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

*** SSILA BULLETIN ***

An Information Service for SSILA Members

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Number 132: February 20, 2001

132.0 SSILA BUSINESS
--Bookmarking the SSILA website

132.1 CORRESPONDENCE
--Song words? (R. Beatty)
--Translators into American Indian languages (E. Prussakov)
--Terms for 'beauty'? (K. Borgstrom)
--Words for poison ivy/poison oak? (S. Tomb)

132.2 UPCOMING MEETINGS
* Friends of Uto-Aztecan (Santa Barbara, July 8-9)
* Ling. Perspectives on Endangered Lgs (Helsinki, Aug 29-Sept 1)
* Ling. Historiography of Latin America (Costa Rica, Feb 2002)

132.3 WEBSITES OF INTEREST
* Koryak site
* "Mariano Silva y Aceves" Series

132.4 E-MAIL ADDRESS UPDATES

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132.0 SSILA BUSINESS

Bookmarking the SSILA website
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PennyHost, the domain host for the the SSILA website, recently changed
the IP address for our site on their server. (They were gobbled up by a
larger dot-com and this was part of the inevitable "transition"). We
thought this change would be of no consequence to users of the site,
since you are automatically redirected to the IP address -- wherever it
is -- when you ask your browser to go to "www.ssila.org". But we forgot
about bookmarks. When you bookmark a site, the basic IP address is stored on your browser, not a redirection alias like "www.ssila.org". This means that if you bookmarked the SSILA site before January 15, 2001, the address stored on your browser is no longer operational. You should trash this bookmark, point your browser at "www.ssila.org", and create a new bookmark for our homepage.

132.1 CORRESPONDENCE

Song words?

>From R Beatty (russandkathy@home.com) 10 Feb 2001:

I'm trying to find which American Indian group the following song words orginated in:

"Na Wee Tah Nay Na Wee Tah Now Wee"

My father told me that he remembered this song from his parents, who were born in Anaheim and San Gabriel, California, in the 1870s. Can readers of the SSILA Bulletin help?

--Russ Beatty
(russandkathy@home.com)

Translators into American Indian languages

>From Eugene Prussakov (eprussakov@yahoo.com) 8 Feb 2001:

Langbridge Inc. is now looking for translators from English into Apache, Chickasaw, Choctaw, Cree, Creek, Crow, and Dakota (among others). Anyone who might be interested should contact Langbridge at:

information@langbridge.com

--Eugene Prussakov
(eprussakov@yahoo.com)
Terms for 'beauty'?
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>From katrina borgstrom (divineradiance@hotmail.com) 15 Feb 2001:

I am interested in finding terms for 'beauty' in Native American languages. Any help will be much appreciated!

--Katrina Borgstrom
New York City
(divineradiance@hotmail.com)

Words for poison ivy/poison oak?
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>From Spencer Tomb (astomb@ksu.edu) 18 Feb 2001:

I am writing a popular article on poison ivy and poison oak and I would like to provide a list of a few Native American names for these plants. I need to know the words and what the phrase or word means. Any assistance readers of the SSILA Bulletin can give would be greatly appreciated.

--Spencer Tomb
Kansas State University
(astomb@ksu.edu)

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132.2 UPCOMING MEETINGS

* Friends of Uto-Aztecan (Santa Barbara, July 8-9)
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>From Karen Dakin (dakin@servidor.unam.mx) 19 Feb 2001:

Following three conferences in Mexico, we are happy that John Johnson has invited us to the Santa Barbara Museum of Natural History for the 2001 Friends of Uto-Aztecan Working Conference / Taller de los Amigos de las Lenguas Yutoaztecas, July 8-9 (Sunday-Monday). We also plan to have one joint session with the SSILA-WAIL meetings, which are scheduled for July 6-7 at UC Santa Barbara.

The Seminario de Lenguas Indigenas, Instituto de Investigaciones Filologicas, UNAM, is organizing the program. For further information contact Karen Dakin at <dakin@servidor.unam.mx>.
The Linguistic Association of Finland is organizing a symposium on "Linguistic Perspectives on Endangered Languages", to be held at the University of Helsinki, August 29 - September 1, 2001.

The symposium will bring together linguists interested in questions relating to endangered languages. We invite papers addressing general linguistic questions as well as papers taking the viewpoint of one (or more) particular language(s). Themes include documentation of endangered languages, standardization of language corpora, and the possible effects of endangerment on the grammar of a language. Other topics relating to language endangerment are also welcome.

Invited speakers will include:

David Harrison (University of Pennsylvania), "Nomads on the internet: Documentation, endangered languages and technologies"

William McGregor (Aarhus Universitet), "Structural changes in language shift/obsolescence: a Kimberley (Australia) perspective"

Marja-Liisa Olthuis (Sami Assizes, Finland). "The Inarisaami language as an endangered language"

Tapani Salminen (University of Helsinki), "Linguists and language endangerment in north-western Siberia"

Stephen A. Wurm (The Australian National University), "Languages of the world and language endangerment"

The deadline for submission of abstracts (in English; max 500 words) is March 30, 2001. Please submit your abstract by e-mail to:

el-organizers@ling.helsinki.fi

The abstract should be included in the body of the message. Participants will be notified about acceptance by April 20, 2001. The accepted abstracts will be published on the webpage of the symposium at:

http://www.ling.helsinki.fi/sky/el.html

Participants are also encouraged to give demonstrations of their projects (research, revitalization, documentation etc). If you are interested in
giving a demonstration, please contact the organizers (at e-mail address above).

The deadline for registration for all participants is June 21, 2001. The general registration fee is FIM 200 (for participants coming from abroad we recommend payment in cash upon arrival). The organizers will provide a list of hotels later.

* Linguistic Historiography of Latin America (Costa Rica, Feb 18-23, 2002)
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>From Cristina Altman (altman@usp.br) 19 Feb 2001:

Activities are under way to form a Research Committee in Linguistic Historiography within the Latin American Association of Philology and Linguistics (ALFAL). A workshop will be held during the XIII Congress of the Association, to be held at the University of Costa Rica, 18-23 February 2002. The workshop will meet from Monday until Friday, 2-5 pm, except on Thursday 21 February, when the general assembly of ALFAL will take place. The detailed program of the workshop will be announced in April 2001.

The central purpose of the Historiography of Linguistics Committee will be the investigation of the essential tension between the (empirical) perception of linguistic diversity and its (universal) modes of representation, in the Latin American context.

The task of establishing the historical record of Latin American linguistic traditions is not an obvious one. It seems to require, first of all, a definition of what we understand by Latin American linguistic practices and thinking before talking of a Latin American tradition in the study of languages. Any approach to Latin American kinds of linguistic thinking before the 19th century has to consider the particular nature of the colonization process which was carried out by the European conquerors, and the complex linguistic panorama they had to confront. After the 19th century, one has to take account of the movements toward independence of these colonies, the creation of national states, and the adoption of a European language as their official national language.

On the one hand, where the study of the exotic languages is concerned, the considerable linguistic diversity in Latin America played an important role in the enlargement of our empirical linguistic knowledge. The colonial expansion and the christianization of the various peoples living in these vast territories were the main causes for the practice of collecting and registering the linguistic data, not only in travel
reports and narratives of all kinds, but, more importantly, in grammars being written and vocabularies compiled by the various groups of Catholic missionaries.

On the other hand, other aspects of Latin American language study bear on matters of theoretical linguistic reflection and may contribute to a better understanding of some important features of the Western grammatical tradition. One such interest implies of the study in non-documented languages in the elaboration of a universal grammar; another may involve the study of linguistic typology. Finally, the development of a national linguistic tradition in the treatment of the indigenous people and their native languages would be of importance for study.

For further information contact: Cristina Altman, Depto. de Linguistica, Universidade de Sao Paulo, Av. Prof. Dr. Luciano Gualberto 403, 05508-900 Sao Paulo, SP, Brazil (altman@usp.br or altman@netcomp.com.br).

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132.3 WEBSITES OF INTEREST

* Koryak site

>From Alexander King (aking@csuchico.edu) 6 Feb 2001:

My website on the Koryaks now has its own domain: http://www.koryaks.net

--Alex King  
Anthropology Department, CSU-Chico  
(aking@csuchico.edu)

* "Mariano Silva y Aceves" Series

>From Albert Bickford (albert_bickford@sil.org) 8 Feb 2001:

I am pleased to announce that we have a new page on the SIL-Mexico web site dedicated to the "Mariano Silva y Aceves" Series of Vocabularies and Dictionaries in Indigenous Languages of Mexico. The URL is:

http://www.sil.org/mexico/pub/vimsa.htm

It consists of an explanation for the name of the series (in honor of
an influential Mexican linguist during the 1930s) and a list of all the titles and editions in the series, together with ordering information for those titles that are still in print.

Thanks to all who shared their time and efforts to bring this about.

--Albert Bickford
Linguistics editor, SIL-Mexico
(albert_bickford@sil.org)

132.4 E-MAIL ADDRESS UPDATES

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