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--  <<--

Number 90: June 24, 1999

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SSILA Summer Meeting

The SSILA Summer Meeting will begin on Friday evening, July 9, with a
welcoming reception in Illini Union Room 407, 7:00 -10:00 pm. Two sessions
of papers will be held in the same room on Saturday July 10.

The Saturday schedule will be as follows:

Coffee (8:30-9:30 am)

Session I (9:30 am – noon). Papers by: Jose' Alvarez, Linda
Cumberland, Raimundo Medina, Marianne Milligan, Zsuzsa Nagy, and
Luis Oquendo.

Lunch break (noon – 1:30 pm).

Session II (1:30 – 4:00 pm). Papers by: Javier Ruedas, Muriel
Saville-Troike & Ellen Courtney, Patricia A. Shaw, M. Paul Shore,
Sarah G. Thomason, and Frank R. Trechsel.

Summer Business Meeting (4:00 – 5:00 pm). Special topic -- The
"Chief Illiniwek" mascot and the problem of demeaning stereotypes
of Native Americans.

A small registration fee ($10, $5 for students) will be collected on
site to defray the cost of the meeting.
Mary R. Haas Book Award: 2nd call for submissions
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The Mary R. Haas Award is presented annually by SSILA to an unpublished manuscript from a younger scholar that makes a substantive contribution to the knowledge of American Indian languages. The selection committee (Sally McLendon, Keren Rice, Louanna Furbee, and Douglas Parks) is now accepting submissions for the 1999 award. Submissions should be monograph-length works reflecting substantial effort. Dissertations are preferred, but dictionaries or edited collections of texts are welcome. Scholars with or without academic affiliation are encouraged to submit their work, but holders of tenured faculty positions are not normally eligible. The committee does not specify when a work should have been completed, so any dissertation of reasonably recent vintage qualifies.

A single clean copy of the manuscript -- unbound, if possible -- should be submitted, together with a short letter describing the circumstances of the work. Although the award carries no monetary stipend, SSILA will work with the author to arrange for publication of the winning manuscript, where possible in the University of Nebraska Press series, Studies in the Anthropology of North American Indians. The committee will only be able to consider manuscripts written in English.

Manuscripts should be mailed to:

Keren Rice  
SSILA Book Award  
Department of Linguistics  
University of Toronto  
130 St. George Street  
Toronto, Ontario  M5S 3H1  
CANADA

Inquiries should be addressed to Keren Rice at this address (or phone: 416/978-1763; e-mail: rice@chass.utoronto.ca). Since the manuscripts will have to be photocopied for distribution to the committee, a loose copy is preferred. Submissions should reach Prof. Rice no later than August 15, 1999.

90.1 CORRESPONDENCE

From Ecuador  
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From CarLuz (nauta@speed.net.ec) 15 Jun 1999:

[Sorry if I don't write this message in English, but I prefer to do it in Spanish. It will be important for the Za'paro community of Ecuador.]

Los indios za'paro del Ecuador (unos 150 miembros, frente a unos 200 mil durante el siglo XVI), se han propuesto rescatar su lengua - a la que ellos llaman za'paro- de la que existirían unos 8 locutores, muy distantes, geográficamente, unos de otros.

Por el momento se trabaja en la identificación de todos los locutores nativos de la lengua, así como en el análisis del contacto con
locutores de español y quechua. Los primeros registros sonoros se han hecho, aunque sin mayor rigurocidad científica, motivados un poco por el temor de que el último locutor de la lengua desparezca.

La lengua haría parte de la familia lingüística zaparo a la que pertenecen las lenguas iquito, arabela y taushiro del Perú. Toda información concerniente a estas lenguas podría ayudar mucho en el avance de la descripción de esta lengua que está por desaparecer.

Cualquier comentario, sugerencia o información puede ser enviada en inglés, francés, español o italiano a: nauta@speed.net.ec

Muchas gracias!

--Carlos Andrade
(nauta@speed.net.ec)

Aphasia in Navajo speakers
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From Audrey L Holland (aholland@u.arizona.edu) 11 Jun 1999:

Dear Colleagues -- I am involved in a project concerning aphasia and its effects on Navajo. I am unaware of any work done on Navajo aphasic speakers, and would appreciate any leads you might have. We are interested in test materials, transcriptions of discourse, even myths about this interesting problem. I will collate material and distribute it to interested readers. Thank you in advance.

--Audrey Holland
(aholland@u.arizona.edu)

Yoeme dictionary
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From Dave Shaul (dave@celtharp.com) 7 Jun 1999:

Recently, the Hippocrene edition of a Yoeme and English dictionary appeared. This was given notice in the SSILA newsletter. This publication is marred by three factors: (1) the cover and spine have only the name of the junior author (myself), not the primary, Yoeme authors; (2) the copyright notice is only given in the junior author's name (despite the fact that on the contract it is mentioned that copyright is in all three names; and (3), the galley proofs that were submitted to the publisher in late November 1999 were not incorporated into the book. This latter problem is complicated by the fact that the typesetting program used by the publisher introduced typos by converting accented vowels into other sequences; in fact, the proof for the grammar section was not even seen by the authors.

None of the authors even saw a copy until told by others that there were copies in the local Borders in Tucson.

I have asked the Yaqui tribal attorney to write a letter to Hippocrene, asking that the books be withdrawn. It represents a long-time commitment on the part of all three authors, and is a bitter disappointment. While much of the book is accurate, a long errata sheet would have to be
produced to make it completely reliable. In a reference work, this is
deporable -- but not the authors' fault.

In the meantime, I would like to ask all SSILA readers and members to
not buy this book, and to advise others about its dubious nature. Also,
Americanists should not think of submitting manuscripts to Hippocrene.

--David L. Shaul
Linguistics Department, University of Arizona
(dave@celtharp.com)

Paper on language endangerment
~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~
From Salikoko S. Mufwene (s-mufwene@uchicago.edu) 9 June 1999:

I have now posted my latest paper on language endangerment at my home
page, under the title "Language endangerment: What have pride and
prestige got to do with it?" In it I argue that the factors that have
produced language endangerment are certainly much more complex than
linguists have assumed to date, and that we must learn the distinction
between preserving a language and revitalizing it.

I'll appreciate any feedback. The URL is:

humanities.uchicago.edu/humanities/linguistics/faculty/mufw_enda.html

--Sali Mufwene
Department of Linguistics, University of Chicago
(s-mufwene@uchicago.edu)

90.2 SSILA MEMBERS MOORE AND ZEPEDA RECEIVE MACARTHUR FELLOWSHIPS

The John D. and Catherine T. MacArthur Foundation, in Chicago, has named
32 new recipients of MacArthur Fellowships, which are widely known by
their unofficial name as "genius grants." The fellows will receive full
salary awards for 5 years in amounts determined by their age. We are
proud to say that among the 32 recipients of this year's awards are two
members of SSILA:

* Denny Moore (Coordinator of the Linguistics Division, Museu Paraense
  Emilio Goeldi, Belem-Para, Brazil). Moore, an anthropological linguist,
  is making important contributions to preserving the language and culture
  of endangered indigenous groups in Brazil. With strategies that engage
  both native speakers and the larger public, he leads the effort to
document and preserve well over a hundred endangered languages in Brazil.

* Ofelia Zepeda (Professor of Linguistics, Univ. of Arizona, Tucson, AZ).
  Zepeda is a linguist, poet, editor, and community leader devoted to
  maintaining and preserving Native American languages and to revitalizing
  tribal communities and cultures. Her singular work in advancing the
  field of Native language scholarship positions Zepeda as a unique force
  on behalf of the continued life of endangered languages.

Moore (who is 54) will receive $365,000 over the next 5 years, Zepeda
(who is 45) will receive $320,000.
Our congratulations to them both!

90.3 WEBSITES OF INTEREST

NAA Online
From Robert Leopold (leopold@nmnh.si.edu) 9 Jun 1999:

The National Anthropological Archives is pleased to announce its new website, featuring a guide to the Smithsonian's extensive collections of ethnographic, archaeological, linguistic and physical anthropology fieldnotes, journals, manuscripts, audio recordings, motion picture film, video and more than 400,000 photographs of cultures worldwide.

Online exhibits include Canela Body Adornment, featuring Smithsonian research and photographs from northeastern Brazil, as well as 19th- and 20th-century Kiowa and Cheyenne artwork from the archives' collections. Also available is a guide to anthropological fieldnotes and manuscripts in non-Smithsonian collections and links to ethnographic archives worldwide.

The URL is:  http://www.nmnh.si.edu/naa/

--Robert S. Leopold, Archivist
National Anthropological Archives, Smithsonian Institution
Washington, D.C. 20560-0152
(leopold@nmnh.si.edu)

ANLC Website
From: Gary Holton (fngmh@uaf.edu) 11 Jun 1999:

The Alaska Native Language Center now has a new website at:

http://www.uaf.edu/anlc

The site includes an online version of the ANLC publications catalog, as well as brief information about each of Alaska's 20 Native languages.

--Gary Holton
Alaska Native Language Center, University of Alaska
Fairbanks, AK 99775-7680
(fngmh@uaf.edu)

AISRI at Indiana
The website maintained by the American Indian Studies Research Institute at Indiana University is well worth a visit. Founded in 1985, the AISRI (co-directed by SSILA members Ray DeMallie and Douglas Parks) is an interdisciplinary center for research projects relating to American Indians. Currently these projects center around Plains Indian languages and history. Native language dictionary and text projects in Arikara and Pawnee (Caddoan languages) and Sioux and Assiniboine (Siouan languages) the primary focus of current activity. The website has detailed pages
for four on-going projects:

-- Arikara (Sáhni?) Language Program
-- Skiri Pawnee Multimedia Dictionary (CD-ROM)
-- Yanktonai Lexicon (CD-ROM)
-- A project to enhance and restore historic recordings.

The URL of the AISRI site is:  http://php.indiana.edu/~aisri/

90.4 PROBLEMS NEEDED!

From Tom Payne (tpayne@oregon.uoregon.edu) 10 Jun 1999:

I am currently putting together a workbook of exercises for a beginning morphology and syntax course. This will be a categorized and annotated collection of problems, with a "teacher's edition" that contains the solutions. There are still a few gaps in the table of contents, and I would like to request your help in filling them. Here is what is still needed:

1) A problem that requires students to identify an antipassive construction. This should not be in Inuit, Dyirbal or any Polynesian language.

2) A problem that demonstrates object incorporation. Any language but Chukchee or Panare.

3) A problem that illustrates an "inverse" system of the Algonquian type, but not an Algonquian language (!) if possible.

4) A problem that illustrates "heavy" vs. "lite" reflexives, but not Russian, Spanish or any related language. One that illustrates reflexive vs. middle constructions would also be nice.

Thanks for any and all help. So far there are about 80 problems in the manuscript. As an incentive to participate, I will promise a free pre-publication copy of the work to anyone whose contribution is adopted. I have lots of data and references on these issues, but am hoping to not have to reinvent the wheel if someone out there already has problems prepared.

--Tom Payne
Department of Linguistics, University of Oregon
Eugene, OR 97403
(tpayne@oregon.uoregon.edu)

90.5 MEETINGS

* Friends of Uto-Aztecan (Taxco, Guerrero, Mexico, June 17-18)

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From Karen Dakin (dakin@servidor.unam.mx) 12 June 1999:

PROGRAMA PRELIMINAR, TALLER DE LOS AMIGOS DE LAS LENGUAS YUTOAZTECAS
(UNAM, ex-hacienda "El Chorrillo", Taxco, Guerrero, 17-18 de junio de 1999):
17 de junio
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Mesa 1: ESTUDIOS GRAMATICALES

Rolando Felix Armendariz, "El objeto en yaqui"
Zarina Estrada, "Morfología verbal en nevome"
Jose Luis Iturrioz, "Incorporacion e interrupcion de palabras en huichol"
Paula Gomez "Las extensiones semánticas en morfemas espaciales: el caso del prefijo ku- de huichol"
Veronica Vazquez, "Funcionamiento de los clíticos de sujeto de oracion simple y oracion subordinada en cora"
Carmen Herrera, "El caso de los antroponimos del nahuatl: cita, identificacion predicaciones"
Valentin Peralta Ramirez, "Transitivizacion en nahuatl? Causacion o beneficio en los predicados nominales"

Mesa 2: CUESTIONES HISTORICAS Y TIPOLOGICAS

Brian Stubbs, "Foul vowels in Uto-Aztecan"
Jane Hill, "El Agua en el Mundo Anciano Yuto-Aztecano"
Karen Dakin, "La nomenclatura de fauna en el yutoazteca: Algunas estrategias"

PRESENTACIONES DE VIDEO Y LIBROS (Hotel MonteTaxco):

"El Tlacuache" (Video)
Jose Antonio Flores Farfan, "Hablando mexicano de Jane Hill y Ken Hill"
Jane Hill, "Cuatreros somos, toidioma hablamos de Jose Antonio Flores Farfan"
Ignacio Guzman Betancourt, "Traducciones de obras de Carl Sauer"
Jose Luis Moctezuma, "Estudios en homenaje a Wick Miller: FUAC 97"

18 de junio
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Mesa 3: ETNOLINGUISTICA Y SOCOLINGUISTICA

Ken Hill, "Hopi babyltalk"
Thomas Willett, "Vocabulario Tepehuano" (version preliminar)"
Jose Luis Moctezuma Zamarron, "Marcadores linguisticos que estigmatizan a yaquis y mayos"
Silvia Leal Carretero, "Metaforas de la vida en la cultura huichola"
Javier Galicia Silva, "Insultos metaforicos en el nahuatl: comparacion semantica entre el Siglo XVI y los contemporaneos"
Mario Castillo, "El nahuat de Cuetzalan: Reflexiones sobre su identidad dialectal"
Esteban Godinez Flores, "Etnografia sobre el desplazamiento linguistico del nahuatl-chontal de Chilacachapa, Guerrero"
Jose Antonio Flores Farfan, "Los efectos del contacto nahua-espan/ol en las Balsas"

Mesa 4: FUENTES Y FILOLOGIA

Jane Rosenthal, "Progress report on publication of Opata materials project"
Roberto Escalante, "Manuscrito Opata"
Ignacio Guzman Betancourt, "El problema de la toponimia nahuatl de Sinaloa"
Rosa H. Yan ez Rosales, "El nahuatl de Nueva Galicia en documentos judiciales del siglo XVII"
Pilar Maynez, "El trabajo doctrinal y linguistico de fray Bernardino de Sahagun en el Nuevo Mundo"

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