific significance of specific field results, including new phenomena or facts; (b) the nature of language endangerment and shifting, such as the sociolinguistics of endangered languages, the distribution and speaker strength of languages or dialects in a given area, or attitudes toward language death; (c) the ways communities and linguists have responded to these conditions, including revitalization efforts; (d) methodological issues, such as dictionary making, natural text representation, survey methods; and (e) ethical issues.

Abstracts designating this category should indicate briefly the communities and languages involved, the vitality of the language, the nature, goals, and location of the field work, and major prior linguistic documentation (if any).

Because SSILA will meet jointly with the LSA in 1996, it is hoped that Field Reports/Endangered Languages sessions(s) this year will have a complementary focus on languages of Africa, Eurasia, and Oceania, as well as languages of predominantly non-Native communities in the Americas (e.g., American Indian languages, varieties of creoles, and varieties of overseas languages). Accordingly, those with reports on Native American languages are encouraged to submit them to SSILA if at all possible.

The deadline for receipt of abstracts is Sept. 1, 1995. Please note that this is a month and a half earlier than in previous years. Like all submissions, these abstracts will be reviewed by the LSA Program Committee in consultation with outside referees. Submission is open to any LSA member. For further details see the LSA Bulletin, No. 146, December, 1994, pp. 61-64.

The Committee on Endangered Languages and their Preservation considers it vitally important that this new category be supported by a strong
complement of abstract submissions from interested LSA members. This is
the only way for "Field Reports/Endangered Languages" to become an
established part of LSA programs in years to come. Please direct any
questions to Tony Woodbury; email: acww@mail.utexas.edu; phone: (512)
471-1761 or (512) 472-3305.

Victor Golla
Secretary-Treasurer &
Editor, SSIL Newsletter

Dept. of Ethnic Studies
Humboldt State University
Arcata, California 95521
USA

telephone: (707) 826-4324 or 677-3361
fax: (707) 826-4418
Internet: vkg @ ase.humboldt.edu
Bitnet: golla @ nic.csu.net

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