CORRECTION

The May 1985 SSILA Newsletter contains a very unfortunate misprint. The Uto-Aztec Working Conference (Friends of Uto-Aztec) for 1985 has NOT been postponed until 1986. Instead, it is the Uto-Aztec Ethnolinguistics Conference (in Hermosillo) that has been postponed. The Friends of Uto-Aztec will meet as scheduled in Tucson, Arizona, June 28-29, 1985. For further information contact Pam Bunte, Box 3BV, New Mexico State University, Las Cruces, NM 88003.

Our sincere apologies to the Uto-Aztec network!

Victor Golla
Rich Rhodes
THE SOCIETY FOR THE STUDY OF THE INDIGENOUS LANGUAGES OF THE AMERICAS

- 1 -

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SSILA BUSINESS

1985 CAIL Sessions Organized

Margaret Langdon, President of SSILA and Chair of the Organizing Committee for the 24th Conference on American Indian Languages, reports that she received 65 abstracts for the Conference before the March 10th deadline—an increase of nearly 20 over 1984. In her submission to the AAA Program Committee she proposed that the CAIL should extend over 9 sessions, arranged as follows:

I. The Interpretation and Presentation of Texts
II. Theoretical Structures in Traditional Narratives
III. Muskogean Languages
IV. History, Typology, and Diffusion
V. Mayan Languages: Discourse
VI. Mayan Languages: Synchronic & Diachronic Studies
VII. South America
VIII. Mesoamerican and Uto-Aztecan Languages
IX. Language Obsolescence

The full program will be announced in the August/September issue of the SSILA Newsletter.

NEwletter IV: 2

May 1985

CORRESPONDENCE

The New Format

Dear Editor,

The pervasive typos in the latest Newsletter I will pass over in (almost) silence, since you will no doubt be hearing plenty about that. But the idea that the new format is "vastly improving the graphic quality of the Newsletter"—well. Any reader who thinks his or her eyesight has suddenly deteriorated should take out a copy of any recent issue of the SSILA Newsletter, set it beside the new one, and judge which is the "improved." The earlier format presented a clean and sharp-edged typed (or daisy-wheeled) page that is a pleasure to read; the new one gives us a high-tech but blurry imitation of a miniature typeset page, that leaves one squinting. (The increased length is a mixed blessing; newsletters seem to be at their best when succinct.) Can't we have the legible Newsletter back?

Signed:
Jack Du Bois
Department of Linguistics, UCLA
Los Angeles, CA 90024

P.S. In all other respects than legibility (of late), it's still a great newsletter—keep up the excellent work!

[The typos were the product of the rush to get the new format set up, our apologies. Somehow typos always seem to look worse in typeset material. The change in format reflects a number of hidden changes which make the often thankless task of producing a newsletter both easier and cheaper. The Newsletter can now be physically constructed by the computer so that all the time-consuming hand labor is no longer necessary. Nor do things which do not change need to be retyped. What's more, the computer reproduces the copies at essentially the (bulk) cost of the paper—there are no xerographing charges. Moreover, under the current arrangement, even that cost is absorbed under my discretionary computer account funds. So the cost to the SSILA for the production of the Newsletter is $0.00. The fuzziness is a problem, and one that is not likely to be solved too easily. We will be experimenting with type sizes and fonts to see if a slightly larger size or different type face will help. Also an occasional copy or page comes off the laser printer a little weak. If you happen to get one of those copies, we're sorry. At this time that is unavoidable. But all things considered, we feel that the advantages of the new format outweigh the disadvantages. Incidentally, response to the new format is running heavily in its favor.—RAR]
Guzman and the Aymara Language

Dear Editor:

[This] is an open letter in response to the enormous propaganda surrounding Ivan Guzman de Rojas and the use of Aymara as a computer language. Since you published a copy of the nonsense in the SSILA Newsletter [December 1984, p. 3], we thought you would be interested . . . . The letter is also available in Spanish and in Aymara. Anyone who needs them should write us.

M. J. Hardman-de-Bautista
Aymara Language Materials Program
P.O. Box 12099
Gainesville, FL 32604

TO WHOM IT MAY CONCERN:

The Aymara Language Materials Program this year celebrates its 15th anniversary at the University of Florida. Part of our work in teaching Aymara has included the preparation both of teaching materials and an extensive grammar of the language. Both the teaching materials and the grammar were written here by a team of American and Aymara linguists working together.

It was then, with great interest that we first heard of the work of Ivan Guzman de Rojas. Mr. Guzman claims, among other things, that Aymara grammar is in harmony with computer logic and that he therefore finds it easy to use Aymara as an interlanguage for translation programing.

In light of the widespread attention Mr. Guzman and his theories are receiving we have examined his work closely and feel compelled to comment upon them.

In the interest of protecting the reputation of our program and accomplishments, we feel we must publicly state that there is absolutely no connection between Mr. Guzman and the ALMP. Furthermore, we find Mr. Guzman's work almost utterly devoid of linguistic, scientific or pedagogical value. At first glance he doubtless impresses people very much, but not so the native Aymara speakers, for reasons we explain here. To fully understand the weaknesses of Mr. Guzman's work requires a knowledge of Aymara, linguistics, and computers. Mr. Guzman seems to have an extensive knowledge of computers, but his understanding of the other areas appears to be lacking.

First and most importantly, Mr. Guzman does not know Aymara. He gives many "Aymara" sentences in his manual but almost every one is grammatically incorrect. Even when the sentences are grammatically acceptable to Aymara speakers, the meanings he claims for them are, more often than not, incorrect, often wildly so. Yet his stated goal is the use of Aymara as a translation medium.

In his publications he claims only to know written Aymara; he states that he does not speak the language, which leads us to ask how a person who does not know the language well could thing in in and make correct and logical Aymara deductions. It is clear that language requires first a cognitive process which is exteriorized with the language itself, and only later in writing, which is a complementary and formal domain for a language.

Virtually all of Mr. Guzman's "Aymara" is based on a grammar and dictionary written over 400 years ago by Ludovico Bertonio, a Jesuit priest. Bertonio's work was excellent for its period, but is has little relevance to contemporary Aymara and contains forms that are unacceptable, at least in the modern idiom.

Mr. Guzman, however, not only accepts all the errors of Bertonio but makes many of them his own. His poor understanding of Aymara word and sentence structure results in forms that are simply unintelligible to the Aymara.

The Aymara language has come from the Aymara people themselves as a necessary part of the culture. It is no more an artificial invention than is that language of any living culture. Aymara, like all other languages, has evolved with its speakers, has changed and is changing, as all other languages, with the needs of the speakers. Two other languages related to Aymara-Jaqaru and Kawki—give us some very concrete information about the history of the Aymara language and its changes over time.

It is entirely possible that Mr. Guzman has constructed a workable translation program, at least for very simple sentences. Such programs have existed since the early 1960's but are only capable of limited literal translations. If Mr. Guzman has constructed a program superior to earlier ones we salute him. But he has certainly not used the Aymara language to do so. His "Aymara" is at best a hybrid creation that makes some use of the actual language.

It is even more unfortunate that Guzman has an extremely paternalistic view of Aymara language and culture. He essentially views the Aymara people as outmoded historical relics, and believes himself in a position to dictate to the Aymara regarding their own language, basing correctness notions on the observations made by a priest 400 years ago. He wishes to hold them in a freeze frame as though they were museum pieces, instead of living 20th century people.

In the last decade, and even earlier, there have been established a number of institutions, and a number of Aymara people have become scholars and scientists. It is hoped that more attention will be given to the work of these people in drawing together the literary and scientific work regarding Aymara.

We here in the ALMP currently rely on computer technology for a number of purposes including newsletters and primers for literacy, and plan to expand such use with the upcoming dictionary project. All personnel associated with the ALMP are competent in computers, both Aymara speaking and non-Aymara speaking.

The Aymara language is a member of Jaqi family of languages, which today consists of only three extant
members. Aymara, the largest, is spoken by more than three million in Perú, Bolivia, and Chile. Jaqaru, spoken by thousands in Perú, with its center in Tupe, and Kawki, a dying language, of Cachuy, are both found mainly in Yauyos, Perú. The Jaqi languages have influenced both of the more recent imperial languages, Quechua and Spanish, both in borrowings and in some grammatical patterns and have in turn, been influenced. The three remain, however, members of different linguistic families.

The Aymara language is beautiful, rich, interesting, and worthy of study. It most certainly is not simple, nor does it have any fewer ambiguities than any other human language.

We would invite anyone with interest in the Aymara language to contact us for further information.

Signed:
M. J. Hardman-de-Bautista, Ph.D.
Professor of Anthropology & Linguistics
Director, Aymara Language Materials Program
Michael Farris, Tomás Huanca, Ron Kephart,
Yolanda López Callo, María Helena Goicochea,
Monica Loder, Francisco Mamanin Cañazaca,
James T. McKay, Gary P. Newman, Dale Stratford,
Mary Ellen Warren (Current ALMP students)

NEWS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

Jorge Suárez (1927–1985)

Dr. Jorge Suárez, one of the best known and most highly respected American Indian language scholars in Latin America, died in Mexico City on February 24, 1985, after hospitalization for lung cancer. Suárez, an Argentine by birth, received his early academic training at the U of Buenos Aires, and completed graduate studies in linguistics and anthropology at Cornell U in 1961, where he studied under Charles Hockett. His dissertation, A Description of Colloquial Guaraní, written jointly with his first wife, Emma Gregores, was published in 1967. Returning to Argentina after receiving his doctorate, Suárez carried out extensive research on South American languages (most notably Araucanian) and taught at the U of Buenos Aires, the U of Tucumán, and the U Nacional del Sur. In the early 1970’s Suárez left Argentina for Mexico, where he held a research position in the Instituto de Investigaciones Filológicas, UNAM, and carried out studies of Zapotec and other Oaxacan languages. His recent book, The Mesoamerican Indian languages (Cambridge U Press, 1983), will remain for many years the definitive survey of linguistic scholarship on the languages of Mexico and Central America. Suárez is survived by his second wife, Yolanda Lastra de Suárez, and four children.

George Herzog (1901–1984)

George Herzog, one of the pioneers of Ethnomusicology, and a scholar much concerned with the interrelationship of music and language—particularly among American Indian groups—died last year after a decades-long incapacitating illness. In the winter 1985 issue of the journal Ethnomusicology David P. McAllester, an early student of Herzog’s, has a moving tribute to his teacher, from which the following is excerpted:

Born in Budapest in 1901 and educated in music there and in Berlin, George Herzog had his interest captured by von Hornbostel and his circle in the latter city and saw at once the importance of the cultural context in understanding “exotic” musics. He took his Ph.D. under Franz Boas at Columbia University in 1931 and proceeded to impress American anthropology and linguistics with the importance of music scholarship in the study of culture. He was research associate at Chicago and Yale, held two Guggenheim fellowships, did field work in Liberia and among the Pima and Comanche Indians. When he returned to Columbia to teach in 1937 he soon established this country’s first course in ethnomusicology.

Small, intense, with a bristling black moustache and a sometimes mordent wit, he taught in an informal, in fact rambling way. He was fascinated by regularities in human behavior and we learned to analyze the oral arts in melody, song texts, folklore, proverbs, phonology, grammar, and the symmetry of kinship systems. He taught linguistics as well as “primitive music” and, though his Hungarian accent never diminished, he corrected our English grammar and our musical transcriptions alike with meticulous rightness.

George Herzog could be terrifying in the cause of scientific integrity at scholarly meetings, but he was admired and loved as a genius and a delight by his intimates. In 1940 he led a field team of students to Oklahoma to study Comanche linguistics principally, but also ethnology and music. Here the somewhat remote and elusive professor was transformed into a companion who hated to get up in the morning but then worked relentlessly far into the night. He learned to drive the expedition car in a hilarious succession of adventures, taught us the meaning of scholarly work, and sharpened our wits with linguistics games and fantasies.

Herzog left Columbia for Indiana University in 1948, where he was the prime mover in establishing the Archives of Folk and Primitive Music (now the Archives of Traditional Music). But just as it was reaching its zenith, his brilliant career was cut short by illness; his prodigious output effectively ceased after 1950. The work of his active years endures, however, and includes a number of monographs and papers of continuing interest to Americanists. Among these are The Yuman Musical Style (1928) and papers on musical and linguistic topics from such groups as the Tutelo, the Navajo, the Pima, and various Salish and Pueblo cultures. A bibliography of his published work appeared in Ethnomusicology 1(6):11–20 (1956).
Further Harrington Microfilms Available (More or Less)

First the good news: 101 more microfilm reels of the linguistic and ethnographic notes of J. P. Harrington (1884–1957), the legendary field linguist of the Bureau of American Ethnology, are now available. These reels contain all of Harrington’s work with the languages of Northern and Central California, including his invaluable documentation of Chimariko, Karok, Shasta-Konomihu, Costanoan, Salinan, and Yokuts (among others). This is the second (and largest) part of the 10-part microfilm publication of Harrington’s complete corpus that is being carried out by Kraus International Publications with the cooperation of the National Anthropological Archives, Smithsonian Institution. The remaining parts are now being filmed and will be out relatively soon.—Now the bad news: Kraus International is marketing these 101 reels as a unit, with a price tag of $4,545 (although a 15% discount is available for standing orders). While individual reels may be purchased (for $75 each), Kraus is going out of its way to make this difficult, most effectively by restricting sale of the Guide to the Field Notes to purchasers of the complete set of 101 reels. Thus, scholars interested in, say, Yokuts may purchase the 13 reels that contain Yokuts material, but they will be denied access to the Guide’s frame-by-frame listing of the contents, as well as the wealth of data on informants, the chronology of Harrington’s work, the key to abbreviations, and the many other fruits of Elaine L. Mill’s painstaking scholarship. Kraus, we are told, has “sound business reasons” for this move, but the result will be to give scholars considerably less access to this material than they should have. For further information on Kraus International’s policies write or call: Marian Seder, Kraus International Publications, One Water Street, White Plains, NY 10601, (telephone: (914) 761-9600).

Directory of Oklahoma Ethnologists and Linguists Available

A directory of approximately 75 ethnologists, ethnohistorians, and anthropological linguists with a research interest in the Native American communities of Oklahoma has been compiled recently by Emanuel J. Drechsel as part of the Oklahoma Ethnographic and Linguistic Survey. The directory lists names, addresses, and areas of ethnographic and/or theoretical specialization, and is supplemented by a subject index that allows identification of scholars with specific areas of research interest. Copies can be obtained by writing to Prof. Drechsel at: Oklahoma Ethnographic and Linguistic Survey, 455 W. Lindsey #521, Norman, OK 73019.

Andean Conference Scheduled in Peru

The VI Congreso del Hombre y la Cultura Andina is scheduled to be held in Lima, Peru, August 19th to 31st, 1985, in connection with the celebration of the 20th anniversary of the founding of the Universidad Inca Garcilaso de la Vega. Specialists in all branches of Andean culture are invited to present papers. Plans are being made for publication of the Proceedings. For further information contact: Comisión Organizadora, Apdo. 1408, Correo Central, Lima 1, Perú.

American Indian Literature Journal Plans Text Series

The journal Studies in American Indian Literature plans to begin shortly a series of commentaries and analyses of literary works in Native American languages and invites submissions of such material. When feasible, texts in the native language will be printed along with translations, though this will be possible only where transliteration uses normal typewriter characters with minimal diacritical marks. In most cases limitations of space preclude use of extended texts, but coherent segments of longer works are welcome. Linguistic and cultural commentaries are appropriate, but the focus of the series will be on native literary traditions. Where length or complexity of reproduction make it impossible to reproduce the original language text, a full and clear statement of where such a text is available will be included. Address all inquiries to the editor of SAIL: Karl Kroeber, 602 Philosophy Hall, Columbia U, New York, NY 10027.

Symposium on Canadian Native Languages Held at Buffalo

New Journal

A new journal, *Diachronica*, has recently made its appearance. It is intended to be a "forum for the exchange and synthesis of information concerning all aspects of Historical Linguistics and pertaining to all language families," and will appear twice annually. The General Editor is Konrad Koerner (U of Ottawa), with Philip H. Baldi (Penn State) as Associate Editor and Allan R. Bomhard the Review Editor. The second issue (Fall 1984) contains a paper by William Cowan on the history of obviation in Montagnais (pp. 193–202), and the breadth of coverage in this and the first issue (Spring 1984) makes it clear that this is a journal that welcomes the submission of Americanist work. Subscriptions are $15 (US) or DM 35 per year ($25 and DM 60 for libraries and institutions). Order from: Georg Olms Verlag, 111 W. 57th Street, New York, NY 10019 (in Europe: Hagentorwall 7, D-3200 Hildesheim, Federal Republic of Germany).

California Conference to be Inaugurated

Plans are being made to establish an annual conference for interdisciplinary scholarship focused on the Indians of California. The inaugural California Indian Conference will be held on the campus of the U of California, Berkeley, on the weekend of October 18–20, 1985. Papers of a synthesizing or interdisciplinary nature are welcome from scholars in all relevant fields, including (but not restricted to) archaeology, ethnography, history, and language. Abstracts are due September 10. Address inquiries to: William S. Simmons, Program Chair, D of Anthropology, U of California, Berkeley, CA 94720 (telephone: (415) 642-2912 or 642-3391).

Mayanist Meetings: Past and Forthcoming


*Taller Maya VIII* will be held from June 17th to 21st, 1985, at the Centro de Investigaciones Regionales de Mesoamérica (CIRMA) in Antigua, Guatemala. The meeting will be under the joint sponsorship of CIRMA, the Summer Institute of Linguistics, and the Proyecto Lingüístico Francisco Marroquín. All correspondence regarding attendance and proposed papers or workshops, and all requests for information, maps, and directions, should be addressed to: Stephen Elliott, CIRMA, Apdo. 336, La Antigua, Guatemala (telephone: 0320–126).

Later in the summer, the Centro de Estudios Mayas, at UNAM (Universidad Nacional Autónoma de México), will sponsor the First International Meeting of Mayanists (Primer Coloquio Internacional de Mayistas) in Mexico City, August 5th through 10th. The meeting will be interdisciplinary, and paper are welcomed from specialists in social anthropology, physical anthropology, archaeology, ethnology, epigraphy, and history, as well as from linguists. Papers will be allotted 20 minutes, with an additional 10 minutes for discussion; Spanish is the preferred language of presentation. Scholars wishing to present papers should communicate with the Centro as soon as possible, giving title, disciplinary area, nationality, academic affiliation, and a short summary of research and publications. The Centro intends to reproduce the papers before the meeting for distribution to participants. For further information contact: Dra. Mercedes de la Garza, Directora de Centro de Estudios Mayas, Torre de Humanidades 22-Piso 11, Ciudad Universitaria, 045110 México, D.F.

The 16th Algonquian Conference

The 16th Algonquian Conference was held in Duluth, Minnesota, on October 26–28, 1984. Twenty-four papers were given. Of these, the following were primarily concerned with Algonquian linguistics: Pauleena M. Seebert, "The bird names of Aubrey and Rasles" (Penobscot); Richard Rhodes, "Metaphor and extension in Ojibwa"; Robert M. Leavitt, "Preverbs and preverb-like elements in Passamaquoddy-Maliseet;" Amy Dahlstrom, "Ostiatives Intransitives and Point of View in Plains Cree;" Jennifer M. Greensmith, "Future markers in Woods Cree;" Freda Ahenakew and H. C. Wolfart, "The reality of Cree morpheme-boundary rules;" Frank T. Siebert, "The modes of independent order verbs in Eastern Abenaki and examples of conflation of the desinences;" (Penobscot); John D. Nichols, "Warrior poets of the Anishinaabe," and
Ives Goddard, "Reflections of historical events in some traditional Fox and Miami narratives."

AAAS Symposia to Honor Sapir

The Linguistic Society of America has organized two symposia in honor of Edward Sapir as part of the upcoming meeting of the American Association for the Advancement of Science in Los Angeles in late May. The symposia have been scheduled for Monday, May 27, in the Santa Barbara Room C of the Westin Bonaventure hotel. The first symposium, *The study of Language as a Cognitive System*, will be held from 9:00 am until noon, and will include papers by Michael Cole and Peg Griffin, Elizabeth Bates, Victoria Fromkin, Paul Kay, and Charles Ferguson. The afternoon symposium, *The Study of Language as a Cultural System*, is planned from 2:30 to 5:30 pm. Papers will be given by Michael Shapiro, Michael Silverstein, and Paula Rubel and Abraham Rosman.

Support Available for Short-term Visits to the Smithsonian

As of March 1, 1985, the Smithsonian Institution has begun offering small stipends (up to $2,000) to scholarly investigators (including students) who have a clear need to visit the Institution for a relatively short period of time—to carry out research, consult, or collaborate with Smithsonian scientific staff, participate in seminars, etc. For American Indian linguistic scholars the most likely purpose for such a visit would be to use the National Anthropological Archives. Anyone wishing to apply for support under this program may request application forms and further information from: Office of Fellowships and Grants, Smithsonian Institution, L'Enfant Plaza Suite 3300, Washington, DC 20560 (telephone: [202] 287-3271). Applications should be made well in advance of the proposed visit. Residents of the District of Columbia and immediately adjacent areas are ineligible. Since the application must be directed to a member of the Smithsonian scientific staff, prior consultation would be helpful. Those interested in linguistic archival work should contact either Dr. Herman Viola, Director, NAA, or Dr. Ives Goddard, D of Anthropology (Smithsonian Institution, Washington, DC 20560).

Some American Indian Languages Called "Critical" for US Study

A proposed list of 169 languages to be designated "critical" for the national security, economic well-being, and scientific advancement of the United States has recently been compiled by the US Department of Education, after receiving suggestions from the State, Defense, and Health and Human Services departments, as well as the National Science Foundation. The list is an outgrowth of legislation passed last year that provides $2.45 million to help students who want to study a "critical language." The Education Department spends $32 million a year to help fund 93 national resource and area study centers, most of them on college campuses, where students have been studying about 150 of these languages. The proposed list of 169 is, as one Education Department official put it, "fairly comprehensive." The number is expected to be whittled down in the next 2 months to a shorter, working list of a dozen or so "very critical" languages. As it stands now, the list includes the following American Indian languages: Aymará, Eskimo, Mayan (all languages), Mixtec, Nahuatl, Quechua, Yucatec [in addition to Mayan—do they know something we don’t?], and Zapotec. (Excerpted from *The Washington Post*, April 29, 1985.)

RECENT PUBLICATIONS

Handbook of North American Indians. Volume 5: Arctic. Volume Editor, David Daman; Series Editor, William C. Sturtevant. Smithsonian Institution Press, 1984. xvi + 829 pp. $29. [The 6th volume published to date in this projected 20-volume “encyclopediaic summary of what is known about the prehistory, history, and cultures of the aboriginal peoples of North America.” This volume is devoted entirely to Eskimo and Aleut groups. Of its 58 articles, 41 are concerned with the traditional indigenous societies (and their prehistoric predecessors) of the Western (Alaskan), Canadian, and Greenlandic Arctic. An additional 9 articles treat modernization in the 1950–1980 period, and an Introduction and 8 other general articles provide area-wide perspectives. General and comparative linguistics is expertly treated by Anthony C. Woodbury in “Eskimo and Aleut Languages” (49–63). In addition, an article by Robert Peterson is devoted to “Greenlandic Written Literature” (640–645), and a significant section of Daman’s “Introduction” is given over to a discussion of the origin of Eskimo. Order (from US addresses only) from: Supt. of Documents, US Government Printing Office, Washington, DC 20402. Refer to: Volume 5, SN-047-000-00398-9. Charge orders (Visa/MasterCard) may be made by telephone: (202) 783-3238 (8am - 4pm, Eastern time). From non-US addresses it is more convenient to order from: Smithsonian Institution press, P.O. Box 1579, Washington, DC 20013. Send no money; your order will be processed through SIP’s local representative.]

A Bibliography of Algonquian Syllabic Texts in Canadian Depositories. John Murdoch. Project ASTIC, Ministères des Affaires Culturelles, Gouvernement du Québec, 1984. 147 pp. No price indicated. [The wealth of Cree materials published in the syllabic characters invented by the missionary James Evans in 1836, and widely used in native communities ever since, has been much neglected by librarians and archivists. Murdoch’s purpose in this bibliography is to make these publications more recognizable and accessible. He lists 388 books and pamphlets, dating from 1841 to 1981, many of them for religious instruction, but also including readers, primers, language lessons, almanacs, and more general material. No indication of content is given (beyond the title), but a photograph of the title page accompanies each entry and the bibliographic data is clear and concise. Arrangement is chronological, and several indices allow easy cross-reference. Only the holdings of Canadian institutions were surveyed, but a revised edition with expanded coverage is planned. All in all, a very useful supplement to Pentland and Wolfart’s Bibliography of Algonquian Linguistics (1982). Order from: Nortext Information Design, Ltd., Suite 200, 16 Concourse Gate, NEPEAN (Ottawa), Ontario, Canada K2E 7S8 (telephone: (613) 727-5466).]

The Golden Woman: The Colville Narrative of Peter J. Seymour. Anthony Mattina. U of Arizona Press, 1985. $16.95. [The complete text—with both interlinear and free translation—of a long narrative in Colville (Interior Salish) recorded by Mattina in 1968 from a gifted storyteller. The story of the Golden Woman can be traced to a European origin, and its adaptation of Colville narrative requirements reveals much about both cognitive and linguistic structures in Colville discourse. Mattina’s introduction includes information about the narrator, the Colville narrative tradition, and the general culture of the Colville and Okanagan. There is also a non-technical analysis of the tale, a discussion of Colville “Indian English,” and comments about Colville grammar. A glossary indexes the occurrence of each Colville morpheme in the text. Order from: U of Arizona Press, 1615 E Speedway, Tucson, AZ 85719.]

Yo Imin Tsachi: 50 Leyendas de los Indios Colorado. Museo Antropológico, Banco Central del Ecuador, Guayaquil, 1984. $15. [50 folk tales of the Tsachila (Colorado) Indians of W Ecuador, with Tsafiqui (a Macro-Chibcan language) and Spanish on opposite pages. Appendices list body-part and kinship terms, numerals, and color terminology. Line drawings by native artists. Copies of the cassettes from which the tales were transcribed and translated are also available (4 60-minute cassettes, $50). Order from: Museo Antropológico, Banco Central del Ecuador, P.O. Box 1331, Guayaquil, Ecuador. Check or money orders (in US dollars) should be made out to: Museo Antropológico.]

Biota of the Cashibo/Cacataibo of Peru. Collected and identified by Lila Wistrand Robinson, Ph.D. Lingua-Folk Publications, 1984. Part I: Fauna, 31 pp.; Part II: Flora, 73 pp. $8 (both parts). [Based on fieldwork carried out among the Cashibo and Cacataibo (closely related Panoan groups of the C Peruvian montaña) between 1958 and 1965. Entries are given in Cashibo, Spanish, and English, with tentative identifications; entries for flora also indicate native uses. Photographs and line illustrations. The author is a linguist and anthropologist with a thorough command of the language; her husband is a botanist. Order from: Lingua-Folk Publications, 117 Kirkley Place, Forest, VA 24551.]

Two New Publications in the UCPL Series. Wintu Grammar. Harvey Pitkin. U of California Publications in Linguistics 94, 1984. xvii + 306 pp. $22. [Descriptive grammar of Wintu (California Penutian) based on fieldwork begun in 1956. Although this is considerably revised version of P’s 1963 dissertation, it retains “the basic framework, analysis, and findings” of the earlier work. Major sections include: “Phonemics,” “Morphophonemics,” “Morphology” (this occupying the bulk of the monograph, pp. 56–263), and “Word Tatics and Text Analysis.” There is an index of morphemes and a thorough bibliography. All students of Penutian linguistics—and American Indian linguistics generally—will welcome the definitive publication of a work that has long been consulted and cited in its original dissertation format.]


Recent Publications in the Mercury Series (Canadian Ethnology Service).

98. Interpretive Contexts for Traditional and Current Coast Tsimshian Feasts. Margaret Seguin. 114 pp. [Based on fieldwork at Hartley Bay, BC, and on previously published and archival sources. Tsimshian feasts are viewed as forms of discourse, shaped by distinctive textual conventions.]

99. Ethnolinguistic Profile of the Canadian Metis. Patrick C. Douaud. 109 pp. [A study of the Mission Metis community of Lac La Biche, Alberta, where French, Cree, and English are all spoken.]

100. The Red Earth Creees, 1860–1960. David Meyer. 231 pp. [Historical study of the Creees of Red Earth, Saskatchewan, focused on changing subsistence/settlement patterns and social organization.]

101. Wild Plant use by the Woods Cree (Nihítahawak) of East-Central Saskatchewan. Anne L. Leighton. 136 pp. [Along with a considerable amount of ethnobotanical information, the names of all plants used by the Woods Cree are given.]


Copies of Mercury Series Publications are available free of charge from Publications, Canadian Ethnology Service, National Museum of Man, National Museums of Canada, Ottawa, Ontario K1A 0M8, Canada.

More American Indian Language Dissertations in the Garland Series.

Garland Publishing has announced 37 new titles in their Outstanding Dissertations in Linguistics series. Several are on American Indian topics, or rely on American Indian data:


Reflexivization: A Study in Universal Syntax. Leonard M. Faltz. 300 pp. $35. [Reflexivization strategies in a variety of languages, including Isthmus Zapotec.]

The Formal Grammar of Switch-Reference. Daniel L. Finer. 224 pp. $25. [F argues that SR patterns are “inescapably syntactic,” obeying certain locality conditions that can be taken as diagnostic of the operation of Binding Theory.]

Grammatical Relations in Imbabura Quechua. Janice L. Jake. 300 pp. $35. [The syntax of Imbabura Quechua in a relational grammar framework.]

Order from: Garland Publishing, Inc., 136 Madison Ave, New York, NY 10016 (telephone: (212) 686-7492). Orders from individuals should be prepaid, and will receive a 10% discount. All orders from outside the US and Canada are subject to a 10% surcharge unless prepaid. Prices quoted above are not applicable in Japan (consult United Publisher Services, Kenyu-sha 9, Kanda Surugadai 2-Chome, Chiyoda-ku, Tokyo).

IN CURRENT PERIODICALS

América Indígena. [Instituto Indigenista Interamericano, Insurgentes Sur No. 1690, Col. Florida, México 20, DF]

43.4 (Oct.– Dec. 1983):

Harriet E. Manelis Klein & Louisa Stark, “Lenguas indígenas del norte y oeste de la cuenca del Amazonas: introducción” (671–701) [Preface to this special issue, devoted to a selection of papers from symposia on S American languages at the 1977 and 1978 AAA meetings]

Ernest C. Migliazza, “Lenguas de la región del Orinoco-Amazonas: estado actual” (703–784) [M characterizes the Amazon-Orinoco Basin as a “linguistic area” and provides a detailed survey of the 23 language still spoken in the region; extensive bibliography.]

Arthur P. Sorenson, Jr., “El surgimiento de un regionalismo tutkano; pressiones políticas” (785–795) [Survey of the languages of the Vaupes region, on the Colombia-Brazil border, with special attention to indigenous multilingualisms vs. official national monolingualism.]

Louisa Stark, “Las lenguas indígenas de las tierras bajas de Ecuador: historia y condiciones actuales” (797–821) [Historical survey of 11 of the 12 surviving indigenous languages of Ecuador.]

Mary Ruth Wise, “Lenguas indígenas de la Amazónia peruana: historia y estado presente” (823–848) [Current state of knowledge of Peruvian Amazonian languages, with emphasis on genetic classification.]

Kenneth M. Kensinger, “Investigación lingüística, folklorica y etnográfica pano retrospección y perspectiva” (849–875) [Bibliographic review of work on languages of the Panoan family.]

Mary Ritchie Key, “Lenguas de las tierras bajas de Bolivia” (877–892) [Current state of knowledge of the languages of E. Bolivia, with a survey of their typological characteristics.]

Anthropos. [Anthropos-Institut, D-5205 Sankt Augustin 1, W Germany]
John S. Robertson, “Of Day names, Kin Names, and Counting: Cultural Affinities and Distinctions Among the Mayan Languages” (369–375) [Cultural evidence in support of the linguistic split between W and E Mayan. Prehistoric E Mayan was a tightly knit, homogeneous community, while W Mayan was much more loosely organized.]

Mark S. Fleischer, “Acculturation and Narcissism: A Study of Culture Contact Among the Makah Indians” (409–431) [Psycho-social consequences of Makah (Nootkan, Washington State) acculturation. The replacement of Makah by English resulted in a loss of social cohesion and identity, manifested in narcissistic behavior.]

Ethnohistory. [American Society for Ethnohistory, Texas Tech U, Campus P.O. Box 4549, Lubbock, TX 79409]

Michael E. Smith, “The Aztlan Migrations of the Nahuacl Chronicles: Myth or History?” (153–186) [Examination of native historical accounts of the migrations into C Mexico of Nahuacl speaking groups. Three separate movements are seen (ca. AD 1195, 1220, and 1248), and ethnic correlations suggested. Current work in historical linguistics and archaeology is viewed as supportive of this reconstruction.]

International Journal of American Linguistics. [U of Chicago Press, 5801 S Ellis Ave, Chicago, IL 60637]

Patricia A. Shaw, “Coexistent and Competing Stress Rules in Stony (Dakota)” (1–18) [While apparently unpredictable, the locus of stress at the surface level in Stony can be shown to result from the interaction of three coexistent and competing stress rules.]

Doris L. Payne, “Degrees of Inherent Transitivity in Yagua Verbs” (19–37) [Yagua (a Peruvian linguistic isolate) verb roots show 6 degrees of inherent transitivity, and the category a root belongs to does not depend on the semantic or syntactic context. This suggests that a universal theory of transitivity must admit inherent (root) transitivity as well as the clause-level transitivity proposed by Hopper and Thompson.]

Elizabeth L. Camp, “Split Ergativity in Cavinéña” (38–58) [Tacanan, NE Bolivia. Case assignment of nouns and pronouns in transitive clauses depends on the relative positions of S and O on an animacy hierarchy, but also on sentence position or place in the “linguistic action flow.”]

Paul Proulx, “Proto-Algic II: Verbs” (59–93) [Continuation of the presentation of P's Proto-Algonquian-Wiyot-Yurok reconstruction begun in IJAL 50.2. Reconstructed Proto-Algic forms are given for 103 morphological elements (medials, finals, and inflectional affixes).]

David J. Weber & Peter N. Landerman, “On the Interpretation of Long Vowels in Quechua” (94–108) [The analysis of Quechua long vowels as V + a consonantal segment [length] is argued for.]

Joseph K. Grimes, “Topic Inflection in Mapudungun Verbs” (141–163) [Verbal inflectional suffixes in Mapudungun (the language of the Mapuche, S Chile) can refer to discourse participants in terms of a person-oriented hierarchy. G argues that this hierarchy is a special case of Comrie's "topic-worthiness" or Kuno's "empathy" hierarchies, attested in a number of different languages.]

Greg Urban, “Ergativity and Accusativity in Shokleng (Gê)” (164–187) [Shokleng and other C Brazilian Gê languages display complex patterns of split ergativity, primarily in the case-marking system but also in number agreement on the verb. The principal conditioning factors seem to be a stative/active split and a subordinate/main-clause split; an affirmative/negative split may also be operative in some languages of the group.]

Michael D. Fortescue, “The Degree of Interrelatedness Between Inuit Dialects as Reflected by Percentages of Shared Affixes” (188–221) [An attempt to provide an objective measure of dialect distances in the Inuit (Esquimo) linguistic continuum by comparing the productive derivational affixes shared by any two dialects. The measure of distance so derived is compared with one based on an appraisal of phonological distinctiveness, and chronological correlations are suggested.]

David L. Payne, “The Genetic Classification of Resigaro” (222–231) [Resigaro, a moribund language of lowland Colombia and Peru, has been classified both as Arawakan and as Huitotoan. Fieldwork with the remaining speakers carried out in the 1970's by Allin has provided more accurate data, which clearly indicate that Resigaro should be classified as Northern Maipuran Arawakan; resemblances to Huitotoan (specifically Bora) are due to borrowing.]

Paul V. Kroskrity & Gregory A. Reinhart, “On Spanish Loanwords in W Mono” (231–237) [Recent work on Mono lexicography, connected with the production of practical language materials for Mono communities, allows a number of loans from Spanish to be added to the collection made by Lamb and published by Shipley in 1962. A plea is made for more areal work in American Indian linguistics.]

Viola Waterhouse, “Counting in Oaxaca Chontal” (237–240) [W omitted the Lowland Chontal numeral system from her 1962 grammar and rectifies this omission here, comparing the Highland and Tequisistlan Chontal...
numeral system and suggesting a reconstruction for Proto-Oaxaca Chontal."

**International Social Science Journal.** [UNESCO, 7 place de Fontency, 75700 Paris, France]

36.1 (no. 99) (1984):

Issue devoted to "Interaction Through Language."

Shirley Brice Heath, "Oral and Literate Traditions" (41–57) [Critical survey of previous research on literacy, followed by a plea for a more broadly based social scientific strategy for understanding the nature and function of literate communication in diverse situations. Some attention is paid to literacy programs in small non-literate societies.]

Rainer Enrique Hamel, "Socio-cultural Conflict and Bilingual Education: the Case of the Otomi Indians in Mexico" (113–128) [Analysis of "the contradictions between official primary-school bilingual programs and the sociolinguistic conditions under which they are applied."]

**Journal of the History of the Behavioral Sciences.** [4 Conant Square, Brandon, VT 05733]

21.1 (January 1985)

Adam Kuper, "The Development of Lewis Henry Morgan's Evolutionism" (3–22) [The main "evolutionist" issue that concerned Morgan was that of the unity or diversity of the human species. His first study, *Systems of Consanguinity and Affinity*, was designed to demonstrate the unity of American Indians and their connection to the peoples of Asia and his methods were derived from Indo-European philology.]

**Language.** [LSA, 428 E Preston St, Baltimore, MD 21202]

61.1 (March 1985):

Judith L. Klavans, "The Independence of Syntax and Phonology in Citicization" (95–120) [The structural and [phonological "host" to a clitic need not be the same. Three independent binary parameters can account for the observed facts, resulting in 8 types of clitic. Data from (inter alia) Navajo, Kwakwala, and Tepeanco.]

**Linguistic Inquiry.** [MIT Press, 28 Carleton St, Cambridge, MA 02142]

16.1 (Winter 1985):

Keren Rice, "On the Placement of Inflection" (155–161) [Data from Slave (N Athabaskan) are incompatible with a theory that claims that inflection is postsyntactic while derivation is lexical; in Slave both must be treated in the lexicon.]

16.2 (Spring 1985):

Dan Everett & Lucy Seki, "Reduplication and CV Skeleta in Kamiaurá" (326–330) [Tupi-Guarani of Brazil. Deletions of C's in reduplicative forms are explained by a general rule operating on prosodic templates.]

**La Linguistique.** [Société International de Linguistique Fonctionelle, 45 rue des Ecoles, 75005 Paris, France]

20.2 (1984):

Jacques Berthelot, "Approche syntaxique du Maya-Tzutuhil (Guatemala)" (115–131) ["A "functional" analysis of Tzutujil syntax. The position of nouns in lexical expansions reveals "a complex arrangement" for which the label "ergative" is not sufficient.]

**NAOS: Notes and Materials for the Linguistic Study of the Sacred.** [1309 CL, U of Pittsburgh, Pittsburgh, PA 15260]


Juan Adolfo Vázquez, "Goajiro Words about the Sacred" [Forthcoming issues of NAOS will contain papers on terms for the sacred in diverse, S American, Meso American, and Asiatic languages.]

**Papers in Anthropology.** [D or Anthropology, U of Oklahoma, Norman, OK 73019]

24.2 (Fall 1983):

Issue edited by John S. Thayer and devoted to papers from the 1st Conference of Native American Studies, held at Stillwater, OK, May 1983.

Marianne Mithun, "The Genius of Polysynthesis" (221–242) [Is polysynthesis simply a formal alternative to strings of simple words, or does it have a function? M argues that it functions as a "tool for stylistic intricacy and for creative development of the lexicon, and also offers a map of the distinctions and relationships that past speakers have considered important enough to grammaticalize, and concepts that they recognized sufficiently to lexicalize."]

Wallace Chafe, "The Caddo Language, its Relatives and its Neighbors" (243–250) [Brief survey of comparative Caddoan, and of borrowings into Caddo from Tonkawa, Osage, and Spanish.]

Kenneth L. Miner, "Noun Stripping and Loose Incorporation in Zuni" (251–261) [M argues that noun "stripping" (rendering nominals indefinite by "stripping away" modifiers, determiner, affixes, etc.) is historically prior to incorporation in Zuni, confirming his hypothesis that stripping is an early stage of incorporation.]

John E. McLaughlin, "Shoshoni Deictic Roots and the Interface of Real and Narrative Worlds" (263–266) [Interplay between the narrator's point of view and the fictive world of a story, as reflected in deixis.]

M. Dale Kinkade, "Daughters of Fire": Narrative Verse Analysis of an Upper Chehalis Folktale" (267–278) [Analysis of a text collected by Boas in 1927 in the Act/Scene/Stanza/Verse format proposed by Hymes.]
Yvonne M. Hébert, "Evaluating Native Language Programs in British Columbia, Canada: Principles and Practices" (279-287) [Educational evaluations of the approximately 40 Native language programs in B.C. are now beginning; the goals to which these evaluations should address themselves are discussed.]

Recherches Amérindiennes au Québec. [6200 de St-Vallier, Montréal, Québec H2S 2P5, Canada]


Louis-Jacques Dorais, "Humiliation et harmonie—L’expression du droit coutumier chez les Inuit du Labrador" (3–8) [Morpho-semantic analysis and ethnosemantics is applied to the study of Inuit customary law concepts.]

Richard Rhodes, "Le baseball et l’emprunt culturel chez les Ojibwés" (9–16) [Ojibwa baseball terminology is deeply ensconced culturally.]

Marianne Mithun, "Mamani: l’évolution d’un terme de parenté dans les langues iriuquisiennes" (17–23)

Lynn Drapeau, "Le traitement de l’information chez les Montagnais" (24–35) [The distinction between directly and indirectly acquired information is expressed by a variety of linguistic devices in Montagnais.]

J. Peter Denny, Marion Johnson & Mary Elizabeth O’Neill, "Le concept d’accomplissement dans les langues et les cultures amérindiennes" (36–41) [The relationship between economy and language, specifically the presence of verbs referring to actions leading to a specific result.]

Regna Darnell, "Interaction et langage chez les Cris" (42–50) [Rules for verbal interaction in Plains Cree.]

José Mailhot, Marguerite MacKenzie & Sandra Clarke, "La variation linguistique dans une communauté montagnais: une recherche en cours" (51–54) [A study of variation in Sheshatshiu (Labrador).]

Ronald Lowe, "L’assimilation linguistique des Esquimaux de l’Arctique de l’Ouest: la fin d’un début ou le début de la fin?" (54–56) [Action is being taken to prevent the complete replacement of Western Arctic Eskimo by English.]

Lynn Drapeau, "Une expérience d’implantation du montagnais comme langue d’enseignement à Betsiamites (57–61) [Montagnais as a medium of instruction in a Quebec school.]

RECENT DISSERTATIONS

From Dissertation Abstracts International (DAI), volume 45(8)–45(10), February–April, 1985:


Clyne, Roger D. PhD Oregon State, 1984. Learning Style Preference and Reading Achievement of Urban Alaskan Native Students. 146 pp. [Significant differences are found to exist between Alaskan Native and White students, in a study carried out in urban Anchorages. DAI 45(9):2801-A.] [Order no. DA 8418152]

Graßstein, Ann J. PhD McGill, 1984. Argument Structure and Syntax in a Non-Configurational Language. [Analysis of thematic relations in Ojibwa, "based on the assumption that an adequate grammar of Ojibwa should reflect the fundamental role of the morphology in encoding thematic relations." DAI 45(9):2859-A.] [Not available through UMI]

Hollenbach, Barbara E. PhD U of Arizona, 1984. The Phonology and Morphology of Tone and Laryngeals in Copala Trique. 419 pp. [Otomanguean, Oaxaca. Five contrastive levels of tone, described (in an autosegmental model) in terms of 3 tonal features interacting with 3 postvocalic laryngeals. Some morphophonemic phenomena involving tone and laryngeals are also discussed (tone/laryngeal replacements; tone sandhi; and the attachment of clitic pronouns). DAI 45(8):2510-A.] [Order no. DA 8424927]

Houghton, Catherine. PhD Stanford 1984. Structure in Language and Music: A Linguistic Approach. 488 pp. [An application of distinctive feature analysis, principles of hierarchy, and the theory of information entropy to a comparison of language and music. While the music used to illustrate ideas developed in the study is mostly limited to the Western tonal tradition, the linguistic material cited to support arguments is from a variety of Western and non-Western languages, including (besides about a dozen others) Secoya (Tucanoan, Ecuador). DAI 45(10):3124-A.] [Order No. DA 8429519]

Copies of most dissertations abstracted in DAI are available in microform or xerox format from: University Microfilms International, P.O. Box 1764, Ann Arbor, MI 48106. Microform copies are $14 each, xerox (paper-bound) copies are $23 each (to academic addresses in the US of Canada). Orders and inquiries may be made by telephoning UMI's toll-free numbers: 1–800–521–3042 (most of the US); 1–800–268–6090 (Canada); from Michigan, Alaska and Hawaii call collect: (313) 761–4700.

COMPUTER USERS’ CORNER

—The New Gutenberg Sr. (Pauklena Seeber, 6 River Road, Old Town, ME 04468)

I have recently acquired the updated version of Gutenberg Sr. word processing software [Gutenberg Software Limited,
Improvements in the software fall into two categories: 1) changes in the program, and 2) a new manual. Program changes include: a) the ability to call the print program while a file is open, b) booting the system from a copy of the master, c) RAM-based utilities, and d) modular formats. While all of the improvements are helpful, the modular formats are especially so. Included are formats for reports, reports with automatically numbered and placed footnotes, resumes and letters. I am using the report with footnotes format for Penobscot texts in Penobscot and English. These work very well except when the footnotes are very long. In addition, the report format without footnotes which can be printed in up to 4 columns is useful in printing the Penobscot dictionary. By using a 2 column format we save many pages.

The new manual is a significant improvement over the old: much longer (750 pages) and more clearly organized. The index is quite good. The explanations given for the modular formats are excellent, but more sophisticated programmers might have some difficulty making major changes in the formats given.

Gutenberg has been very useful in creating phonemic characters with several accents which are all placed over the letter properly when printed. Editing of texts is a pleasure with this software.

Other features which are worth mentioning are: i) the GLOBAL utility which allows files to be transferred from (or to) Gutenberg to (or from) Apple CPM or DOS 3.3. Also, Gutenberg incorporates Pictures, tables and math notation.

A potential user must have an Apple ][+, Apple ][e, or Apple ][c and should have two disk drives and an Imagewriter or dot-matrix printer. [Gutenberg only supports a limited number of printers and printer interface cards, check before committing yourself.—RAR] Old Gutenberg users will find updating files an easy task.

[The new Gutenberg Sr. answers most of the objections I raised in an earlier Newsletter.—RAR]

—Font Notes. (Elizabeth A. Edwards, U of Washington, Seattle, WA)

• Gary Palmer (Dept. of Anthropology, U of Washington) has devised a Salish character font for the Macintosh and uses a DB Master note-card type program for ethnographic data on Couer d’Alene.

• M.E. Stone of the newsletter for the Association Internationale des Etudes Armeniennes (Jerusalem) notes that the main development in Armenian computing is “the necessary programs to make hardware modifications of Apple ][e to accept multi-language alphabetic sets or special signs or character and the corresponding hardware development for the Epson FX-80 . . . . The advantage of this system (called HAY-soft . . . ) is that it can be used with any word processor, in both an Apple DOS 3.3 or CP/M environment. It involves no soldering and no irreversible changes. So far we have prepared Armenian, Hebrew, Greek, Arabic, and Georgian is underway. Another development is a text file handling package which enables, for example, changing a text input under HAY-soft into a scholarly transliteration. The necessary codings and keyboard layouts have been designed.” Stone also comments that M. J. Connolly (Boston College) knows about implementing Armenian on the Macintosh.

[For those interested in developing special purpose fonts, there is a group of Macintosh applications (i.e. utilities) for manipulating fonts. Apple doesn’t like to just let them out, because they are rather volatile and have almost no documentation. It also takes some time and thought to develop a font—more than it would seem at first glance. I am currently working on some phonetic fonts which I am willing to release on a trial basis, and am also glad to talk to people about font development on the Mac.—RAR]

—Computer Users at Penn. (Brian Teaman, Linguistics Dept, U of Pennsylvania, Philadelphia, PA 19104)

I find the SSILA Newsletter to be an excellent source of information, and especially find the computer information to be unique and helpful. I have a request for information: The PC users group of the Linguistics Dept at Penn is interested in obtaining software for linguistic analysis made for the IBM PC. String searching programs, text analysis programs, and tools for organizing and displaying data would be helpful. Anyone with programs or information to share can contact me at the above address.—Also the Language Analysis Program at Penn has a growing number of texts that have been digitized for computer analysis, including many from languages of the Americas. Anyone who is interested in these texts should contact Dr. John Fought, Language Analysis Project, Linguistics Dept, U of Pennsylvania, Philadelphia, PA 19140.

COMMENT AND REVIEW

[Beginning with this issue, the Newsletter will include a section devoted to short, original contributions from readers: review articles, discussion of theoretical or practical issues, progress reports on ongoing research, etc. Manuscripts should not exceed 1000 words, and contributions in the 300–500 word range would be especially appropriate.]

Doing Fieldwork on an Amazonian Language

Denny Moore

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[Denny Moore recently completed his dissertation, Syntax of the Language of the Gavião Indians of Rondônia, Brazil, for the Department of Anthropology, CUNY.]
The Gavião (who identify themselves as 'hawks,' Ikojí, plural Ikojílec) live on the Posto Indígena Lourdes in several settlements near the Igarapé Lourdes, a stream which flows westward into the Ji-Paraná (or Machado) River. The P.I. Lourdes is approximately 65 kilometers from the nearest town, Ji-Paraná (formerly Vila de Rondônia). The area of the reserve in eastern Rondônia is dense tropical forest with low mountains. There were 144 Gavião at the end of 1977, half of whom were below the age of fourteen. The population was growing at a rate of five percent a year.

The cultures of the Indians of eastern Rondônia have not been studied in depth until the last few years. Recently (1979–81) the Gavião and Zoró have been intensively studied by two Norwegian anthropologists from the University of Oslo, Lars Løvold and Elizabeth Forseth.

The Gavião and Zoró speak closely related dialects of a single language, which in turn belongs to the Mondé family of the Tupi linguistic stock (see Aryon Rodrigues, "Linguistic Groups of Amazonia," in Patricia J. Lyons, ed., Native South Americans (1974), p. 53). There appear to be two other languages in the Mondé family, that of the Surui Indians (who live near the Gavião, Zoró, and Cinta Larga, but differ from them in culture), and the language of the Mondé Indians themselves. As an impression, Gavião and Surui are about as different as, say Spanish and Italian. In general, the degree of genetic relatedness among the languages and language families of Rondônia remains to be established with certainty.

My field research was conducted among the Gavião on the P.I. Lourdes from June 1975 to January 1978. The primary purpose of the project was to gather data for a grammar of the Gavião language. This was done by traditional linguistic field methods. A working orthography was established only after several months of research mapping out syllable tone and length. After transcribing a few elementary texts and eliciting simple sentences, embedded clauses, and phrases, I was bothered by the lack of adverbs and postpositions, and more bothered by a feeling that the syntax of the language was too radically simple and elegant to be real.

As more texts were transcribed it became clear that the few earlier texts had been kept simple by kindly informants. Much of the syntactic complexity of the language was in the system of particles. These are sufficiently inscrutable that the meaning and syntactic behavior of many of them were only determined after leaving the field. A few are still not understood.

The other major area of syntactic complexity was the system of complex words and complex word stems. The enterprise of writing explicit rules eventually led me to decide that a complex/elementary distinction and a stem/non-stem distinction were needed to account for Gavião constructions smaller than phrases.

Twenty-three texts of various types were transcribed. This was slow and laborious because whistled comparisons were necessary to establish syllable tone and length for almost every word. (One miserable day, when I was in despair of ever hearing Gavião pitch with my tone-deaf ears, I noticed my teacher/informant, Alberto Sebiro da Silva, dandle his hat in his lap, whistle godáat sérek koro, 'my new hat,' and then smile slowly. We began using whistled comparisons and the tone phonetics were resolved. It was only several years later that I realized it was no coincidence that the solution to the problem had appeared just when I needed it most; Alberto and his brother—my primary collaborators—had a subtle way of guiding me toward analytic understanding.) The texts average over 100 sentences each. These have all been selectively slip-filed and provide the primary basis for the analysis of syntax.

The analysis of Gavião syntax that I present in my dissertation is meant to be a comprehensive and explicit description without theoretical commentary. Originally I hoped to present a full, explicit description of the phonology and morphology as well, but, bowing to real-world considerations, I give only informal sketches of these, as appendices to the syntax. My style of analysis is eclectic, following anthropological tradition. For the most part it follows a style of rather orthodox transformational grammar, but with no reliance on the idea of linguistic universals. In particular, form classes and other syntactic units are defined on a strictly language-internal basis, though with a view to customary usage. Syntactic features and feature-percolation rules are perhaps used more extensively than usual, since this seems to me to make possible a formal account of a variety of syntactic matters related to Gavião sentence functional types and sentence structural types which is more elegant and natural that would otherwise be possible.

The enlightened descriptive linguist would do well to consider working in lowland South America. Hundreds of indigenous languages with unforeseen properties await the investigator in the fabled Amazon Basin, and Indian cultures (including their linguistic aspects) are alive and functioning there. While this may have been a hazardous area in which to work in the days of Lévi-Strauss and Naimuendajú, there is little danger now, given modern transportation and modern medicines. The common fieldwork diseases are almost all preventable or treatable, though a person must, of course, prepare in advance to cope with them. The non-Indian is awkward and inept for the first few months in an Indian village, but the process of adaptation works steadily to improve the ease of living and working.

As is well known, academic preparation tends to adversely affect personality development in North America. Living with Indians and Latins (such as the warm and lively Brazilians) is a specific antidote for this professional malady. Argumentativeness, ethnocentrism, arrogance, self-disgust,
myopia, and tired blood are all conditions which can be treated by going south to a fresh, natural and flavorful world.

Review Delayed

The review article on Sadovsky's "Cal-Ugrian" hypothesis and other recent work on possible connections between Asiatic and American Indian languages, promised for this issue of the Newsletter, has been delayed.

REGIONAL NETWORKS

[A directory of regional or language-family conferences, newsletters, journals, and special publication series. Corrections and additions are solicited.]

GENERAL NORTH AMERICA

—Conference of Native American Studies. Interdisciplinary conference, held annually in May at Oklahoma State University, Stillwater, Oklahoma. The 1985 meeting will take place May 17–19, and will highlight three topics: Native American Languages and Literature (plenary speaker: Dennis Tedlock); U.S. Government-Indian Relations (plenary speaker: Francis Paul Prucha); and New Directions in Southwest Native Studies (plenary speaker: Alfonso Ortiz). Papers on other topics also welcome. Abstract deadline (150 words): March 1, 1985. Write: James S. Thayer, Conference Coordinator, 225 Hanner Hall, Oklahoma State University, Stillwater, Oklahoma 74078.

CANADA

—Networks. Newsletter of the Special Interest Group on Language Development, TESL Canada. Articles and reviews of interest to teachers in Canadian Native language programs. $10 (CAN) per year, checks made out to "TESL Canada." Write: Editor, Networks, Language Development in Native Education, TESL Canada, 408–1181 Portage Avenue, Winnipeg, Manitoba R3G 0T3.

ATHABASKAN/ESKIMO-ALEUT

—Athabaskan Languages Conference. Meets every other year, at various locations within Athabaskan territory. Next meeting: July 9–11, 1985, Yellowknife, NWT, Canada. (Note the correction in dates.) Theme: "Dynamics of Athabaskan Language Education." Write: Darlene Mandeville, Keebwin Building, Yellowknife, NWT, Canada X1A 2L9 (telephone: (403) 920–8990 or 873–6121.) The section on linguistics is being organized by Phil Howard and Betty Harnum. There are expected to be sessions on morphology, orthography, the lexicon, and applied linguistics. Keren Rice and Sharon Hargus are planning a workshop on conjugation and mode in connection with the linguistic section.


—Inuit Studies Conference. (Linguistics and Anthropology). Most recent meeting Montréal, November 1984. Contact: Prof. Gail Valaskakis, Department of Communications, Loyola Campus, Concordia University, 7141 Sherbrooke W., Montréal, Canada H4B 1R6.

—Études/Inuit/Studies. Interdisciplinary journal devoted to the study of Inuit (Esquimo) societies, traditional or contemporary, from Siberia to Greenland. Linguistic papers are frequently published. Editor: M. Vézinet. Two regular issues/year, sometimes supplements. Write: Département d'Anthropologie, Université Laval, Québec, Canada G1K 7P4.

ALGONQUIAN/IROQUOIAN

—Algonquian Conference. (Interdisciplinary). Meets annually, the last weekend in October. Last meeting: Duluth, Minnesota, October 26–28, 1984. The Seventeenth Algonquian Conference will be held October 24–27, 1985 at McGill University, Montréal, Québec. Contact: Toby Morantz, Dept. of Anthropology, McGill University, 855 Sherbrooke St. West, Montréal, Québec, Canada H3A 2T7.

—Papers of the Algonquian Conference. The papers of the 6th Algonquian Conference (1974) were published by the National Museum of Man, Ottawa; papers of the 7th and subsequent Conferences have been published by Carleton University Press. For prices and availability: William Cowan, Department of Linguistics, Carleton University, Ottawa, Canada K1S 5B6.

—Conference on Iroquoian Research. Interdisciplinary conference, meets annually, 2nd weekend in October, usually in Rensselaer, NY (near Albany). Contact: Marianne Mithun, Department of Linguistics, University of California, Berkeley, CA 94720.

—Algonquian and Iroquoian Linguistics. Newsletter. Four issues per calendar year. $4.00/year (US dollars to US addresses). Write: John Nichols, Native Studies, Argue 546, University of Manitoba, Winnipeg, Manitoba, Canada R3T 2N2.

NORTHWEST

—International Conference on Salish and Neighboring Languages. Linguistic conference, meets annually in August. Next meeting: August 15–17, 1985, University of British Columbia, Vancouver. Papers on native languages spoken in the NW and Plateau culture areas are welcome. For further information, write: M. Dale Kinkade, Department of Linguistics, University of British Columbia, Vancouver, BC, Canada V6T 1W5. Pre-registrants receive
a copy of conference papers in advance of the meeting. Papers from the 1984 conference are available as a special issue of the University of Victoria Working Papers in Linguistics (vol 4, no 20, June 1984) for $10. Order from: Thomas E. Hukari, Linguistics, Box 1700, University of Victoria, Victoria, BC, Canada V8W 2Y2.

CALIFORNIA/OREGON

—California Indian Conference. The First Annual California Indian Conference will be held in Berkeley October 18-20, 1985. Contact William S. Simmons, Department of Anthropology, Kroeber Hall, University of California, Berkeley, CA 94720 (telephone: (415) 642-2912 or 642-3391).

—Hokan/Penutian Workshop. Linguistics conference, sometimes with papers on prehistory and ethnography. The 1985 meeting will be held at UC-San Diego, June 19-21. Papers on any aspect of Hokan, Penutian, and allied Californian linguistic topics are welcome. This year, in addition, a special session on Muskogean languages is planned. Those planning to attend should make their motel reservations as soon as possible. Contact: Margaret Langdon, Department of Linguistics, UC-San Diego, La Jolla, CA 92039; or (for Muskogean papers) Pam Munro, Department of Linguistics, UCLA, Los Angeles, CA 90024.


—Journal of California and Great Basin Anthropology—Papers in Linguistics. Editor: Margaret Langdon, Department of Linguistics, UC-San Diego, La Jolla, CA 92039. One issue annually (1977-1981); future issues at irregular intervals. For back issues write: JCGBA, Department of Anthropology, UC-Riverside, Riverside, CA 92521.

PLAINS/SOUTHEAST

—Conference on Siouan and Caddoan Languages. Linguistics conference, held annually. Most recent meeting: University of Manitoba, Winnipeg, July 6-7, 1984. For availability of papers, write: Paul Voorhis, Department of Native Studies, Brandon University, Brandon, Manitoba, Canada. The Fifth Annual Conference on Siouan and Caddoan Languages will be held May 24-25, 1985 at the University of Tulsa under the sponsorship of the Anthropology Department. Contact David Rood, Department of Linguistics Campus Box 295, University of Colorado, Boulder, CO 80309 (telephone: (303) 492-8041). For information about local arrangements, call Garrick Bailey, (918) 592-6000 ext. 3026.

—Siouan and Caddoan Linguistics. Newsletter, free on request. Editors: David S. Rood or Allan R. Taylor, Department of Linguistics, Campus Box 295, University of Colorado, Boulder, CO 80309.

—Muskogean/Southeastern Newsletter. (See “News and Announcements,” this issue of SSILA Newsletter.) $3/year (individuals), $5/year (institutions). Write: George A. Broadwell, Department of Linguistics, UCLA, Los Angeles, CA 90024.

—Hokan-Penutian Workshop. The 1985 meeting will have a session on Muskogean languages (see above under “CALIFORNIA/OREGON”).

SOUTHWEST/NORTHERN MEXICO

—Uto-Aztecan Working Conference (Friends of Uto-Aztecan). Meets annually. The anticipated 1985 meeting has been postponed until 1986. Program chair: Pam Bunte, Box 3BV, New Mexico State University, Las Cruces, NM 88003.


—Tanoan Conference. Meets annually in the summer, University of New Mexico, Albuquerque. For information on the 1985 meeting, write: Paul V. Krokrity, Department of Anthropology, UCLA, Los Angeles, CA 90024.

—Journal of California and Great Basin Anthropology—Papers in Linguistics. (See above under “CALIFORNIA/OREGON.”)

—Tlalocan. Journal, specializing in texts in Mexican indigenous languages. Contact: Karen Dakin, Instituto de Investigaciones Filológicas, UNAM, 04510 México, D.F.

MAYAN

—Mayan Languages Conference/Taller de Lingüística Maya. Meets in the summer in alternate years, sometimes annually. Last meeting: July 30—August 3, 1984, Mérida, Yucatan. The next meeting will be June 17-21, 1985 in Antigua, Guatemala. (See “News and Announcements” in this issue of the Newsletter.) Write: Sr. Esteban Elliott, CIRMA, Apdo. 336, La Antigua, Guatemala (telephone: 0320-126).

—Journal of Mayan Linguistics. Editors: Jill Brody and William F. Hanks. Published at irregular intervals, two issues per volume. $8 per volume ($11 foreign airmail). All correspondence to: Jill Brody, Department of Geography and Anthropology, LSU, Baton Rouge, LA 70803.

—Workshop on Maya Hieroglyphic Writing. Meets annually, in February or March, at the University of Texas, Austin. Write: Dr. Nancy P. Troike, Institute of Latin American Studies, University of Texas, Austin, TX 78712.
—Recent Contributions to Maya Hieroglyphic Decipherment. Each volume contains 15–20 papers on recent research. Order from: HRAF, P.O. Box 2015, Yale Station, New Haven, CT 06520. Editorial correspondence to: Stephen Houston, Department of Anthropology, Yale University, New Haven, CT 06520.

CENTRAL AMERICA


ANDEAN SOUTH AMERICA

—Reunión Internacional sobre la Lingüística Andina (RIAL). Linguistics conference for Andeanists, held at irregular intervals. RILA-6 will meet as part of the 1985 International Congress of Americanists, in Bogotá, Colombia, July 1–7 (see below). For information, contact: Garland Bills, Department of Linguistics, University of New Mexico, Albuquerque, NM 87131, or Rodolfo Cerrón-Palomino, Centro de Investigación de Lingüística Aplicada, Avenida Arequipa No. 2960, Lima 27, Peru.

—Andean Linguistics Newsletter/Correo de Lingüística Andina. Appears at irregular intervals. Free to interested scholars and institutions. Write: Garland Bills, Department of Linguistics, University of New Mexico, Albuquerque, NM 87131.


—Boletín Indigenista Chile. Articles and reports on recent research on native groups in Chile; some linguistics. $12 (US) per year (three issues). Write: Manuel Romo Sanchez, Clasificador 182, Santiago, Chile.

—The Aymara Foundation. President: Lucy T. Briggs. Assists literacy programs in Peru and Bolivia Membership $20/year (students $10). Address: Box 12127, University Station, Gainesville, FL 32604.

—Cornell Quechua Program. Intensive summer program, offering 6 credits of language training in Cuzco Quechua. Eight weeks, late June to early August. Write: Donald F. Solá, Latin American Studies Program, 190 Uris Hall, Cornell University, Ithaca, NY 14853.

GENERAL LATIN AMERICA


—International Congress of Americanists. Meets every three years. Most meetings have several sessions on linguistic or ethnolinguistic topics, usually focusing on Central and South American languages. Next meeting: Bogotá, Colombia, July 1–7, 1985. For information on the program, write: Executive Committee, 45th ICA, Universidad de los Andes, Rectoría, Calle 18ª Cra. 1–E, Apartado 4976, Bogotá, Colombia. (For a preliminary list of symposia dealing with American Indian linguistic topics, see SSILA Newsletter III: 3 (Sept. 1983), p. 4.)


—SIL Publications in Linguistics. Grammars, dictionaries, and other materials on many American Indian languages, particularly Central and South American languages, prepared by members of the Summer Institute of Linguistics. For a catalogue, write: SIL Bookstore, 7500 West Camp Wisdom Road, Dallas, TX 75236.

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