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

*** SSILA BULLETIN ***

An Information Service for SSILA Members

Editor - Victor Golla (golla@ssila.org)
Associate Editor - Scott DeLancey (delancey@darkwing.uoregon.edu)

--->--Correspondence should be directed to the Editor-- <<<--

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Additional grammar available from Mouton

A title in the Mouton Grammar Library was inadvertently omitted from 
the SSILA/Mouton discount brochure that was enclosed with the July 
Newsletter. The book is: Mark Donohue, "A Grammar of Tukang Besi" 
(1999), and is available to SSILA members for US $50. It is #20 in 
the Mouton Grammar Library series -- Zygmunt Frajzyngier's "A Grammar
of Hdi" is actually #23, not #20 as stated in the brochure.

"A Grammar of Tukang Besi" is a comprehensive descriptive grammar of a hitherto virtually undescribed language of eastern Indonesia, and also includes samples of glossed translated texts and a vocabulary. Because of the geographical location of Tukang Besi and its unusual combination of typological features -- it combines features of the Philippine-type languages found to the north and west, and of eastern Indonesian and western Oceanic languages to the south and east -- this grammar will be of interest to general linguists as well as to Austro-nesianists, and to both synchronic and diachronic specialists.

A revised brochure with this title included will be sent to members with the October Newsletter. Members who wish to order it before then may manually add the title and price to the current Mouton/SSILA order form.

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145.1 CORRESPONDENCE

The porcupine is also a northerner
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>From Alan H. Hartley (ahartley@d.umn.edu) 12 Aug 2001:

As a follow-up to George Aaron Broadwell's comment on the lack of a word for 'porcupine' in Choctaw (Bulletin #144.1), here is some further distributional information:

>From http://animaldiversity.ummz.umich.edu/

"The common porcupine is found in boreal North America from Alaska to Labrador and southward to northern Mexico. Erethizon is also found in the Lake States and New England. In the north-central region, it is found only in Michigan, Wisconsin, and Minnesota."

I get the impression that porcupines are not found along the lower Mississippi or in the southeastern U.S. They aren't restricted, though, to "the desert and western regions of North America" as one might infer from Broadwell's message.

--Alan Hartley
Duluth, Minnesota
(ahartley@d.umn.edu)
Names for sunshowers in Native American languages
~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~
>From David L. Gold (via William Bright) 18 Aug 2001:

Having published three articles on designations for the co-occurrence of rain and sunshine in the world's languages and folk belief about that meteorological phenomenon (American Speech 56:159-160; Leuvense Bijdragen 73:33-38; and Neophilologus 85:445-456), I am now preparing a fourth one on the subject, for which I would appreciate (and will gladly acknowledge) the help of readers of the SSILA Bulletin.

If you know of any such designations (Quechua has four, listed in the third article) or folk beliefs, please send me the name of the language, the place where the language is spoken, the designation, and the place where you heard the designation (for folk beliefs: the name of the people, their area of residence, the place where you heard the belief, and the provenience of the person from whom you heard it).

--David L. Gold
67-07 215 St.
Oakland Gardens, NY 11364-2523

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145.2 LSA FUNDING AVAILABLE FOR EL-RELATED TRAVEL, PUBLICATION

>From Megan Crowhurst (crowhurstm@yahoo.com) 17 Aug 2001:

The Linguistic Society of America's Committee on Endangered Languages and their Preservation invites applications for small awards to assist with the costs of transportation to a professional meeting or fieldwork site (not necessarily in the USA) in connection with work on an endangered language (EL), or the cost of publishing a work documenting an EL (for example, a dictionary). These awards are intended for:

(1) Members of EL communities engaged in linguistic work, language maintenance, and/or language planning.
(2) Graduate students working to document an EL.
(3) EL scholars not based in the US, Canada, Europe, Australia, or New Zealand, and who have restricted access to funds for travel and publishing.

Sums will be awarded in the range of $100-$400 (US), with exact amounts to be decided by the Committee on a case-by-case basis.

Those interested should apply in the form of a detailed (1 to 2 page)
letter to the Chair of the Committee at the address below, describing
the event or project for which support is requested. Requests should
be accompanied by the applicant's CV, or a written description of the
applicant's language-based work and relevant community service activities,
as appropriate. Applications may be submitted at any time, but at least
two months of lead time should be allowed between sending applications
and the date for which funding is needed (especially in the case of
applications submitted by terrestrial mail).

Megan J. Crowhurst, Chair, CELP
University of Texas at Austin
Department of Linguistics
Calhoun 501
Austin, TX 78712-1196, USA

Applications may be sent by e-mail to: mcrowhurst@mail.utexas.edu

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145.3 DICTIONARY OF ARGENTINE MAPUCHE DIALECT

>From Ana Fernandez Garay (anafg@ciudad.com.ar) 13 Aug 2001:

I would like to announce the recent edition of my Ranquel-Spanish
dictionary that was recently published by the University of Leiden:

Ranquel-Espanol/Espanol-Ranquel: Diccionario de una variedad mapuche
de La Pampa (Argentina). Ana Fernandez Garay. CNWS Publications
(Indigenous Languages of Latin America, volume 2). University of

Ranquel-Espanol/Espanol-Ranquel es, como lo indica su titulo, el
inventario lexico de una variedad de la lengua mapuche hablada en
la provincia de La Pampa, Argentina. Este dialecto se halla actualmente
en proceso de extincion, razon por la cual la elaboracion del texto
fue realizada con cierta urgencia con el objeto de que el pueblo
ranquel que hoy trata de recuperar su lengua, pueda contar con
materiales apropiados para tal fin. El diccionario reune todos los
terminos que se han podido documentar en el estado actual de la lengua.
Los materiales linguisticos utilizados para la elaboracion del
diccionario provienen de enunciados orales recogidos personalmente por
la autora in situ con la colaboracion de distintos consultantes
ranqueles.

For price and ordering information, contact Jeannette Jansen at
<J.Jansen@let.leidenuniv.nl>.
ARCHIVAL RECORDINGS OF CHEROKEE MADE AVAILABLE TO RESEARCHERS

>From Keith Johnson (kjohnson@ling.ohio-state.edu) 19 Aug 2001:

An archival set of four compact disk recordings of spoken Cherokee with a detailed 20-page index of the CD contents has been deposited with the Oklahoma Historical Society (Oklahoma City), the Western History Library, University of Oklahoma, and with the Cherokee Nation Cultural Center, Tahlequah, Oklahoma.

The CDs contain a total of about 900 minutes of digitized .wav files from original recordings made by William Pulte and Durbin Feeling between July 1971 and August 1973 (Feeling & Pulte, 1975). The main speaker in these recordings was Durbin Feeling of Tahlequah, Oklahoma. Other speakers included Robert Bushyhead, Agnes Cowen, Pauline Glass, Sam Hair, Tom Handle, Willy Jumper, Nancy Letford, Dennis Springwater, and Lizzie Whitekiller.

The contents of the CDs include:

1. Paradigm of tenses and aspects
2. Examples of discourse markers
3. Wh-questions, yes-no questions and answers
4. Time expressions and tenses
5. Commands and requests
6. Relative clauses
7. Singular versus plural nouns
8. Nouns of two or three syllables in different frames
9. Verb suffixes and classes
10. Measures and counting
11. Stories told in Cherokee
12. Conversations

The CDs were created in the Phonetics Laboratory of the Department of Linguistics at Ohio State University with support from the National Science Foundation (grant #BCS-0080004 to Marcia Haag, University of Oklahoma and Keith Johnson, Ohio State University).

--Keith Johnson, Huang Tsan (Ohio State University)
Marcia Haag, Durbin Feeling (University of Oklahoma)

Reference

145.5 POSITIONS OPEN

* Assistant Professor of Linguistics, Rice University

>From Philip W. Davis (pwd@rice.edu) 19 Aug 2001:

The Department of Linguistics, Rice University, is seeking to fill a tenure-track position in linguistics at the level of assistant professor beginning Fall 2002. The Ph.D. is required.

The Department offers degrees at the B.A. and Ph.D. levels. The orientation of the Department is strongly functionalist and usage-based. The faculty adopts an integrative approach that is sensitive to language in its many contexts -- discourse, social, cognitive, historical, etc. We emphasize language description, typological generalizations, functional explanations, and fieldwork experience.

We expect the successful candidate to share the orientation of the Department, to have an active research program, and to have demonstrated excellence in teaching. Preference will be given to those who (1) have research experience in fieldwork on (a) non-Indo-European language(s), and (2) are comfortable teaching courses not only in their area(s) of specialization, but also in phonology and/or historical linguistics. The normal teaching load is two courses per semester.

Interviews will be held in January, 2002 at the LSA/SSILA meeting in San Francisco. For full consideration, applications including cover letter, CV, three letters of reference, and one representative article must be received by November 15, 2001. Reply to: Faculty Search, Department of Linguistics MS23, Rice University, 6100 Main St., Houston, TX 77005. E-mail: ling@ruf.rice.edu. Webpage: http://www.ruf.rice.edu/~ling/. AA/EOE.

* Linguistic anthropologist, Northern Illinois University

>From Cecil Brown (T20CHB1@wpo.cso.niu.edu) 22 Aug 2001:

The Department of Anthropology, Northern Illinois University seeks either a cultural or linguistic anthropologist at the junior level
(tenure track), with the possibility of hiring the linguistic anthropologist at the senior level. Ph.D. in anthropology or related discipline required at the time of appointment. Geographic and topical areas are open, but the preferred candidate must be able to contribute to both the cultural and linguistic missions of the department. Complete applications must be received by December 1, 2001. Send a letter, vitae, and contact information for three references to Mark Mehrer, Search Committee #1, Department of Anthropology, Northern Illinois University, DeKalb, IL 60115. AA/EEO Institution.

145.6 UPCOMING MEETINGS

* FEL-5 (Agadir, Morocco, Sept. 20-23)

>From Nicholas Ostler (nostler@chibcha.demon.co.uk) 20 Aug 2001:

The Fifth Conference of the Foundation for Endangered Languages, "Endangered Languages and the Media", is to be held at Agadir, Morocco, from 20 to 23 September 2001. The program is now published at:


If you would like a copy but cannot read it there for some reason, please contact Nicholas Ostler at <nostler@chibcha.demon.co.uk>.

There is still time to register. If you would like to do so, please contact Nigel Birch, the FEL secretary, at <Nigel.Birch@epsrc.ac.uk>.

* Languages of the Americas Workshop (Edmonton, March 22-24, 2002)

>From David Beck (dbeck@ualberta.ca) 13 Aug 2001:

The seventh annual "Workshop on Structure and Constituency in the Languages of the Americas" (WSCLA-7) will take place at the University of Alberta, Edmonton, from March 22 to 24, 2002.

The main goal of this workshop is to bring together linguists doing theoretical work on the indigenous languages of North, Central, and South America. Papers in all core areas of linguistics (phonetics, phonology, morphology, syntax, semantics) within any theoretical framework will be considered, but papers will be especially welcome
which address the theme of this year's conference, "Convergence and Divergence: Language Variation within and across Language Families."

Theme
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While the bulk of theoretical work in linguistics has by and large relied on the convenient fiction that languages are stable, uniform synchronic systems that are consistent and self-contained across communities of speakers, linguists working on the languages of the Americas -- the majority of which are unwritten and have no normative or "standard" form -- have often been confronted with a startling degree of variation within what speakers consider to be a single language. Conversely, researchers working in well-established linguistic areas or Sprachbünder such as the Northwest Coast have found that what are patently different and genetically unrelated languages share a tremendous number of phonological and grammatical features.

>From the point of view of the theoretical linguist, both types of variation represent challenges to the view of a language as a discrete and homogeneous grammatical system and raise a number of important questions. To what extent and over what parameters can linguistic systems vary and remain mutually intelligible -- hence qualifying as dialects of a single language? If languages can, as amply illustrated by the languages of the Americas, borrow a wide range of phonological and grammatical features from other languages, what are the restrictions on this type of borrowing and how might these restrictions be related to the grammatical and typological properties of source and donor languages? And how do borrowed or innovative features created by dialectal variation interact with pre-existing features of the language, and what can this tell us about the nature of human language as a whole?

Invited speakers
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-- Sarah Thomason (U of Michigan), "Prominence Marking in Verbal Arguments in Salish and Algonquian"

-- Leslie Saxon (U of Victoria), "Athapaskan Clause Structure and the Positions of Subjects and Objects"

-- Cecil Brown (Northern Illinois U), "How Mesoamerica Became a Linguistic Area"

-- Paul Kroeber (Indiana U), "Pre-verbal Positions in Tillamook and its Neighbors"
The invited student speaker will be:

-- Kiel Christianson (Michigan State U), "Stress, Pitch Accent, and Language Variation: Ojibwa vs. Odawa"

Following the tradition of the WSCLA, the final day of the workshop will be dedicated to linking research to work being done on language preservation and revitalization. This year the session will focus on incorporating linguistic knowledge into Native language curriculum. The invited speaker will be:

-- Ofelia Zepeda (U of Arizona), "The American Indian Language Development Institute (AILDI)"

Her talk will be followed by a roundtable discussion by all workshop participants.

Submissions
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Please submit a one-page abstract (a second page with references and extra examples may be included). Abstracts may be submitted electronically, either in the body of an e-mail message (if they include no special characters) or as e-mail attachments. The latter should be in PDF, Word, Rich Text Format, or WordPerfect formats, in descending order of preference; please specify and/or include any special fonts used. Paper abstracts may be submitted in four copies, at least one of which should be camera-ready. All submissions should provide the following items of information, separate from the abstract itself: (1) name, (2) address, (3) affiliation, (4) telephone and FAX number, (5) e-mail address, and (6) status (faculty/grad student/postdoc/independent scholar).

Limited funds may be available to offset travel expenses for graduate students. Indicate if you wish to be considered for a travel subsidy.

Abstracts should be sent by e-mail to <wscla7@ualberta.ca> or by snail mail to: LANGUAGES OF THE AMERICAS WORKSHOP, Dept. of Linguistics, Univ. of Alberta, 4-32 Assiniboia Hall, Edmonton, AB T6E 2G7, Canada.

The deadline for abstracts to be received is Friday, January 11, 2002. The program will be announced in mid-February.
145.7 WEBSITES OF INTEREST

* Some more on-line language maps
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>From Matthew S Dryer (dryer@acsu.buffalo.edu) 13 Aug 2001:

My website contains a number of language family maps that I constructed several years ago, including five for North America:

--United States (small map, easy to see all at once, but details hard to see)
--United States (large map, cannot be seen on screen all at once, but one can scroll around and details are easier to see)
--California
--Pacific Northwest
--Canada

The page with links to these maps is at:

http://wings.buffalo.edu/linguistics/dryer/family.maps

It should be noted that these are all based on the Voegelins' map.

--Matthew Dryer
University at Buffalo, SUNY
(dryer@acsu.buffalo.edu)

* Nahuatl pages at SIL-Mexico site
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>From Albert Bickford (albert_bickford@sil.org) 17 Aug 2001:

It is with pleasure that I announce the long-awaited posting of more of David Tuggy's web pages on Nahuatl. They are accessible through the Nahuatl family page on the SIL-Mexico website:

http://www.sil.org/mexico/nahuatl/familia-nahuatl.htm

This posting includes four pages on Nahuatl phonology and orthography, a reading list, and suggestions about other interesting Nahuatl websites. (If anyone knows of other sites that we should add to this list, we're open to suggestions.) All pages are available in English and Spanish and are intended for a non-specialist audience (technical linguistic terminology is explained through pop-up glossary entries).
Previously posted items of David's work are: Frequently asked questions about Nahuatl, Classical Nahuatl, and a glossary of linguistic terminology in English and Spanish. Still to come are two sets of pages on specific varieties of Nahuatl, Tetelcingo and Orizaba.

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

145.8 E-MAIL ADDRESS UPDATES

Cyr, Danielle ..................dcyr@yorku.ca
James, Deborah ..................james@utsc.utoronto.ca
O'Neill, Sean ..................Sean.P.O-Neill@ou.edu
St.Clair, Robert N. .............rnstcl01@gwise.louisville.edu
Swift, Mary .....................mswift@ling.rochester.edu
Wells-Jensen, Sheri .............swellsj@bgnet.bgsu.edu

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

Victor Golla, Secretary-Treasurer & Editor

P. O. Box 555
Arcata, California 95518-0555 USA

tel: 707/826-4324 - fax: 707/677-1676 - e-mail: golla@ssila.org

Website: http://www.ssila.org