The Society for the Study of the Indigenous Languages of the Americas

*** SSILA BULLETIN ***

An Information Service for SSILA Members

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237.0  SSILA Business
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* ISO 639-3 standarized language codes: a call for corrections

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From Lyle Campbell (lyle.campbell@linguistics.utah.edu) 17 April 2006:  

Background

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The ISO (International Organization for Standardization, www.iso.org) 
recently decided to expand its set of approximately 500 standard 3-letter 
codes for the representation of names of languages (ISO 639-2) to 
provide codes for all the known languages in the world. To facilitate 
this expansion the 3-letter language codes used in SIL's "Ethnologue"
Corrections to codes and names

The ISO 639-3 standard specifies a unique language identifier (3-letter code), and the name of the language associated with that code. Now that Ethnologue’s nomenclature is to serve as the basis for this international standard, SIL will have the “administrative authority” for the coding of living languages -- supervising the addition of new language codes, merging codes, retiring codes, etc. LinguistList will work in coordination with SIL to provide an equivalent service for the extinct and classical languages that Ethnologue does not include.

Ethnologue is setting up a process to identify and correct inconsistencies and errors in its database, and to formally recommend any changes in codes and names to the ISO. The code and name problems can be of several different kinds:

1. Cases where a single language is incorrectly assumed by Ethnologue to be multiple languages, and so has multiple codes.
2. Cases where multiple languages are incorrectly assumed by Ethnologue to be a single language, and so have a single code.
3. Cases where Ethnologue mistakenly assigns a code to a language that does not appear to exist.
4. Cases where known languages have no code at all.
5. Cases where the main Ethnologue name for a language is not the name by which the language is most commonly known (either by speakers or by scholars and others).

To recommend a change from the standard code and name (i.e., those specified in Ethnologue 15), there will be an official procedure which involves filling out forms and providing solid justification. The formal process for this has not yet been reviewed by the ISO 639 Joint Advisory Committee, as Part 3 is still officially a Draft International Standard. However, the forms which SIL proposes to use are available upon request from the ISO 639-3 Registrar, Joan Spanne (iso639-3@sil.org), and will be processed when the draft standard is formally adopted by the ISO.

The plan is to have proposed changes to the codes and names of indigenous
languages of the Americas reviewed by a special SSILA COMMITTEE ON LANGUAGE CODES. Completed forms can be returned either to the ISO 639-3 Registrar, who will consult with the Committee as appropriate, or they can be sent directly to the Committee, who, after review, will pass them on to SIL with a recommendation. The Committee's role will be significant, since Ethnologue has only a small staff and will not be able to process requests rapidly. The Committee can be reached through its vice-chair, Marianne Mithun (mithun@linguistics.ucsb.edu) until August 1, and through its chair, Lyle Campbell (lyle.campbell@linguistics.utah.edu) after then. The other members of the committee are Willem Adelaar, Gary Holton, and Eduardo Rivail Ribeiro.

Other corrections and updates
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Family classifications, as well as information on numbers of speakers and their locations, are not part of the ISO 639-3 standard. However, they are an important part of the Ethnologue database, and when more recent and accurate information is available, or where classifications are out of step with consensus views of scholars, comment is invited. Suggestions and updates should be sent to Ethnologue_Editor@sil.org. M. Paul Lewis (paul_lewis@sil.org), the Ethnologue Editor, and Conrad Hurd (Managing Editor) will also be willing to answer questions about procedures.

237.1  Correspondence
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* Terminology development in Amerindian languages
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From José Alvarez (jalvar@cantv.net) 11 April 2006:

I will be involved in a project aimed at developing basic scientific terminology in Amerindian languages of Venezuela for use in primary and secondary schools. I am looking for references and other sources about the process of lexicon development. I have conducted fruitless searches in the WWW. I am fully aware that an understanding of the structure of the language is crucial for creating new terms (for example, derivational morphology and compounding), but I need something like general guidelines, theory of lexicon creation, and information about current and past projects in this area. Thank you.

--José Alvarez
Universidad del Zulia
237.2 Summer Course in Quechua

From Serafin M Coronel-Molina (scoronel@Princeton.edu) 10 April 2007:

The Center for Latin American and Caribbean Studies, University of Illinois at Urbana Champaign, offers an intensive summer course in Quechua for graduate students and undergraduates from any university. The instructor is Sixto C. Soto (s-soto3@uiuc.edu), a native Quechua speaker and author with 15 years of experience teaching at the University of Illinois. The course runs from June 12 to August 2.

Quechua, with 8-10 million speakers, is the most widely spoken Native American language. It is spoken in the Andean Countries (Ecuador, Peru, Bolivia). Colombia, Chile, Argentina and Brazil also have Quechua speaking communities.

Quechua has been taught continuously at the University of Illinois at U-C since 1977. We provide classes with variety of teaching materials: the traditional written materials, videos, slides and computerized lessons.

Hamuychik runasimi yacharikuq!

For further information contact Sixto C. Soto (s-soto3@uiuc.edu).

237.3 Positions Open

* Instituto de Investigaciones Antropológicas, UNAM

From Lingüística-IIA (linguistica_iia@yahoo.com) 17 April 2006:

Estimados Colegas:

Les enviamos la convocatoria de una plaza en el Instituto de Investigaciones Antropológicas en el área de "Análisis gramatical de lenguas
Saludos

--ESPECIALIDAD DE LINGÜISTICA
Instituto de Investigaciones Antropológicas, UNAM
Ciudad Universitaria, Delegación Coyoacán
04510 México, D.F.
Tel. 56229544

El Instituto de Investigaciones Antropológicas, con fundamento en los artículos 14 de la Ley Orgánica 73, 76, 77, 79 y 83 del Estatuto General y 38, 41, del 66 al 69 y del 71 al 77 del Estatuto del Personal Académico de la UNAM, convoca a concurso de oposición abierto para ingreso a las personas que reúnan los requisitos señalados en la presente convocatoria y en el referido estatuto, para ocupar una plaza con número de registro 02390-54 de investigador Ordinario de carrera Asociado "C" de tiempo completo, no definitivo, en el área de Análisis gramatical de lenguas o dialectos en peligro de extinción o poco documentados, con sueldo mensual de $10,363.40, de acuerdo con las siguientes Bases:

a) Tener grado de maestro o estudios similares, o bien los conocimientos y la experiencia equivalentes.

b) Haber trabajado cuando menos tres años en labores docentes o de investigación, en la materia o área de su especialidad.

c) Haber publicado trabajos que acrediten su competencia, o tener el grado de doctor, o haber desempeñado sus labores de dirección de seminarios y tesis o impartición de cursos de manera sobresaliente.

De conformidad con los artículos 73, inciso d) y 74 del mencionado estatuto, el H. Consejo Técnico de Humanidades determinó que los aspirantes deberán presentarse a las siguientes Pruebas:

* Formulación de un proyecto de investigación sobre el análisis gramatical de alguna lengua o dialecto en peligro de extinción o poco documentado en México.

* Exposición escrita sobre el análisis gramatical de alguna lengua o
dialecto en peligro de extinción o poco documentado en México en un máximo de 20 cuartillas.

* Interrogatorio sobre el tema de la exposición escrita.

Para participar en este concurso, los interesados podrán inscribirse en la Secretaría Académica del Instituto, dentro de los 15 días hábiles contados a partir de la fecha de publicación de esta convocatoria, presentando por septuplicado los documentos siguientes: una solicitud acompañada de su currículum vitae actualizado, todos los documentos probatorios de que el aspirante reúne los requisitos exigidos para esta convocatoria, y finalmente el proyecto de investigación y exposición escrita señalados como pruebas. Las pruebas deberán presentarse en plazo máximo de 15 días hábiles, contados a partir de a fecha de dicha notificación.

Al concluir los procedimientos establecidos en el mencionado estatuto se darán a conocer los resultados del concurso, el cual surtirá efecto a partir de la ratificación del Consejo Técnico de Humanidades cuendo se declare al ganador del concurso.

"Por mi raza hablara´ el espíritu"
Ciudad Universitatia, DF, a 3 de abril de 2006
El Director
Doctor Carlos Serrano Sánchez

* Language Documentation/English Sociolinguistics, U of Manchester, UK

(Two positions are open: full professor and lecturer)

From Martin Barry (martin.barry@manchester.ac.uk) 11 April 2006:

The School of Languages, Linguistics and Cultures at the University of Manchester is seeking a Professor of Linguistics or English Language and a Lecturer in the same area(s). The School is one of the largest and most successful such groupings in the UK, enjoying outstanding research ratings, strong external grant income and an excellent record of postgraduate and undergraduate recruitment.

Two specialty areas have been identified: either (i) Language Documentation, Field Linguistics or Linguistic Typology; or (ii) Present Day and/or Historical English Sociolinguistics.

The Professorial post represents an excellent opportunity for scholars
with an established international research profile to play a leading role in the development of the very strong grouping in Linguistics and English Language. The post is available from 1 February 2007. Salary is negotiable on the professorial scale.

Informal inquiries may be made to the Head of School, Professor Steve Parker (Stephen.Parker@manchester.ac.uk or tel: +44 (0) 161 275 3185) or Professor Nigel Vincent (Nigel.Vincent@manchester.ac.uk or tel: +44 (0) 161 275 3194).

The Lecturer's post represents an excellent opportunity for ambitious scholars to develop their careers in the very strong grouping in Linguistics and English Language. The post is available from 1 September 2006. Salary will be on the Lecturer Grade 6 scale £28,009 - £30,607 or Grade 7 £31,525 - £38,772 p.a. Informal inquiries may be made to the Head of Linguistics and English Language, Martin Barry (Martin.Barry@manchester.ac.uk or tel: +44 (0) 161 275 3250) or Professor Nigel Vincent (Nigel.Vincent@manchester.ac.uk or tel: +44 (0) 161 275 3194).

Address for Applications:

Directorate of Human Resources
The University of Manchester
Humanities HR, Lime Grove Builing
Oxford Road
Manchester M13 9PL
United Kingdom

Application Deadline: 18 May 2006

Website: http://www.llc.manchester.ac.uk/

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237.4  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:

Gruessner, Karl-Heinz ............. lynkhg@gmx.de
Minoura, Nobukatsu ................ cyriltyo@yahoo.co.jp
Tanaka, Yuki ....................... yukitnka@siu.edu
Wichmann, Soeren .................. wichmann@eva.mpg.de
When your e-mail address changes, please notify us (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).

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 2006 are $16 (US) or $20 (Canadian) and may be paid in advance for 2007 and 2008 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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