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SSILA BUSINESS

Special program committee appointed for January 2005 meeting

A special SSILA Program Committee has been appointed for 2004. The committee’s charge is two-fold:

1. Establish a means for reducing the number of papers presented at the annual meeting. The method to be established will be applied to the program for next January’s meeting in San Francisco, and will be evaluated at the business meeting.

2. Compose a document that gives precise guidelines and evaluation criteria for abstracts, especially aimed at people who may never have submitted an abstract for a meeting before.

Members of the committee are: Pamela Munro (chair), Wallace Chafe, Megan Crowhurst, Victor Golla, and Leslie Saxon.

The committee welcomes suggestions from the membership concerning the issues before it, in particular concerning the nature of the criteria that might be used to evaluate abstracts. Correspondence should be directed to Prof. Pamela Munro, Dept. of Linguistics, UCLA, Los Angeles, CA 90095-1543 (munro@ucla.edu).

Nominations solicited for the Ken Hale Prize

The Ken Hale Prize is presented annually by SSILA in recognition of outstanding community language work and a deep commitment to the documentation, maintenance, promotion, and revitalization of indigenous languages in the Americas. The Prize (which carries a small monetary stipend and is not to be confused with the Linguistic Society of America’s Kenneth Hale Book Award) honors those who strive to link the academic and community spheres in the spirit of Ken Hale, and recipients can range from native speakers and community-based linguists to academic specialists, and may include groups or organizations. No academic affiliation is necessary.

Nominations for the award may be made by anyone, and should include a letter of nomination stating the current position and affiliation, if appropriate, of the nominee or nominated group (tribal, organizational, or academic), and a summary of the nominee’s background and contributions to specific language communities. The nominator should also submit a brief portfolio of supporting materials, such as the nominee’s curriculum vitae, a description of completed or on-going activities of the nominee, letters from those who are most familiar with the work of the nominee (e.g. language program staff, community people, academic associates), and any other material that would support the nomination. Submission of manuscript-length work is discouraged.

The 2004 Ken Hale Prize will be announced at the next annual meeting of SSILA, in San Francisco in January 2005. The members of this year’s selection committee are Roberto Zavala (chair), Akira Yamamoto, and Jack Martin.

The nomination packet should be sent to: Akira Yamamoto, Dept. of Anthropology, University of Kansas, Fraser Hall 622, 1415 Jayhawk Blvd., Lawrence, KS 66045. The deadline for receipt of nominations is September 30, 2004.

Nominations will be kept active for two subsequent years for prize consideration and nominators are invited to update their nomination packets if so desired. Inquiries can be e-mailed to Roberto Zavala at <rzavala@juarez.ciesas.edu.mx> or <rzavmall@hotmail.com>.

Mouton Discount Books Re-Priced in Euros

As of April 1, 2004, all SSILA discount prices for Mouton de Gruyter books have been re-set in Euros. Due to administrative reasons, it is no longer possible for Mouton to issue invoices using the previous US Dollar prices.

Also, in the future all credit card purchasers must supply the card verification code, in addition to the cardholder’s name, credit card number and expiry date. This 3-digit number is printed on the back of the credit card (usually on the signature strip) immediately after the credit card number. On some cards, MasterCard and VISA print only the last four digits of the credit card number followed by the 3-digit verification code.

Members will find an updated Mouton-SSILA order form, reflecting these changes, enclosed with this Newsletter.
CORRESPONDENCE

Obtaining ELPR books

February 9, 2004

Thank you for the notice of recent publications from the Endangered Languages of the Pacific Rim Project that you published in the January issue of the SSILA Newsletter. I appreciate your continued interest in our ELPR publications. We have about ten more volumes to come (most of which are from the North Pacific Rim area).

As for obtaining copies — we will have the publications available for purchase after this April, insofar as we have copies remaining. At the same time we are considering having a selected series of them republished by some Japanese publisher.

In the meantime, inquiries may be e-mailed to me at the address below.

—Osahito Miyaoka
Project Director, ELPR
Osaka Gakuin University, Japan
(elpr@utc.osaka-gu.ac.jp)

New Translation Series

March 15, 2004

The University of Nebraska Press has invited me to edit a series titled Native American Literatures and Translation. We intend to publish about two books a year and I am in the process of soliciting proposals. I am particularly interested in the practical and theoretical problems of translations from Native American languages throughout the Americas, as well as in collections of translations themselves. It might be a good idea to look at my Coming to Light and Voices from Four Directions, as well as On the Translation of Native American Literatures, though I am open to other formats and approaches. Perhaps we will be able to utilize technical innovations such as CD-ROM and the Internet.

Proposals should be as detailed as possible and addressed to me at: Humanities and Social Sciences, Cooper Union, Cooper Square, New York, NY 10003. If you’d like to e-mail me I am <swann@cooper.edu>. (Please do not send proposals via e-mail.) My phone number is 212-353-4279 and my fax is 212-353-4398. Feel free to put out the word. I look forward to hearing from you.

—Brian Swann
Cooper Union, New York City
(swann@cooper.edu)

Sorensen’s work in the Vaupés: An Appreciation

Elsa Gomez-Imbert
CNRS & Université Toulouse Le Mirail

Arthur Sorensen is best known, both among Americanists and by linguists generally, for his work on the multilingualism practiced by the Eastern Tukanoan groups of the central Northwest Amazon. Sorensen did his principal fieldwork in the Vaupés area in Colombia and the neighboring Uaupés area in Brazil during the summers of 1959, 1960, and 1962 and from June to December 1963. After some thirteen months spent in the field, he completed his M.A. (1965) and his Ph.D. (1969) on the Tukano language at Columbia University.

He returned to the field on several subsequent occasions. It was during one of these later visits that I first met him, at the Hotel “La Voragine” in Mitú (the main town of the Colombian Vaupés) in 1977; we had lunch together, talking—of course—about linguistic exogamy and multilingualism. At that time I was a student preparing my thesis on Tatuyo, another Tukanoan language, and I was very impressed.

Sorensen’s 1967 article on “Multilingualism in the Northwest Amazon” made linguists and anthropologists aware of a rich and complex multilingual situation, resulting from the linguistic exogamy system of marriage practiced by Eastern Tukanoan groups. A 1985 article, “An Emerging Tukanoan Linguistic Regionality: Policy Pressures,” underlined the strength of different coexisting multilingual traditional patterns in conflict with recently imported monolingual values of the dominant society. Multilingualism was also his subject in oral presentations, and on one such occasion he had a significant indirect impact on the course of Tukanoan linguistic studies. In a seminar on “Multilingualism in the Vaupés” in 1963 at Columbia University, he mentioned the existence of some 25-30 languages in the area that had never been worked on.

OBITUARIES

Arthur P. Sorensen (1927-2004)

Arthur Peter Sorensen, Jr., died on January 10, 2004 in White Plains, New York, aged 76. He had been suffering from Parkinson’s Disease, exacerbated toward the end by cancer. An unassuming and somewhat reclusive man, unaffiliated for most of his career with any major institution, Sorensen nevertheless enjoyed an international reputation as an anthropological linguist and as the senior specialist on the Tukanoan languages of the Vaupés.
Jonathan Kaye, who was at that seminar, suddenly knew what work he wanted to undertake, and he asked if he could tag along on Sorensen’s next trip to the Amazon the following summer. It was on that trip that Kaye met the Desano, another Tukanoan group, and began the study of their language, which he eventually was to make famous for its nasal harmony system.

Less well known is Sorensen’s own pioneering work on the Tukano language, which was the subject both of his master’s essay (The Phonology of Tukano, 1965) and doctoral dissertation (The Morphology of Tukano, 1969). These reflect an effort that must have been far from easy for a student in anthropology at that time. In addition to the practical difficulties posed by the multilingual context, which requires the investigator to distinguish one among the several different Tukanoan languages heard concurrently in everyday speech, Tukano possesses a number of unusual typological characteristics for which Sorensen could not have been prepared, since they had not been perceived by missionaries who had described the language previously.

Sorensen was the first to accurately identify many of the typological features that today are recognized as characteristic of Tukanoan, and more broadly of the Vaupés area. He described Tukano as mildly polysynthetic and agglutinative, with sentences showing a prevailing SOV word order and frequent parataxis. Following a careful distributional method, he identified three classes of root morphemes — noun, verb and particle — and several classes of endocentric and exocentric suffixes. He perceived that the majority of morphemes have a monosyllabic and disyllabic phonological shape. To my knowledge, Sorensen was the first to identify the tones that are present in most Eastern Tukanoan languages; he correctly characterized Tukano as having a tone register system, and carefully transcribed one of the most intricate tonal languages found in the area.

Unfortunately for typologists working on nominal classification systems, Sorensen’s dissertation has never been published (although available on demand from University Microfilms). Sorensen was a pioneer in identifying the nominal classification system of Tukano, which the missionary Bruzzi Alves da Silva had described as “morpho-euphonic agreement” (concordância morfo-eufônica). Sorensen perfectly understood the hierarchy of the system, which consists of two major meaning classes, animate and inanimate, with three meaning subclasses based on gender and number for animates, and many subclasses specified for inanimates, the neuter gender, depending on shape or property indicated by a classifier. Classifiers are divided into two typological subclasses, formally distinct reduplicative classifier suffixes and reduplicative classifier suffixes. The formally distinct classifier suffixes in turn consist of two subclasses, the “paired formally distinct classifier suffixes”, a closed class, and the “non-paired formally distinct classifier suffixes” which merge with the “reduplicative classifiers.” These divisions try to capture a characteristic of some systems with elements recently called “repeaters” by some typologists, that is elements used as both nouns and classifiers. Sorensen listed more than fifty classifiers as an illustration of the already mentioned typological subclasses: formally distinct classifiers (some thirty elements) with singular and plural forms (-pi/-ri ‘baskets’ , -gal/-pa ‘lumpy objects, irregularly shaped roundish objects; stones, fruits, nuts; lumpy bundles (such as of farinha)’); formally distinct classifiers that do not have specific meaning classes of nouns (dehko ‘half of something’ , -beto ‘bend or turn in river’); reduplicative classifiers that can be fully reduplicated (-poewa ‘rapids’) and partially reduplicated (sohpe-ohpe ‘the door’).

Sorensen understood other characteristics of this type of system, such as the derivational function of classifiers; their individuating function (“occurrence of classifier suffixes in nouns indicates specificity whereas lack of classifier suffixes indicates generality”); the lexical origin of classifiers and the “only loosely closed” nature of a paradigm located between grammar and lexicon. He described and illustrated the important classifier agreement patterns occurring in nominal words (pronomns, deictics, numerals), and the reduced class agreement of verbs produced by nouns in subject position.

Sorensen must also be appreciated as an anthropologist whose fieldwork in the Vaupés and Rio Negro basins renewed, in the second half of the twentieth century, a tradition of travelers and ethnographers dating back to the 19th century. (That this tradition was well known to him is indicated by the references in his writings.) One can imagine that Sorensen’s interest for the Vaupés was first awakened by the publication of the work of Theodor Koch-Grüngberg’s Zwei Jahre unter den Indianern: Reisen in Nord-west Brasilien (1903-05). Koch-Grüngberg observed linguistic exogamy and a situation where some pairs of languages are so close that they can be said to be dialects of a single language. Sorensen contributed to a better understanding of these practices in the Northwest Amazon by pursuing Koch-Grüngberg’s observations and trying to identify the social units of primary importance for linguistic exogamy: nuclear family, lineage, sib, tribe, phratri. He observed the social situations conditioning the use of languages in multilingual communities and checked in situ, whenever possible, the inventory of languages still spoken and their degree of proximity.

Preparing these lines gave me the opportunity of re-reading Sorensen’s work and I found much I had not noticed in previous readings. One passage nicely subsumes some of my own intuitions about the importance of linguistic exogamy in the preservation of the Vaupés languages: “The exogamy among these tribes, reinforced by the cultural identification of tribe with language, must supply the energy that keeps each language distinct and alive.” That expresses my feeling concerning the small linguistic groups I have lived with in the Piraparaná area.

**PUBLICATIONS OF ARTHUR P. SORENSEN ON AMERICAN INDIAN LANGUAGES**


E. M. Uhlenbeck (1913-2003)

The Dutch linguist Eugenius Marius (Bob) Uhlenbeck [1], retired professor of Javanese Language and Literature and General Linguistics at the University of Leiden, passed away almost a year ago in Voorhout, The Netherlands, on 27 May 2003. He was 89.

Readers of the SSIL Newsletter may have encountered his name in his function of Associate Editor of IJAL, a position which he held since 1959. The name Uhlenbeck has been on the masthead of IJAL since its inception in 1917 — Uhlenbeck’s uncle, C.C. Uhlenbeck, who worked on Blackfoot, had been a member of the founding board.

E. M. Uhlenbeck worked mostly in Javanese and Oceanic linguistics, but also contributed widely to the study of language endangerment and was directly or indirectly involved in many projects aimed at the description and preservation of endangered languages in different parts of the world.

Uhlenbeck initially studied Indology at Leiden University and Indonesian Law at Utrecht University. After his graduation from both universities, he left in 1939 to work in Batavia (now Jakarta) in what was then the Dutch East Indies (now Indonesia). He was a civil servant at Balai Pustaka (= Bureau for Popular Literature), which promoted the publication of original and translated literature in Indonesian languages, thus playing a crucial role in the formation of the national language, Bahasa Indonesia. It was through this work and his daily contact with Javanese, one of the main subjects of his future investigations, that Uhlenbeck became interested in linguistics. His desire to describe the grammar of Javanese, which differed so much from the grammars of Indo-European languages, guided his search for an appropriate framework, which he eventually found in European Structuralism. After three years in this office—and another three as a prisoner of war during the Japanese occupation—he was appointed lecturer in General and Indonesian Linguistics in Jakarta in 1946.

Shortly after his return to the Netherlands in 1949 he received his doctoral degree for his dissertation De structuur van het Javaanse morpheem (“The structure of the Javanese morpheme”), written in the structuralist tradition established by Bloomfield and Jakobson. In 1950 Uhlenbeck became full Professor of Javanese Language and Literature at Leiden University and in 1958 he was additionally awarded the Chair in General Linguistics. He held a large number of leading functions in academic institutions and served on the editorial boards of Lingua (1950-1984) and Oceanic Linguistics (1962-2003) in addition to IJAL (1959-2002). He was Founder and President of the Netherlands Institute of Advanced Studies (NIAS, 1970-1982), Honorary Member of the LSA (since 1972), President of the Societas Linguistica Europaea (1972), Secretary General of the Comité International Permanent de Linguistes (CIPL, 1977-1992) and Corresponding Fellow of the British Academy (1992-2003).

During his many stays as a visiting professor at American universities between 1953 and 1966 Uhlenbeck became closely acquainted with the upcoming Generative Linguistics, on which he commented critically though not in an entirely unsympathetic way (see e.g. Uhlenbeck 1963, 1973, 1979, 1985). On the one hand he was convinced that “language functions in close co-operation with extra-

linguistic information” (Uhlenbeck 1983:17) and therefore should be studied in the context of its use, thus focusing on performance rather than on competence. On the other hand he valued the explicitness with which the rules were stated in this new view on grammar. He was interested in a kind of linguistic description that would endure the ever changing “fashions” in linguistic theory, which, of course, did not imply that they should be a-theoretic. Rather, he wanted researchers to make their theory explicit and to use their data in order to test their theory and try to revise it. Carefully designed linguistic descriptions of hitherto undescribed languages would in such a way add to our knowledge of linguistics in general and, more specifically, of linguistic universals (Uhlenbeck 1970).

E. M. Uhlenbeck has left us an invaluable legacy of literature on Javanese and Austronesian languages and on general linguistics, written in an accessible and captivating style which betrays the writer’s dedication and love for his profession (for a not entirely complete bibliography see Janse and Swiggers 1996; see also Adelaar 2003). Uhlenbeck’s contribution to the description of endangered languages cannot be overestimated: in his capacity of secretary general of CIPL he initiated a large scale cooperative project of world-wide specialists on the documentation and preservation of endangered languages, funded by UNESCO (see also Robins & Uhlenbeck 1991, Uhlenbeck 1993). More recently he was involved in initiating projects under the auspices of SOAS (ELDP), the Volkswagen Stiftung (DOBES) and the endangered languages program of NWO/WOTRO in The Netherlands. As a result of his efforts, a number of American languages have been described, including but not restricted to Kaw (Nambikwara), Kwa (unclassified Amazonian), Latundé (Maku) and Trio (Carib); work on other languages continues.

—Inge Genee & Hella Olbertz

1. We are grateful to Willem Adelaar and Jan van Eijk for contributions to this obituary. For a full bibliography of E. M. Uhlenbeck’s writings see Adelaar (2003).

REFERENCES


Robert E. MacLaury (1944-2004)

We are deeply sorry to announce the death, on February 18, 2004, of Dr. Robert E. MacLaury. Rob MacLaury was a scientist and scholar of huge stature, enormous originality and breathtaking productivity. He began his academic life as an anthropologist, doing fieldwork in Oaxaca State, Mexico, where he carried out an exhaustive study of phonology, grammar and semantics of Zapotec languages. Amongst the many publications resulting from this work was his seminal 1989 paper on the semantics of Zapotec body part locative terms. He gained his Ph.D. from the University of California, Berkeley in 1986. Rob became involved in the World Color Survey, based in Berkeley, and was himself responsible for the Meso-American Color Survey, culminating in his book Color and Cognition in Mesoamerica: Constructing Categories as Vantages (1997). Rob’s involvement in research in color perception and language was not confined to Central America, encompassing also work in Africa, Canada, and New Zealand as well as the American North and Southwest. It was his color research that provided the spur for the theoretical work that occupied the last few years of his life. Rob MacLaury’s name will always be associated with Vantage Theory, an approach to categorization that significantly extended prototype theory by incorporating, as its name suggests, speaker vantage point, entrenched in the semantics of particular languages, into the process of human categorical perception.

It is for his kindness and humanity that we shall most remember Rob. We, and many others, benefited from the unstinting generosity with which he shared his time and his encyclopaedic knowledge with colleagues and students. Rob was not one of those who viewed scientific knowledge as primarily a vehicle for professional advancement, and we often felt that he did not receive the kind of recognition that his work deserved. During the last years of his life, Rob was immensely productive. Perhaps he sensed that he had only a little time in which to complete his life’s work. Now Rob is no longer with us, but it is our profound hope that others, besides ourselves, will read his publications, be inspired, and develop the rich inheritance he has left behind him.

Rob lives on, like all great intellectuals, in his work; but we also celebrate him through our memories of a very special and dear person. One of the privileges of knowing Rob was to have the opportunity to meet his wife, Maria. To see Rob and Maria together was to see two people who rejoiced in each other’s presence, and their happiness was infectious. We extend our profound condolences to Maria and to the other members of Rob’s family. Rob was a native Californian, and it is fitting that he died in Los Angeles. We shall miss him very much.

—Terri McKeigan & Chris Sinha

We also note with sadness the recent passing of Navajo linguist and educator Alyse Neundorf and of Nahualist Jane M. Rosenthal. Obituaries of both will appear in the July issue of the Newsletter.

NEWS & ANNOUNCEMENTS

Global Source Book on Biocultural Diversity

Terralingua, the international advocacy organization for linguistic diversity in the context of biodiversity, would like to collaborate with practitioners of biocultural diversity conservation to gather information for a Global Sourcebook on Biocultural Diversity. This publication, which will be available both in print and electronic format, will provide the biocultural diversity field with its first global source of information.

The loss of languages, cultural practices and indigenous ecological knowledge all reflect the breakdown in the relationship between humans and their environment. Seeking solutions for the sustainability of both human communities and the environment must recognize the link between cultural diversity and biological diversity. Terralingua invites you to work together with us to document information on biocultural diversity conservation on a global scale.

We are asking for your input in a survey of biocultural diversity projects, programs, and initiatives. The survey will be the basis of an inventory and classification of such activities around the world. Based on further collaboration and information gathering, some projects will be selected as “model” examples of projects that support biocultural diversity. These examples will specifically highlight local stories in the voices of the people involved. Discussion of “best practices” and “lessons learned” will offer guidance for future efforts at biocultural diversity maintenance and restoration.

The Source Book will benefit practitioners of biocultural diversity conservation by increasing the visibility of this newly emerging field and by developing a network of people actively involved in these issues. The survey form and further details are available on the Internet (www.terralingua.org) or may be obtained by contacting Ellen Woodley (ewoodley@uoguelph.ca).

Foundation supports language revitalization in Minnesota

The Grotto Foundation of Minneapolis, in partnership with community leaders and language activists, has made a long-term commitment to the revitalization and restoration of Minnesota’s indigenous languages, in particular Ojibwe and Dakota, within families and communities.
Resources will be used to seed and nurture viable community programs and initiatives that show promise in producing new Native language speakers; have potential for long-lasting family and community impact; and demonstrate the capacity to sustain language revitalization efforts beyond initial Grotto Foundation support. Resources are targeted to the following priority areas: (1) Promising indigenous language revitalization models, including master-apprentice programs, immersion schools, language nests, community language societies or language support organizations, teacher training programs, and innovative new approaches; (2) community planning initiatives, including research projects that prepare a Native community to produce new and younger Native language speakers; (3) curriculum development projects in all areas of Native language instruction; and (4) collaborative efforts, information sharing, and technical assistance.

Eligible to apply are Federally recognized Indian tribes, colleges and universities, nonprofit organizations, and community groups that have experience and commitment to service to Native Americans in the Minnesota region. Approximately $300,000 is available on an annual basis, and grants will typically range from $10,000 to $50,000 for one year. The next application deadline will be July 15, 2004.

For further information contact: Gabrielle Strong, Program Officer, Grotto Foundation, W-1050 First National Bank Building, 332 Minnesota St, St. Paul, MN 55101-1312 (gsstrong@grottofoundation.org; 763/277-3436) or visit the program’s web page (www.grottofoundation.org/native_fset.html).

Two meetings at Berkeley highlight American Indian languages

- This year’s meeting of the Berkeley Linguistics Society (BLS 30)—which took place, as usual, on Presidents’ Weekend, Feb. 13-16—featured a multi-part special session on “ Morphology of Native American Languages.”


For further information, including the availability of the Proceedings volume, visit the BLS website (www.linguistics.berkeley.edu/BLS).

- A two-day symposium on the Ecology of Language was held at Berkeley on February 20-21. The meeting was dedicated to Professor emeritus Murray B. Emeneau and concluded with a celebration of his 100th birthday.


Miami Tribal Scholarship Conference

Myaamia: The Miami People — A Conference on Current Miami Tribe Scholarship was held March 26-27 at Miami University, Ohio, sponsored by the Miami Tribe of Oklahoma and The Myaamia Project, and coordinated by Daryl Baldwin.

The conference brought together educators and researchers whose work and/or scholarship focuses on some aspect of Miami Indian history, culture or language. Its goal was to support and nurture Miami Indian research and educational efforts and expand awareness of the Miami Tribe’s language and cultural preservation needs. The keynote talk was given by Leanne Hinton (UC Berkeley). Other participants were Tracy Leavelle (Creighton U), Mark Warner (U of Idaho), Wesley Leonard (UC Berkeley), and Melissa Rinehart (Michigan State).

For further information visit the conference website (casnov1. cas.muohio.edu/ca/wc/resources.html#miami).

Upcoming general meetings

- WAIL 7 (Santa Barbara, April 30-May 2)

The 7th annual Workshop on American Indigenous Languages will be held at UC Santa Barbara, April 30 through May 2. WAIL provides a forum for the discussion of theoretical and descriptive studies of the indigenous languages of the Americas. Keynote speakers are Roberto Zavala, “Inversion and Obliviation in Mosamecarian,” and Matthew Gordon, “Lengthening and Prominence in Chickasaw.” For full program and further information visit the WAIL website (orgs.sa.ucsb.edu/wailg/).

- Linguapax: Language Diversity, Sustainability & Peace (Barcelona, May 20-23)

Information about the Congress on Language Diversity, Sustainability and Peace that will be held in Barcelona (May 20-23) is available at www.barcelona2004.org. The opening address will be given by David Crystal. Speakers in the plenary sessions will include Bernard Comrie and Nancy Hornberger (Language diversity); Suzanne Romaine and Albert Bastardas (Sustainability), and Miguel Siguan and Fernand de Varennes (Peace). Updated information about the program can be found at the Linguapax Institute website (www.linguapax.org).
**Stabilizing Indigenous Languages** (Berkeley, June 11-13)

“Language is Life,” the 11th annual Stabilizing Indigenous Languages Conference, will be held at UC Berkeley on June 11-13. Interested individuals and groups are invited to give presentations. Suggested panels include: master-apprentice programs, immersion schools, archives and intellectual property rights, developing and using writing systems, and revitalizing languages that have no native speakers. Presentation applications are due by May 15. Further information and forms are available online (jan.ucc.nau.edu/~jar/SIL.htm) or (www.aicls.org).

**Interfaces in Language Documentation** (Frankfurt, September 4-5)

The DOBES Project of the Volkswagen Foundation is sponsoring a conference on interdisciplinary research in language documentation, *A World of Many Voices: Interfaces in Language Documentation*, at the University of Frankfurt/Main, September 4-5. Americanists making presentations include: *Leanne Hinton, Irene Arnold & Gary Holton, David Rood & Amrik Mirzayan, María Villalon, Raquel Gulardello, Aurore Monod Becquelin & Emmanuel de Vienne*, and *Verónica Grondona*. For further information and the full program see the on-line meeting circular (titus.fkidg1.uni-frankfurt.de/curric/dobes/conf2cir.htm).

**FEL 8: Endangered Languages & Linguistic Rights** (Barcelona, October 1-3)

The Foundation for Endangered Languages will hold its 8th Conference in cooperation with Institut d’Estudis Catalans in Barcelona, 1-3 October 2004. The theme will be Endangered Languages and Linguistic Rights, which will be addressed through reports on actual experience and through prescriptions for policy. All approaches will be welcome, but three aspects of this vast field are especially suggested for discussion: (1) the politics of language from the grass-roots activity to political institutions at all levels; (2) the interplay of the global and the local in linguistic rights; and (3) endangered languages and linguistic rights crossing borders. The deadline for abstracts has passed. For further information contact Nicholas Ostler (nostler@chibcha.demon.co.uk).

**VIII Encuentro en el Noroeste** (Hermosillo, November 17-19)

The 8th Encuentro Internacional de Lingüística en el Noroeste will take place at the University of Sonora, Hermosillo, Mexico, on Nov. 17-19. The deadline for abstracts was April 30. For further information visit the Encuentro website (www.8encuentrolinguisticas.uson.mx).

**3rd Conference on Missionary Linguistics** (Hong Kong/Macau, March 12-15, 2005)

The 3rd International Conference on Missionary Linguistics will take place on March 12-15th, 2005 in Hong Kong and Macau. The organizing committee includes members of two associated projects on linguistic historiography: the Brazilian project Nossa língua e essasutas: para uma historiografia da diversidade linguística brasileira, coordinated by Prof. Cristina Altman, and the Oslo Project on Missionary Linguistics coordinately by Prof. Otto Zwartjes.

The central purpose of this conference is to outline a comprehensive study, to be eventually published, of what is generally referred to as "missionary linguistics." The subject is to some extent limited in time (focusing primarily on the period 1492-1850) but not in space. It includes grammars written in different languages (Latin, Spanish, Portuguese, English, French, Dutch etc.), by missionaries of different orders (Dominicans, Franciscans, Jesuits, etc. as well as Protestants), and on different continents. The organizers invite contributions from SSILA members on pre-1850 missionary grammars and dictionaries of Amerindian languages.

Abstracts of around 200 words should be sent (before December 15, 2004) to either Gregory James (legjames@ust.hk) or Otto Zwartjes (otto.zwartjes@kri.uio.no). Presentations may be in English, Spanish, Portuguese and French; papers to be considered for publication must be written either in English or in Spanish. Abstracts should include the name(s) or the presenter(s), institution, postal address and e-mail address, and indicate the language in which the presentation is intended to be given. A conference fee of HK$1,000 (US$128) will be charged. For further information visit the Conference website (www.ub.uio.no/uhss/sok/fag/RomSpr/mislinghongkongmacao/eng/).

**ICHoLS-10** (Urbana-Champaign, Sept. 1-5, 2005)

The 10th International Conference on the History of the Language Sciences will take place at the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign. Sept. 1-5, 2005. This conference takes place every three years, and this is the first time it has been held in the US since 1993. The history of descriptions of indigenous languages of the Americas has always been an important part of this conference. This year there will be special sessions on "missionary linguistics", organized by Otto Zwartjes (otto.zwartjes@kri.uio.no), but the organizing committee would also be happy to entertain independent proposals.

Papers on all aspects of the history of the language sciences are invited. Please submit abstracts of no more than 300 words to the conference organizer (address provided below). If a full panel on a particular topic is proposed, the organizer(s) should provide full abstracts for each paper. We particularly encourage participation by scholars of non-Western linguistic traditions.

The deadline for receipt of abstracts is October 1, 2004. For further information contact the conference organizer, Douglas Kibbee, Dept. of French, Univ. of Illinois, 707 S. Mathews Ave., Urbana IL 61801 (dkibbee@uiuc.edu).

**Summer Institutes & Workshops**

**25th AILDI** (Tucson, June 7-July 2)

The 25th annual American Indian Language Development Institute (AILDI) will be held at the University of Arizona, Tucson, from June 7 through July 2, 2004. This year’s theme will be "Indigenous Language and Education Rights: Past, Present and Future," and will celebrate AILDIs quarter century as a unique institute for Native language education and as a champion of indigenous language rights.

The 2004 faculty includes: *Donna Boynton (Acoma), Phil Cash Nash (Nev Perce, U of AZ), Mary Carol Combs (U of AZ), Maya Honda (Wheelock Col), Wayne O'Neil (MIT), Simon Ortiz (Acoma, U of Toronto), Susan Penfield (U of AZ), Mary Eunice Romero (Cochiti, U of AZ), Emory Sekaquaptewa (Hopi, U of AZ), Lucile Watahomigie (Hualapai), and Akira Yamamoto (U of Kansas). The Program Coordinator is Regina Siqieros, and the Co-Directors are Ofelia Zepeda and Teresa McCarty.*

The courses to be offered this year (each 3 credit hours) are: Linguistics for Native American Communities (Yamamoto); 2nd Language Acquisition: Intro to Language Immersion (Romero); 2nd Language Acquisition: Advanced Language Immersion (Boynton); Investigating Native American Languages (Honda & O’Neil); Hopi Language in Culture (Sekaquaptewa); Bilingual Curriculum Development (Watahomigie); Studies in American Indian Literature (Ortiz); Computer Applications for Indigenous Communities (Penfield & Cash Nash); Language Planning & Policy in Native American Communities (Combs).

Tuition (for 6 credit hours) is $1176 for graduate students, $1098 for undergraduates. There are some small additional fees. Housing costs between $400 and $600 per individual, with dorm space and off-campus apartments both available. For application materials and further infor-
mation, contact the Program Coordinator by e-mail at <AILDI@u.arizona.edu>, by telephone at 520-621-1068, or by Fax at 520-621-8174. Information can also be found at the AILDI website (www.ed.arizona.edu/AILDI).

- **CILLDI 2004** (Edmonton, July 5-23)

  The 5th annual Canadian Indigenous Languages and Literacy Development Institute (CILLDI) will be held at the University of Alberta, Edmonton, Alberta, Canada from July 5 through 23, sponsored by the Faculties of Education, Arts and Extensions, and the School of Native Studies. Undergraduate and graduate students interested in learning an Indigenous language (this year Cree will be taught) or gain expertise in the areas of linguistics, language and literacy acquisition, curriculum development and second language instruction are invited to join us. [For a more detailed description, see SSILA Newsletter 22-4, January 2004, p.7.] The CILLDI office can be reached at <cagogdida@ualberta.ca>, or visit our website (www.uofaweb.ualberta.ca/elementary/CILLDI.cfm).

- **NILI (Eugene, July 6-26)**

  The Northwest Indian Language Institute (NILI) will be held again this summer at the University of Oregon in Eugene, July 6 through 23. Introductory classes will be taught in three languages (Klamath, Sahaptin, and Chinuk Wawa), advanced linguistic study will be available in five languages (Klamath, Sahaptin, Chinuk Wawa, Northern Paiute, and Wasco), and courses will be offered in subjects of interest to teachers and students of Northwest Indian languages: Linguistics for Teachers, Immersion and Bilingual Teaching Methods, Material Development, Evaluation, and Use of Computer Technology. There will also be workshops in TPR Storytelling, Songs, Storytelling, Grant Writing, and Basic English Grammar.

  The faculty includes: Virginia Beavert (Yakama Sahaptin language); Henry Zenk (Chinuk Wawa language); Ruth Lewis & Tim Thornes (Northern Paiute language); Modesta Minthorn (computers); Judith Fernandes (teaching methods and materials development); Tim Thornes (linguistics); Scott Delancy (linguistics); Janne Underriner (materials development); and Gloria Muniz (learning styles, evaluation).

  For further information contact Janne Underriner (jlu@darkwing.uoregon.edu) or visit the NILI website (babel.uoregon.edu/nili/).

- **Shoshoni Language Institute** (Pocatello, July 19-August 13)

  Idaho State University, located in SE Idaho 8 miles from the Fort Hall Indian Reservation, is offering a Shoshoni Summer Language Institute during the summer of 2004. Designed for complete beginners, the institute will include basic information on Shoshoni traditional culture as well as language, and will be particularly useful for professionals in education, social work, and health care who interact with Shoshoni people in the performance of their duties.

  The course will stress speaking and understanding the language, but will also teach students to write Shoshoni in two of the most widely used writing systems. The course will cover the most common grammatical structures in the language, giving students lots of opportunities to practice their newly learned skills. The course is taught by two native speakers of Shoshoni, with over 25 years of experience teaching the language between them.

  The course includes 6 hours of classroom instruction and an hour of conversation daily, Monday through Friday. Students may register for the full 4 weeks for a fee of $1400, or for either the first or second 2 weeks for a fee of $700. ISU course credit is available. On-campus dormitory housing (including weekday meals) is available at very reasonable rates. For full information, contact Continuing Education, ISU, Campus Box 8062, Pocatello, ID 83209 (1-800-753-4781) or visit the Institute website (www.isu.edu/departments/anthro).

- **Ancient Voices/Modern Tools** (Seattle, August 20-23)

  A symposium/workshop, Ancient Voices/Modern Tools: Language and Tech-Knowledge, will be held on the University of Washington campus in Seattle from August 20 to 23, 2004. Hosted collaboratively by the Indigenous Language Institute (ILI) of Santa Fe and the University of Washington, the symposium has been designed to respond to the needs of tribal language programs throughout North America and beyond that want to use computer technology in their language programs. The goal of the workshops is to ensure that attendees have a chance to acquire practical, useful information, and enhanced computer skills to start new or to strengthen existing language programs.

  The program will provide lectures and demonstrations on ways of collecting language materials; allow participants to explore ideas about what can be taught with old and newly collected materials; provide opportunities for considering various technologies available in formats such as games, videos, CDs, interactive CD-ROMs, and more; and help people learn how to put materials onto interactive, multimedia CD-ROMs using simple programs. Hands-on “computer camps” will be led by experts who will coach attendees on the creation of videos, DVDs, CDs or CD-ROMs.

  A registration brochure containing descriptive information about the computer workshops and the featured events is available on the conference website (depts.washington.edu/ili2004).

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**THE PLACENAME DEPARTMENT**

**Oregon**

Ives Goddard and Thomas Love*

Of all the state names known or believed to be of Native American origin, none has proved more difficult to explain than Oregon.[1] Over a century of research on the topic has produced a lengthening list of proposed etymologies but no consensus. In 1921 T.C. Elliott established that the name was first used in a petition submitted to King George III in August, 1765, by Maj. Robert Rogers, who was seeking support for an overland exploration “towards the Head of the Mississippi, and from thence to the River called by the Indians Ouragan.”[2] The history of the name since 1765 is clear. It was used by Rogers’ associate Jonathan Carver as an alternate name of the semi-legendary “River of the West” in Travels through the Interior Parts of North America (London, 1778), spelled “Oregon” (pp. ix, 76) and “Oregan” (p. 542), and it was added to the map in the 1779 edition of his book as “Origan.” On Jedidiah Morse’s “New Map of North America” (1797) the headwaters of the “River of the West,” which falls into the Pacific Ocean, are labeled “Oregan R[iver].” And with the appearance of the name Oregon in William Cullen Bryant’s greatly admired poem “Thanatopsis,” it became widely known as a name for the Columbia.[3] From this was taken the name of Oregon Territory and the trail leading to it.

The investigation of the source of the name must therefore focus on Rogers. Accepting his statement about it leaves the obvious question: From what Indians did Rogers hear the name Ouragan?

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No account of the name *Oregon* to date ties it to the known facts of Rogers’ life or makes it any more likely for Rogers to have proposed it than any number of his contemporaries. For example, Scott Byram and David G. Lewis have most recently proposed that the name is Chinook Jargon (ooligan) ‘eulachon, candlefish’ (*Thaleichthys pacificus*), learned from (or through) a speaker of an r-dialect of Cree who had been west of the Rocky Mountains to the Fraser River.[4] But Chinook Jargon did not exist before the nineteenth century,[5] and in 1765 Rogers had not yet been west of Detroit. Despite the reality of long-distance travel by Indians, there is no specific evidence for any of the many components of a speculative proposal that a Cree from northern Saskatchewan (where the dialect that had [r] was spoken) had learned the Lower Chinook word *idłañ* ‘eulachon’ (from the lower Columbia) by the early 1760’s and on this basis reported to Rogers, in Detroit (or further east), that there was a river that fell into the western ocean with an “indigenous place name” something like “Ouragan.”

The linguistic evidence claimed by Byram and Lewis for early contact between Algonquian-speakers and the Northwest Coast is invalid. Canadian French *ouragan* (also *oreagan*) ‘birch-bark dish’ has no possible connection to the Chinook Jargon fish name (ooligan); it is from 17th-century Montagnais (8râgan) ‘dish’, which has cognates throughout the family that reconstruct to Proto-Algonquian *wera’kanî* (Vogelin’s *welar’kanî*). Chinook Jargon (wapato) ‘arrowhead (*Sagittaria*) tube; potato’ is Santiam (and Proto-Kalapuyan) *póʔ* ‘arrowhead’ (Howard Berman in *IJAL* 56:54, 1990) with a Choctaw prefix *wa*- (*Yvonne Hajda, personal communication 2004); it cannot possibly be the same word as Cree (wâpatawo) ‘champignon blanc’, Eastern Ojibwa (Mniwaki Algonquin) *waabadooh* ‘mushroom; puffball; type of rhubarb’.

The only direct evidence for who the Indians were that used the name *Ouragan* is the name itself. A long-forgotten explanation published by J. Hammond Trumbull in 1879 links *Oregon* to a set of similar cognate words in New England Algonquin languages meaning ‘it (inanimate) is good or beautiful’:[6] Old Eastern Abenaki (Caniba) (889h7en) Unquachog (worécan), and Quiripi (werregun) (all *wirikonz*); Loup (88g8an), (88g8en). Western Abenaki (*wilqen*), and modern Eastern Abenaki (Penobscot) *wólikon*; Massachusetts (wunbegun), (wunbeg), and Narragansett (wunbeg) (wunkehan); Mohegan (*wiegwen*) (iwoyikan); The medial *l*, *ll*, *ll*, or *ly* in these words is the regular reflex of Proto-Eastern Algonquian *r*, and it is the *r* in Rogers’ *Ouragan* that is the best clue to its language of origin. In the relevant languages of Rogers’ day *l*, from PEA *r* survived only in Quiripi-Unquachog (in parts of Connecticut and Long Island) and possibly Eastern Abenaki, if it had not yet shifted there to modern *ll*.

Trumbull also pointed out that this word appears as *Oligihan* (also *Oligihan-sipou* and minor variants), the “Ottawa” (i.e., Algonquian) name for the Ohio River reported in records of the 1682 expedition to the mouth of the Mississippi headed by René-Robert Cavelier de la Salle. La Salle correctly gives the translation ‘the beautiful river’ for both this Algonquian name and “Iroquois” *Ohio* (i.e., Seneca ḯohi yo?”the Allegheny-Ohio River”). He must have learned the name from his guides, who were all Algonquian Indians from New England and areas immediately to the west, among them both Sokokis, who spoke Western Abenaki, and Mohegans (“Moráinage”) from eastern Connecticut. And given that the Sokokis were calling the Ohio (*wilqen*), there can be no doubt that the other guides from New England were using their own dialectal variants of the same name. This name was presumably applied to the Allegheny as well as to the Ohio (which today begins only at Pittsburgh), like *Ohio* as at first used in French and English (e.g., by Rogers himself) and its Seneca etymology.

There is evidence that this word was commonly used in southern New England in contacts between speakers of Algonquian and speakers of English. Benjamin Tompson used “wunnegin” without a gloss in the Pigdin English ascribed to a Massachusetts Indian in his 1676 poem *New-Englands Crisis*, evidently assuming that it would be familiar to his readers. Mohegans referred to “Mr. Cleaveland a Wiegen English Minister” in a partly bilingual letter of 1756.[7] And *wauregan*, derived from the r-dialects of central and western Connecticut (Quiripi-Unquachog) rather than from the local y-dialect (Mohegan-Pequot), was reported to be used to mean ‘fine’ or ‘showy’ in the English spoken near Norwich, Connecticut, as late as 1877.[8] This appears, spelled “wuaregyn” and “Werhegen,” in two epitaphs that Ezra Stiles copied in the Mohegan burying ground near Norwich in 1790. Two of the attestations of this word provide evidence that it was a grammatically invariant form in the locally varying Pigdin Algonquian that the Indians of New England, New Netherland, and New Sweden are known to have used with Europeans in early times.[9] The Mohegans used it in an English context to describe a person as ‘good’ despite the fact that it is restricted to inanimate subjects in Algonquian. And, although La Salle’s (Oligihan-sipou) obviously consists of Western Abenaki (*wilqen*) ‘it is good’ and (*sibo*) ‘river’,[10] it is only in a pigdin that this phrase could have meant ‘beautiful river’. To be used attributively in correct Abenaki (*wilqen*) would have to take the participial form (*wilqen*) ‘(that) which is good’.

Trumbull, thinking Carver was responsible, explained the application of this word to the River of the West by pointing out that Antoine-Simon Le Page Du Pratz had published, first in 1751, a report from a Yazoo Indian named Moncacht-Apê that there was a river flowing west to the Pacific which was called “the beautiful river” (“la Belle-Riviere”) by the Otter Indians who lived on its upper course. This river is shown at the western edge of the map in Le Page’s *Histoire de la Louisiane* (1758) with the label “Belle Riv.” and appears on the map in the English translation as “The Beautiful River” (1763).

It was, however, Rogers who first used the name *Ouragan*, and, in fact, it can be shown that it was precisely Rogers who was at the intersection of the disparate threads of information that Trumbull identified. During his service in the French and Indian War between 1758 and 1760 Rogers’ constant companions were Indian auxiliary troops who prominently included Captain Jacob (Nawnawapetoonoks) and other Mohegans. These Mohegans went with Rogers when he journeyed across the lower Great Lakes to Detroit to receive the surrender of the French garrison in 1760. On the way, Rogers made a side trip to Pittsburgh with a small party, whose Indian members (if any) are not specified, traveling down the lower stretch of the Allegheny. Rogers was thus long in close contact with Indians who would have used the Connecticut jargon word *wauregan* ‘good’ and who would have known it also as the name of the Allegheny-Ohio River that dated back at
least to the time when men of their grandfathers’ generation had gone with La Salle. It is a minimal inference that Rogers would have learned this word and its use as a name. Even if no Mohegan went down the river with Rogers to Pittsburgh, the Allegheny-Ohio would have been an unavoidable topic of discussion as his party moved along the shores of Lake Erie.

In 1761 Rogers sought to secure a royal appointment as Superintendent of the Southern Indians and went to North Carolina to solicit the sponsorship of Governor Arthur Dobbs. Despite Dobbs’s support (in a petition of December, 1761), the appointment went to someone else, but the encounter with Dobbs changed everything for Rogers. Although there appears to be no direct evidence for a meeting of the two men, historians agree that there must have been intensive contact between them. [11] At the end of February, 1762, Rogers drafted a public solicitation for subscriptions to four planned books, of which two were published in London in 1765 and the other two never appeared. The fourth was to cover trade with the Indians, “the great Value of ... the Ohio, ... and some proposals for the Discovery of the North-West-Passage by Land.” [12] This was the project that Dobbs, then 72, had championed all his life and that Rogers subsequently pursued with his petition to the king in 1765.

From Dobbs Rogers would have learned all the latest information and misinformation relating to western exploration, which would inevitably have included Le Page’s book and map. In fact, the route that Rogers proposed in grand detail in a second petition of 1772 can be traced on Le Page’s map: from “the Falls of Saint Antoine” (Minneapolis-St. Paul), west along “the River Saint Pierre” (the Minnesota River, replacing Le Page’s Grande Rivière, the fictional Rivière Longue of Baron Lahontan), by portage to “a Branch of the Missouri, and to stem that northwesterly to the Source: to cross thence a Portage of about thirty Miles, into the great River Ourigan.” On Le Page’s map the name for this appears only in translation, as Belle Rivière, but Rogers knew how Indians would have said the name of such a river. Stretching the facts only slightly, from his perspective, he applied the Connecticut Pidgin Algonquian name for the Ohio to the River of the West that eventually emerged from the Pacific mists as Oregon.

Notes
1. This report is a summary of the authors’ paper “Oregon, the Beautiful,” forthcoming in the Oregon Historical Quarterly 105(2), 2004, which has complete references and acknowledgments. In advance of publication this will be posted at www.ohs.org. We thank the OHQ editor, Marianne Kedington-Lang, for permission to make this report available, and two anonymous referees.
2. Especially T.C. Elliott, “The Strange Case of Jonathan Carver and the Name Oregon,” The Quarterly of the Oregon Historical Society 21(4):348-68 (1920), and “The Origin of the Name Oregon,” QOHS 22(2):91-115 (1921). Other spellings used by Rogers are Ourigan, Ouregan, and Ourgan. A section of our longer paper discusses the possible pronunciations of this name.
3. According to Elliott, the original 1817 text of this twice revised and often reprinted poem has “in the continuous woods/ That veil Oregon;” and the most familiar version has “in the continuous woods/ Where rolls the Oregon,” with both a spelling change and a stress shift.
7. Fide Jay Segel.
10. These spellings are those of the Western Abenaki grammarians Joseph Laurent and Henry L. Masta. The words in the neighboring Loyal language would have been identical.
12. Quoted by Cuneo, p. 153, with no source given.

William Bright’s Native American Placenames of the United States (University of Oklahoma Press, 608 pp., $59.95) is scheduled for publication in May. Prepared with the help of a team of regional experts, this 11,000-entry lexicon will undoubtedly become the definitive guide to American placenames derived from Native languages. A full book notice will appear in the July issue of the SSILA Newsletter.

ETYMOLOGICAL NOTES

Piasaw again

The Algonquian etymology of “Piasaw” that was outlined by Carl Masthay in January’s edition of this column is discussed more fully in a paper by David Costa that will appear in Algonquian: Contemporary Translations of the Algonquian Literatures of North America, edited by Brian Swann (Univ. of Nebraska Press, forthcoming). As Masthay noted in his squib, Costa deserves full credit for the discovery of this etymology. There were also two errors in the Algonquian forms that Masthay cited. The Miami-Illinois word for ‘elf, dwarf’ should have been /payiha/, and the cognate Fox term should have been given as /lapayaas/-/lapayaSaiha/. The garbled forms that we printed were typesetting mistakes for which your non-Algonquianist Editor must take the blame.
MEDIA WATCH

[Notices of newspaper and magazine articles, popular books, films, television programs, and other “media exposure” for American Indian languages and linguistics. Readers of the Newsletter are urged to alert the Editor to items that they think worthy of attention here, sending clippings where possible. Special thanks go this time to André Cramblit, Willem de Reuse, Ellen Golla, and Shirley Silver.]

No comprendo Yucatán

The Mayan origin of the placename Yucatán was highlighted on March 27 in Lynn Johnston’s popular comic strip For Better or for Worse (see below). To get the insider’s view of this matter, we e-mailed Yucatec specialist Andy Hofting. He replied:

It has been the subject of debate since the sixteenth century. Bishop Diego de Landa said it came from a misunderstanding of ci u than (kih u-tan, reportative (? 3A-speech) ‘they say so’. Gaspar Antonio Chi, (16th Century Maya) says it’s from Luquitar, (from u-lu’um kitam, 3A-land peccary), ‘the land of the peccary’. Nakuk Pech, another 16th Century Maya, says it’s from matan c ubah than (ma’ tan k-u’ y-ah(?)=t’an, NEG 1PL.A-hear=speech) ‘we do not understand the words’. This last must be the source for the statement in the cartoon. (These etymologies are reported in Place-Names of Yucatan, by Ralph L. Roys, in Maya Research Vol II, no. 1, pp. 1-2, 1935. The analysis and modern orthography are mine.—AH)

Endangered Languages Month

... or so February might just as well have been designated this year, considering the amount of news coverage the topic received during its wintry weeks.

In fact, as a United Nations press release (www.un.org/news) reminded us, February 21 really is designated International Mother Language Day. No kidding. The UNESCO General Conference proclaimed the Day in 1999, “in recognition of the importance of the world’s linguistic diversity and to promote mother tongue languages.” In a message marking the 5th anniversary of this proclamation, the Director-General of UNESCO, Koochiro Matsuura, called upon national educational systems to teach children in mother tongues from the earliest age as a means both of stimulating learning ability and preserving the world’s rich heritage of linguistic diversity. “It is widely acknowledged nowadays that teaching in both the mother tongue and the official national language helps children to obtain better results and stimulates their cognitive development and capacity to learn,” he said.

But it’s an uphill struggle. UNESCO’s own recent survey indicates that few countries have incorporated local languages into their education systems. While there is some progress towards institutionalizing multilingualism in India, most African educational systems are dominated by the four languages of the former colonial powers—English, French, Spanish and Portuguese—and a similar situation prevails throughout Latin America. Meanwhile, two “little” languages, on average, die out each month.

This alarming fact was underscored just a few days before International Mother Language Day—serendipitously, one assumes—at the annual meeting of the American Association for the Advancement of Science in Seattle. In a report from the meeting that appeared in the Financial Times (London) on February 17, Clive Cookson noted the gloomy assessment of a panel of linguists that the world’s languages are disappearing “at a catastrophic rate that makes the extinction of plant and animal species seem sedate.” The importance to science of documenting this rapidly dwindling diversity was emphasized by one of the panelists, David Harrison, whose work focuses on two critically endangered Turkic languages of Siberia, Middle Chulym and Tofa. Only about 40 relatively elderly native speakers of either language remain, Harrison told the gathering. When these speakers die, the complex cognitive structures of these languages will disappear forever, together with a highly specialized knowledge of medicinal plants, animal behavior, and other features of the local environment.

Probably the most widely read piece of February’s endangered language reportage was Jack Hitt’s moving essay on the last speakers of Kaweskar and Yagán, which appeared in the New York Times Magazine for Sunday, February 29 (“Say No More,” p. 52 ff.). Traveling to remote Puerto Eden and Puerto Williams in the southernmost region of Chile, Hitt searched out the handful of speakers of the two remaining languages of Tierra del Fuego and spent a couple of weeks getting to know the people and their community.

This being the 21st century, his Kawésqar host and guide, Juan Carlos, turns out to be a college-educated activist who has made a documentary film about his people. His brother José is an anthropologist at the university in Punta Arenas, a close friend and colleague...
of the linguist Oscar Aguilera who has made the description of Kawesqar his life’s work. Juan Carlos is raising his daughters in Punta Arenas in this culturally sophisticated environment—but not as speakers of Kawesqar. They attend the local British school and proudly show off their English to Hitt. When Hitt asks why he and José didn’t use Kawesqar with them at home, Juan Carlos replies, “We are going to teach them later,” explaining that they “need the proper books.”

Hitt has much to say in this wonderful article—he seems to have contacted and interviewed nearly everyone who is anyone in endangered language work—but he is at his best in his clear-eyed personal observations of the realities of language shift. “The paradox of this gathering twilight,” he concludes, “is that while the grown-ups are having their arguments about what we should and shouldn’t do—and after the linguists have compiled their dictionaries and put together their grammars—the future of all these resurrections will depend on teenagers.”

“The best linguists on the plains”

Willem de Reuse writes:

My former student, Emil Dobrascu, sent me an extract from the Collections of the Kansas State Historical Society 1926-1928, vol. 17, edited by William Elsey Connelley (Topeka, 1928). The piece, entitled “Down Among the Red Men,” was written by one Charles E. Campbell, who was connected with the Indian service at the Kiowa and Comanche Agency, in what is now Oklahoma, presumably sometime after Geronimo’s group arrived there in 1894. It is not impossible, however, that he was referring to the Plains Apache (formerly called Kiowa-Apache), who were already at that Agency. Campbell says (pp. 642-643):

Of all the different tongues of humanity, there can hardly be two opinions in the minds of those once hearing the Apaches talk in council. Probably one of the branches of the ancient Aztecs, their language is appalling to the ear of not only white men but to other Indians, consisting as nearly as one is able to differentiate the sounds, of a combination of X, Z, G, S, H, and A. No white man ever learned it and no other body of Indians ever acquired a speaking knowledge of it; while it appears that the Apaches find the acquisition of any other language an easy matter, for they are the best linguists on the plains. The conclusion is that as they are capable of learning their mother tongue, any other form of speech would only be a very simple thing to master and, as a matter of fact, we do find among them many who are proficient in the several languages of the different tribes with whom they have come in contact.

A stranger in the Mandan village is first struck with the different shades of complexion, and the various colors of hair which he sees in a crowd about him; and is at once almost disposed to exclaim that “these are not Indians” . . . . They have been known for many years past by the name of the Mandans, a corruption or abbreviation, perhaps, of “Madawgwa’s,” the name applied by the Welsh to the followers of Madowe.

— GEORGE CATLIN

Letters and Notes on the Manners, Customs, and Conditions of the North American Indians, 1841

NEWS FROM REGIONAL GROUPS

Athabaskan


• The Athabaskan Languages Conference that had tentatively been scheduled to be held in Yellowknife in June 2004 has been postponed to June 2005. This postponement has prompted Gary Holton to write:

Over the past three decades the Athabaskan Languages Conference has become a cornerstone of the Athabaskanist community, providing an (almost) annual forum for native speakers, linguists, educators and community members to discuss issues relevant to Athabaskan languages. Conference attendance has been high, reflecting a continued interest on the part of the community. Many recent conferences have been supported with grant funds. And since 2002 papers from the conference have been published in a proceedings volume.

However, the burden of both organizing and attending the conference has also been heavy. There are several reasons for this. The organizational burden stems both from the large number of participants and the need to secure grant funds. The attendance burden stems both from the expense of traveling to remote parts of the Athabaskan region and the increasing number of competing conferences (what I call “conference creep”).

For some time there has been informal discussion in the Athabaskanist community of moving the conference to a bi-annual basis. If there is sufficient support for such a move, then it occurs to me that now would be an excellent opportunity to implement that change.

We could schedule the next conference for 2005 in Yellowknife and then plan for a 2007 conference in a location to be determined (Navajo country, perhaps?). Allowing a two-year interval between meetings would allow us to focus our energies more fully to ensure the continued success of a fun and important conference.

Gary welcomes comments on this proposal. He can be reached at: Alaska Native Language Center, Box 757680, Fairbanks, AK 99775-7680 (gary.holton@uaf.edu).

Northwest

• Native Americans, linguists and historians will meet from May 14th to 16th at the Native American Center at Portland State University, Portland, Oregon for the 6th Chinook Jargon Workshop. The Workshop’s language classes, discussion groups and presentations are designed to encourage the use and preservation of Chinook Jargon in the Northwest.

Chinuk Wawa (the Native term) was a language that served as a powerful communication tool in a variety of environments. Not just a “jargon,” it was used as an important vehicle for artistic expression and cultural transmission, and was the primary language of many Native Americans
along the northwest coast. This was especially true for the Grand Ronde community of northern Oregon, where a revival of the language is under way. Grand Ronde has a Chinuk Wawa immersion preschool and a university-sponsored adult education class.

Workshop details are available on the Web at <www.adisoft-inc.com/lulu> or by contacting Jim Holton (510-483-3725). A Chinook Jargon discussion group, moderated by SSILA member Dave Robertson, is also available on the Web at: <distserv.linguistlist.org/archives/chinook.html>.

- The Department of Linguistics at the University of British Columbia is pleased to announce the first-ever *Wakashan Linguistics Conference*, to be held in Vancouver on August 9-11, 2004. Though there is a long and rich tradition of linguistic work on Wakashan, and over the years there have been several important language revitalization efforts in Wakashan-speaking communities, there has never before been a single forum where researchers and educators can come together from all across the Wakashan world to share knowledge and ideas.

The conference will be divided into two parts (though participants are strongly encouraged to attend both). The first part, dedicated to descriptive and theoretical linguistic work on Wakashan languages, will be held at UBC on August 9-10. Invited speakers will include: Emmon Bach (U Massachusetts, Amherst), Darin Howe (U Calgary), William Jacobsen (U Nevada), John Stonham (U Newcastle Upon Tyne), Adam Werle (U Massachusetts, Amherst), and Florence Woo (UC Santa Cruz). The second part, devoted to presentations on and discussion of language revitalization, will be hosted by the Squamish Nation in North Vancouver on August 11. The deadline for submission of abstracts to the first part of the conference has passed. Those interested in presenting during the second part should contact us at <wakashan@arts.ubc.ca>.

The dates of the Wakashan Conference have been synchronized with those of the *International Conference on Salish and Neighboring Languages*, which will be held at the Squamish Nation on August 11-13.

**Algonquian**

- The 36th *Algonquian Conference* will be held at the University of Wisconsin-Madison, Thursday through Sunday, October 28-31, 2004. Papers are invited on any scholarly topic in the field of Algonquian studies including, but not limited to, anthropology, archaeology, art, biography, education, ethnography, folklore, geography, history, language, linguistics, literature, music, politics, and religion. Papers may be delivered in English or French. Speakers will be allowed a maximum of 20 minutes for presentation and 10 minutes for discussion.

This year we would also like to particularly encourage submissions in three focal areas: (1) medicine and ethnobotany; (2) politics and law; and (3) proverbs. If the number of submissions in these areas is high enough we will have parasessions devoted to each topic. We also encourage organized sessions on particular topics. Interested parties should contact the conference organizers at the address below as soon as possible.

We ask that potential contributors submit an abstract (no more than one page in length, including title and names of all presenters), preferably by e-mail, by September 1st, 2004. All submissions should include the name, address, affiliation and fax number, and e-mail address of each presenter. Please indicate on your submission any equipment needed for your presentation.

The e-mail address for submissions is <mmacaula@wisc.edu>. In cases where e-mail submissions are not possible, a paper copy may be sent to: Organizing Committee, 36th Algonquian Conference, Linguistics Department, 1168 Van Hise Hall, 1220 Linden Drive, Madison, WI 53706. Submissions may also be faxed to: (608) 265-3193.

Presentations will begin on Thursday, October 28th in the afternoon and will end on Sunday, October 31st at noon. The registration fee, payable to the 36th Algonquian Conference, is $40 US ($50 Canadian) if received by September 15th, 2004, and $50 US ($60 Canadian) thereafter, with student rates $15 lower. Further information about the conference venue and accommodations is available at the Algonquian Conference website (www.umanitoba.ca/Algonquian).

**Siouan-Caddoan**

- Catherine Rudin writes: "I'd like to remind everyone about the upcoming 24th annual *Siouan and Caddoan Languages Conference*, June 11-13, in Wayne, Nebraska. Anyone interested in Siouan or Caddoan languages is invited to attend and encouraged to submit a paper or presentation. The program will be put together in early May, so anyone wishing to present should contact the organizer ASAP. Send a title and a brief abstract to Catherine Rudin (carudin1@wsc.edu). Full information about the conference is available under 'Upcoming Events' on the SSILA website."

**RECENT PUBLICATIONS**

*Caddo Verb Morphology*. Lynette R. Melnar. Studies in the Native Languages of the Americas, University of Nebraska Press, 2004. 224 pp. $75. [A lucidly written and superbly well-organized summary of one of the most challenging polysynthetic morphologies found in North America, comparable to Athabaskan in its complexity.]

Caddo, originally spoken in east Texas and now the heritage language of an Oklahoma tribe, is the southernmost member of the Caddoan family, which also includes Pawnee, Arikara, Wichita, and Kiowa. Like many other Oklahoma languages, Caddo is at an advanced stage of language death, and most of the surviving speakers have only restricted competence. M.'s analysis largely rests on the extensive data collected by Wallace Chafe between 1961 and 1965, when the language was more widely spoken. (Chafe's own sketch of Caddo grammar will appear in Hardy & Scancarelli's forthcoming *The Native Languages of the Southeastern United States.*)

M. describes the intricate polysynthesis of the Caddo verb in terms of a template of 26 position classes. Her analytic scheme includes the hierarchical layering of stem derivation (i.e., lexicalized stem constructions used as cores for further stem derivation); numerous non-contiguous ("interrupted") constituents; affixes occupying "spanned" positions (i.e., in a paradigmatic relationship to strings of affixes occupying two or more other positions); and a fair amount affix homophony (or affixes taking on different functions in different position classes). The categories marked are: person, case, reality, tense, aspect, mood, subordination, negation, number, animacy, voice, posture ("sitting", "standing", "lying"), manner of motion ("swaying", "loping", "floating", "walking", "running", "jumping"), location, and semantic patient type. Typical verbs have 3 or 4 morphemes, and it is not unusual to find forms with 8 or more morphemes.

To add to the difficulties of analysis, most morphological boundaries are phonologically blurred and allomorphy is often quite unpredictable. M. avoids these complications by citing all morphemes in internally reconstructed underlying forms, providing a brief sketch of phonological processes in an appendix.
This is the second title to be published in the special series reserved for manuscripts that have received SSILA’s Mary R. Haas Award. (The first, David Costa’s *The Miami-Illinois Language*, appeared in 2003.)

—Order from: Univ. of Nebraska Press (www.nebraskapress.unl.edu.)

**Beginning Creek: Mvskoke Emponykv.** Linda Alexander, Bertha Tilken & Pamela Joan Innes. University of Oklahoma Press, 2004. 256 pp. and two audio CDs. $29.95. [A basic introduction to Mvskoke-Creek, the heritage language of the Muskogee (Creek) and Seminole Nations of Oklahoma, the Poarch Band of Creek Indians in Alabama, and some Florida Seminoles.

Representing a collaboration between a linguistic anthropologist (Innes) and native speakers (Alexander and Tilken), the book is primarily designed to help speakers of Mvskoke-Creek preserve their traditional language and way of life. An introductory chapter on Creek history and language is followed by a series of lessons presenting grammatical and vocabulary, illustrated with conversational sentences and accompanied by translation exercises. At the end are brief essays by Alexander and Tilken on Creek culture and history. The two accompanying audio CDs present examples of ceremonial speech, songs, and storytelling and include spoken Mvskoke versions of the exercises and vocabulary lists in the book.

—Order from: Univ. of Oklahoma Press (www.oup.com.)

**Stories, Myths, Chants, and Songs of the Kuna Indians.** Joel Sherzer (compiler, editor, and translator). LLILAS Translations from Latin America Series, University of Texas Press, 2003. 248 pp. $22.95 (paperback)/$50 (cloth). [Thirteen texts in English translation, with an Introduction and Notes, intended to introduce the general reader to the traditional literary imagination and creativity of the Kuna Indians of Panama.

Three general types of Kuna oral literature are represented—humorous and moralistic stories, a genre probably of European origin; myths and magical chants, addressed to the spirit world; and women’s songs. Several of the texts deal with aspects of girls’ puberty rites, and all are replete with repetition and parallelism. S. represents the texture of the performances by a variety of ethnopoetic devices, using line breaks to indicate intonational phrasing, doubled letters for lengthened sounds, capitalization for loud speech, and intersyllabic dashes for stretched out passages.

The collection is illustrated with drawings by the Kuna artist Olokwañgi de Akwanañadup and a portfolio of photographs taken by S. Field recordings of the original Kuna performances are accessible on-line in the Archive of the Indigenous Languages of Latin America (www.aiilla.org).

—Order from: Univ. of Texas Press (www.utexas.edu/utpress.)


This is another in the impressive series of dictionaries of Iroquoian languages that is being issued by the University of Toronto Press. We have already noted the massive dictionaries of Onondaga by Woodbury [SSILA Newsletter April 2003] and of Mohawk by Michelle & Doxtator [Newsletter July 2003]. Like them, this Cayuga dictionary (which actually preceded the other two in publication) is a collaborative work, combining the expertise of Dyck, a linguist, and Froman, Keye, and Keye, who are teachers of Cayuga at Six Nations.

It also follows the same lexicographic model as Woodbury’s and Michelson & Doxtator’s works, one ultimately derived from Floyd Lounsbury’s morphological analysis of Iroquoian. Entries in the main dictionary are organized around the concept of “base,” which in Lounsbury’s scheme is any sequence of morphemes whose meaning or structure is not totally predictable from its constituents. There are over 3000 such entries, with extensive cross-referencing. Thematic appendices highlight cultural references and provide 1600 further entries, and there is a short grammatical sketch. Produced under the auspices of the Six Nations cultural program, much care has been taken to make this dictionary helpful to those learning Cayuga as a second language in addition to being a superb scholarly reference for linguists and anthropologists.

—Order from: Univ. of Toronto Press (www.utppublishing.com). Outside of Canada, price is in US dollars.]


H. uses a multidisciplinary theoretical approach which includes sociolinguistics, geolinguistics, contact-induced language change, and grammaticalization. Within the contact situation, both Quichua and Spanish are viewed as empowering Indian people. Moreover, long-term contact between Quichua and Spanish has resulted in several syntactic, semantic and pragmatic structures in Ecuadorian Highland Spanish. The study shows that there is no isomorphic relationship between language and ethnicity, but rather, that ethnic identity is based on a complex dynamic network of common history, race, culture, language, and territoriality. Appendices include updated maps, charts, and demographic information. (Further details at <http://mendo.tripod.com/libro.html>.)

Order from: <languagecontact@yahoo.com> or <mhaboud@puce.edu.ec>. Postage extra. A Spanish version, *Quichua y Castellano en los Andes Ecuadorianos*, is also available.]


M. presents a systematic analysis of the morphosyntactic organization of Nivkh, which on the one hand rivals in its polysynthetic exuberance the languages of northwestern North America, and on the other represents a possibly unique morphological type. In Nivkh, highly complex words, both nouns and verbs, are productively formed simply from the concatenation of lexical roots in dependent-head relations without further morphological marking. After demonstrating that the "wordhood" of these phrase-like complexes is clearly required by phonological and other evidence, M. considers the position of Nivkh in cross-linguistic discussions of polysynthesis, noun incorporation, verb root serialization, noun complexes and head-dependent marking. Drawing from a sample of 75 languages, she proposes a new definition and classification of polysynthesis and challenges a number of generally accepted notions.

—Order from: John Benjamins (www.benjamins.com.)]
The Nehalem Tillamook: An Ethnography. Elizabeth D. Jacobs. Edited by William R. Seaubur. Oregon State University Press, 2003. 260 pp. $21.95 (paperback). [Elizabeth Derr Jacobs (1903-1983) was the wife of Melville Jacobs, and the manuscript here presents the results of miscellaneous interviews she carried out in 1933-34 while accompanying her husband on his field trips. Although an amateur, she was tutored by one of the great ethnographers of the period and this book makes available data that significantly augments the documentation of coastal Oregon indigenous cultures.] For the wider community of Americanists, however, the principal interest of this publication lies in its historical context, which Seaubur lays out in a splendid Editor's Introduction that occupies a full quarter of the book. S. divides his essay into six sections: 1. The Tillamook (language and territory, ethnography). 2. Rocking Chair Ethnography (a detailed history of salvage ethnography and linguistics in western Oregon, from Gatschet and Frachtenberg to Harrington and Jacobs, with special attention to "researcher-consultant dynamics"). 3. History of Ethnographic and Linguistic Research on the Tillamook Indians (S. calculates that a total of 14 anthropologists working over the span of more than a century conducted a total of only 15 months' worth of fieldwork). 4. Jacobs' Tillamook Research in Comparative Perspective. 5. Biographies (of Clara Pearson, J.'s principal consultant, and of J. herself). 6. The Editor's Role in Transforming the Ethnography. No one interested in the history of Americanist research should neglect this brilliant synopsis of the agendas and ideologies of Oregon anthropology from the 1870s through the 1970s. —Order from: Oregon State Univ. Press, 101 Waldo Hall, Corvallis, OR 97331-6407 (oregonstate.edu/dept/press).]

New from LINCOM

Recently announced LINCOM-Europa publications include:

Aperçu grammatical du totonaque de Huehuetla, Puebla, Mexique. Duna Troiani. Studies in Native American Linguistics 49. 220 pp. Eur 64. [A grammatical study of a variety of Totonac spoken in the Sierra de Puebla, covering phonology, morphology, and syntax. A collection of analyzed texts is appended.]

Upper Necaxa Totonac. David Beck. Languages of the World/Materials 430. 120 pp. Eur 41.50. [A grammatical sketch of the variety of Totonac spoken in three villages in the Necaxa River valley of northern Puebla, Mexico. The language is morphologically complex, with a particularly rich inflectional marking on the verb. It is also notable for its use of bodypart prefixes on verbs to form locative expressions.]

—To order, visit the LINCOM webshop (www.lincom-europa.com).

New from Evolution Publishing

Evolution Publishing is dedicated to preserving and consolidating early primary source records of Native and early colonial America with the goal of making them more accessible and readily available to the academic community and the public at large.

Heckewelder's Vocabulary of Nanticoke (1785). John Heckewelder. American Language Reprints 31, 2004. 33 pp. $24. [146 words of this Maryland Algonquian language collected in 1785 by John Heckewelder, a Moravian missionary. Heckewelder compiled the vocabulary from a Nanticoke chief residing in Canada, probably at Six Nations Reserve. The volume was collated from various manuscripts found in the collections of the American Philosophical Society and contains valuable background information gleaned from Heckewelder's personal correspondence.]

Minor Vocabularies of Huron. Jean de Brébeuf, Louis Armand de la Lahontan, et al. American Language Reprints 32, 2004. 69 pp. $28. [Various short works on the Huron language, including Brébeuf's grammatical remarks in the Jesuit Relation of 1636, several other wordlists from the Jesuit Relations of the mid-17th century, and Lahontan's 50-word vocabulary of 1704. The volume also includes three words of Neutral—the only fragments of the language of this important nation that was wiped out by Iroquois attacks in the early 1650s.]

The Complete American Language Reprints Series on CD-Rom. Second Edition. Compiled by Claudio R. Salucci. 2004. [Complete texts of all current ALR volumes in PDF format. This edition includes volumes 1 through 30 of the series, containing together over 10,000 unique terms from historical Native American vocabularies. (For a list of volumes included, and information on special pricing, visit <www.evolpub.com/ALR/ALRCDRom.html>). Purchasers also receive a one-year free site license for the Interactive ALR, an internet database constructed from the vocabularies contained on this CD as well as supplemental word lists not included in the book series. This subscription-based resource is now available at: <www.evolpub.com/interactiveALR/home.html>. The Interactive ALR allows the user to organize and manipulate the linguistic data contained in the ALR series with powerful search features, an interactive linguistic atlas, and a custom lexicon generator. Special subscription rates are available for SSILA members and tribal institutions.]

—To order, e-mail Evolution Publishing (evolpub@aol.com) or visit <www.evolpub.com/ALR/ALRbooks.html>.

ELECTRONIC MEDIA

Learn Michif by Listening. Produced by Peter Bakker & Norman Fleury. First edition, March 2004. Audio CD. [Michif is a mixed language. The verbs are from Cree, the noun phrases from French, with virtually all of the complexities of the French noun phrases (gender, definiteness, number) and of the Cree verb (six or seven consecutive morphemes). This audio CD contains basic sentences (greetings, questions, weather conversation, etc.), some vocabulary in spoken-dictionary format, and one story and a prayer. For details see <www.hum.au.dk/lingvistik/lokalse machines/michif/michif-CD-texts.doc>. Single copies of the CD are available from: Pembinaan Publications, Manitoba Metis Federation, 150 Henry Avenue, Winnipeg, Manitoba R3B 0J7, Canada. For questions and further information contact Peter Bakker (linb@hum.au.dk).]

Children's Songs & Rhymes in O'odham. Venito Garcia Library & Archives. First edition, 2003. Audio CD, 17 minutes. [Twenty-seven short performances, mostly O’odham versions of traditional Anglo-American nursery and schoolyard texts. For ordering information contact David Shaul, Box 1706, Sells, AZ 85634 (davidshalle@hotmail.com).]

The Beginning They Told. Produced by Joseph Erb. VHS videotape, 22 minutes. $15.99. [A computer-animated retelling of the Cherokee creation story, featuring a talking beaver, a buzzard, and a water beetle. The film is in two versions—Cherokee with English subtitles, and English only. Both are included on this video. Erb, an Oklahoma filmmaker who works primarily in Native languages, has more such films in production, including a 26-minute clay-motion/stop-motion piece called The Messenger, which will be entirely in Cherokee with English subtitles. (See the article on Erb by Wilhelm Murg in Indian Country Today, March 17, 2004.) — Copies of The Beginning They Told can be purchased from the Cherokee Nation Gift Shop (cherokeegiftshop.com).]
Voices from Four Directions: Contemporary Translations of the Native Literatures of North America. Edited by Brian Swann. University of Nebraska Press, 2004. 632 pp. $27.50 (paper)/$70 (cloth). [Stories and songs from 31 tribes, newly translated with introductions. A number of the texts are retellings and reinventions of classic narratives, others are recent literary creations. — Order from Univ. of Nebraska Press (www.nebraskapress.unl.edu).]


IN CURRENT PERIODICALS

Algonquian & Iroquoian Linguistics [D of American Indian Studies, U of Minnesota, 2 Scott Hall, 72 Pleasant ST NW, Minneapolis, MN 55455]

28.4 (2003):

American Indian Culture and Research Journal [American Indian Studies Center, UCLA, Box 951548, Los Angeles, CA 90095-1548 (www.books.aisc.ucla.edu/aicrrj)]

27.2 (2003):
C. Richard King, “De/Scribing Squaw: Indigenous Women and Imperial Idioms in the United States” (1-16) [The struggles over the use of squaw direct attention to “the colonial legacies and postcolonial predicaments of naming, representation and language in the contemporary United States.” Squaw is best understood as “a key-word of conquest.”]

Anne Goodfellow, “The Development of ‘New’ Languages in Native American Communities” (41-59) [Much of the effort that is going into programs to reintroduce, revitalize, or stabilize Native American languages is directed toward an unattainable goal. Instead of focusing on the acquisition of “pure” traditional languages, G. urges us to accept and encourage the development of “pidginized” forms of ancestral languages that combine English grammar and phonological structures with Native American vocabulary. Academic denigration of mixed languages and of rapid linguistic change tends to obscure the actual sociolinguistic situation. Drawing on her own experience with Kwak’wala, G. shows how “new” languages are taking root in some Native American communities.]

27.3 (2003):
Peter G. Beidler, “In the Old Language: A Glossary of Ojibwe Words, Phrases, and Sentences in Louise Erdrich’s Novels” (53-70) [Erdrich, who has been learning Ojibwe for some years, increasingly uses Ojibwe in her writing, intermixed with and juxtaposed against English. B. provides a glossary of Erdrich’s Ojibwe words and phrases, with translations derived from dictionaries (from Baraga to Nichols & Nyholm) under the guidance of a native speaker.]

International Journal of American Linguistics [U of Chicago Press, PO Box 37005, Chicago, IL 60637 (www.journals.uchicago.edu/IJAL)]

69.4 (October 2003):
Donna B. Gerdts, “The Morphosyntax of Halkomelem Lexical Suffixes” (345-56) [Lexical suffixation in Salishan languages is not usually viewed as altering core argument structure, but as adding an adverbial or adjectival specification to the verb stem. G., however, presents evidence that Halkomelem lexical suffixes can in fact occupy argument positions in underlying structure, making them exactly parallel to incorporated nouns.]

Philip S. LeSourd, “Traces of Proto-Algonquian *wi:la ‘he, she’ in Maliseet-Passamaquoddy (357-70) [It has been assumed that PA *wi:la ‘he, she’ was replaced in Eastern Algonquian by reflexes of *ne:koma. However, the expected Passamaquoddy reflex of PA *wi:la is attested in recordings made by Gatschet in 1897, showing that the two pronouns coexisted in some Eastern Algonquian languages.]

Juliette blevins, “The Phonology of Yukor Glottalized Sonorants: Segmental Fission under Syllabification” (371-96) [Yukor has a series of glottalized sonorants (⟨m, n, w, l⟩, ⟨r, y⟩), restricted to postvocalic environments. Most phonological processes require a single-segment analysis of glottalized sonorants, but syllabification—based both on native speaker judgments and on stress patterns—suggests that they are bisegmental sequences. B. proposes a rule of segmental fission that applies only where it is the only consistent means of arriving at well-formed syllabifications.]

Willem Adelaar, “E. M. Uhlenbeck (1913-2003)” (397-406) [Obituary notice, with a full bibliography.]

Journal of Linguistics [Cambridge U Press, 40 W 20th St, New York, NY 10011-4211 (journals.cambridge.org)]

39.3 (November 2003):
Andrew Spencer, “Putting Some Order into Morphology: Reflections on Rice (2000) and Stump (2001)” (621-46) [Rice, in her recent book on the Athabaskan verb, argues that morpheme order in Athabaskan is largely the consequence of universal principles of semantic scope, coded as syntactic structure. Stump argues for a conception of inflection based on the paradigm. There is virtually no overlap, yet each raises questions that are of great significance for the other. S. sketches a synthesis.]
STUF — Sprachtypologie und Universalienforschung/Language Typology and Universals [U Bremen, Fachbereich 10, Postfach 330440, D-28334 Bremen, Germany (stuf.akademie-verlag.de)]

57.1 (2004):
Nahuatl in Typological Perspective, ed. by José Antonio Flores Farfán
José Antonio Flores Farfán, Preface (3-5) [These papers suggest that despite the fact that Nahuatl has been one of the most investigated languages of the Americas, its typological study is far from exhausted.]
Karen Dakin, “Nahuatl -ka Words: Evidence for a Proto-Uto-Aztecan Derivational Pattern” (6-22) [Nahuatl words formed with the suffix -ka (deriving names for artifacts or useful elements from a noun root, e.g. tes-ka-tl ‘mirror’, a-wa-ka-tl ‘avocado’) reflect a derivational pattern that is old in Uto-Aztecan. Similar forms found in other Mesoamerican languages are thus likely to have been borrowed from Nahuatl (or another Uto-Aztecan language), indicating the presence and cultural influence of Nahuatl in southern areas at an earlier date than has previously been thought.]
Jane H. Hill & Kenneth C. Hill, “Word Order Type Change and the Penetration of Spanish de in Modern Nahuatl” (23-48) [16th century written Nahuatl exhibits a unique word order, at least partly the result of an originally verb-final Uto-Aztecan language coming into contact with the strongly verb-initial languages of Mesoamerica. Contemporary spoken Nahuatl, however, has shifted toward a relatively unmarked verb-initial order. An important component of this shift is the borrowing of Spanish prepositions, especially de.]
Michel Launey, “The Features of Omnipredicativity in Classical Nahuatl” (49-69) [The most striking typological feature of Classical Nahuatl is what L. calls “omnipredicativity”—a morphosyntactic type in which all lexical items can be used as predicates. In such a language the pro-drop parameter is meaningless, there are no elliptic answers, and there is no WH-movement.]
Mercedes Montes de Oca Vega, “Nahuatl Couples: A Typological Overview” (70-84) [M. argues that Nahuatl semantic couples fall into three distinct types—naming, honorific, and stylistic—which occur in different discourse contexts.]
José Antonio Flores Farfán, “Notes on Nahuatl Typological Change” (85-97) [Modern Nahuatl comprises a range of varieties, differing most importantly in their degree of Hispanicization. Typologically, highly Hispanicized varieties are analytical languages, closer to Spanish than to Classical Nahuatl. F. investigates the various innovations that are at work in Hispanicization, which in extreme cases leads to simplification, attrition, and ultimately language shift.]
[Copies of this issue of STUF can be purchased separately for Eur 62, postage extra (stuf.akademie-verlag.de).]

RECENT DISSERTATIONS & THESES


Awakuni-Swetland, Mark J. Ph.D., Univ. of Oklahoma, 2003. “Umonhon ithe aie, the, umonhon biti n/t speak Omaha, I am Omaha”: Omaha Language Choice, 1971-2001. 225 pp. Adviser: Morris W. Foster. [A-S. examines the efforts to reverse language shift made by the Omaha Tribe of Nebraska and assesses the difficulties these efforts have encountered. Data are drawn from interviews with ten community leaders, supplemented with A.-S’s first person participant observation accounts, and cover the 30-year period 1971-2001. Topics include the development of the 1977 Omaha dictionary, vignettes of native language performance, emergence of the language programs at Omaha Nation Public School and the University of Nebraska, recent research narratives, orthographic debates, and language assessment reports. A.-S. concludes that the difficulty in reversing language shift arises from the nature and goals of the imposed western-model government and social structure, which do not encourage consensus decision-making. He suggests a shift to programming and institutions that maximize prereservation ideals of community-wide fusion, interdependence, and action in the face of divergent ideologies. DAI-A 64(9):3350. [AAIT 3107293]

Bruno, Ana Carla dos Santos. Ph.D., Univ. of Arizona, 2003. Waimiri Atroari Grammar: Some Phonological, Morphological, and Syntactic Aspects. 185 pp. Advisers: Jane H. Hill & Terry Langendoen. [Like many other languages of the Carib family, Waimiri Atroari (northern Amazonas and southern Roraima, Brazil) is underscribed, and this dissertation is the first general survey of the phonology, morphology, and syntax of the language. An introductory chapter provides information about the culture of the Waimiri Atroari people, and describes their experience with formal education. A section on phonology identifies the segments and analyzes syllable structure and reduplication in an Optimality Theory framework. This is followed by a discussion of word classes and a description of their morphology, with special attention to case marking. Finally, phrase structure and word order are treated in the framework of X-bar theory. Appendices contain verbal paradigms and a collection of texts. DAI-A 64(9):3267. [AAIT 3106972]

Carlyle, Shawn W. Ph.D., Univ. of Utah, 2003. Geographical and Temporal Lineage Stability among the Anasazi. 156 pp. Adviser: Dennis O’Rourke. [C. analyzes mtDNA haplogroup frequency data for a select group of prehistoric Anasazi (n = 38), drawn from diverse temporal and geographical perspectives, using ancient mtDNA biomolecules extracted from mummified tissue. The distribution of the four founding haplogroups (A, B, C, D) among these Anasazi is compared with other relevant ancient and modern Native American groups. Analysis of maternal haplogroup frequency distributions shows that the current data support both temporal and geographical stability among the prehistoric Anasazi. The Great Salt Lake Fremont also appear to share close affinities with the Anasazi. The data also suggest that the ancient Anasazi are more closely related to modern Pueblo groups (Jemez, Zuñi) than they are to the Athabaskan-speaking groups (Navajo, Apache) in the same region. Nor do the Anasazi appear to be closely related to modern Numic-speaking groups in the region. DAI-A 64(7):2545. [AAIT 3097922]

de Larios, Ruth E. Ph.D., Univ. of North Dakota, 2003. Self-Assessed Dakota Language Fluency and Suggested Strategies for Language Revitalization on the Spirit Lake Nation. 211 pp. Adviser: John Delane Williams. [To determine the status of the Dakota language on the Spirit Lake Nation, North Dakota, a survey was administered to a representative sample of 311 tribal members ranging in age from under 12 to over 55. The data, analyzed statistically, indicate that Dakota at Spirit Lake is at Stage 7 on Fishman’s Graded Intergenerational Dislocation Scale—the language is not being transmitted in the home environment and the majority of the speakers are elderly. However, the survey also shows that 71.7% of all respondents are aware that the language is at risk and 85.5% want to “learn or improve or practice Dakota,” which bodes well for revitalization, although only 38.9% of the respondents had any degree of familiarity with Dakota orthography. DAI-A 64(9):3268. [AAIT 3107180]

Kakaliouros, Ann M. Ph.D., Univ. of North Carolina at Chapel Hill, 2003. Biological Distance and the Ethnolinguistic Classification of Late Woodland (AD 800-1650) Native Americans on the Coast of North Carolina. 219 pp. Advisers: Clark Spencer Larsen & Vincas P. Staponaitis. [In their attempts to understand the history of Native groups on the North Carolina coast, archaeologists projected “ethnolinguistic” categories into the past, linking known groups to precontact burial sites. Based on material culture evidence and rough comparisons of skull size and robusticity,
linguistic affiliations were assigned to ossuary sites pre-dateing the colo-
nial period by as much as 600 years; burials containing longheaded in-
dividuals were classified as Iroquoian or Algonquian, and burials with
shortheaded individuals were categorized as Siouan. K. presents an- other model, charting
interaction between burials populations from a genetic perspective using
inherited characters on the teeth. The results of her study indicate that
while Late Woodland coastal Native North Carolinians may have been
different linguistically, culturally and politically, they were not genetic
isolates from each other as the ethnonlinguistic model implies. Further,
K. argues that assigning historic linguistic labels to precontact skeletal
remains is methodologically incorrect. Assumptions that biology and
language move on the same trajectories are artifacts of the intellectual
history of anthropology and archaeology, especially English Enlighten-
ment ideas about the importance of language to society, and early 20th
century conceptions of the connections between race, language and
culture. Archaeologists should only posit such linkages where clear continuity
is documented between precontact and colonial periods. DAIA-64(8):2959.
| [AAT 3100306]

Russell. (In Cree, the palatalization of coronal obstruents imparts a
diminutive meaning. While this has been described as an optional process,
a diminutive acoustic analysis established that a true phonological shift occurs
in diminutive forms, and that it is therefore plausible to look at Cree
diminutive consonant symbolism as a phonological process of consonant
harmony. Within the framework provided by Optimality Theory, M. shows
that this process is governed by the interaction of several constraints re-
garding the spread of features within a specified domain. MAI-42(1):50.
| [AAT MQ79984]

Paul Markham. (Today, only 11% of the Cherokee Nation population in
northeast Oklahoma is fluent in Cherokee, all people over the age of forty.
In the fall of 2001, the Cherokee Nation opened Tsa-la-gi A-ge-yu-i (Our
Beloved Cherokee), the Nation’s first total language immersion preschool.
P. explores the nature of the immersion preschool and the effects it has
had, in the course of its pilot year, on children, parents, teachers, tribal
members, and the Cherokee community at large. The results of the inquiry
show that the success of Cherokee language revitalization depends on
both top-down and bottom-up forces working together to raise aware-
ness and stimulate action at all levels of the community. DAIA-64(9):3169.
| [AAT 3106465]

Rolston, Scott L. Ph.D., Univ. of Chicago, 2003. ALK among the Archs:
Alfred Louis Kroebers Impact within Americanist Archaeology. 1223
pp. Advisers: Robert J. Richards & George W. Stocking. (Despite its
deep roots in the geological and historical life sciences, archaeology’s
precocious commitment to the Boasian ethnological culture concept and
its academic context within American cultural anthropology have tended
to obscure both its origins and its scientific character. Although nomi-
nally a senior Boasian and an ethnologist, A. L. Kroebers offered archaeologists
components of theory—in particular his version of the Spencieran
Superorganic—that served them in developing a version of the culture
concept more suited to their discipline. Kroebers, who turned to archae-
ology to compensate for lost preeminence in linguistics, probably did not
intend to have such an extensive impact upon archaeologists, but his sev-
eral-year foray into Peruvian prehistory during the 1920s was well timed
and produced a viable chronological model for the Andean Culture Area,
the sine qua non of empirical culture history. It also produced a cadre of
New World archaeologists who therefer referred and referred to him,
and who collectively accomplished the first synthesis of “Culture His-
torical Archaeology” during the 1950s, just before the storm of the “New
Processual Archaeology.” DAIA-64(7):2628.
| [AAT 3097154]

three argument structure alternations in Jarawara, a South American
Indian language, roughly corresponding to the following English alternations:
(1) the locative alternation (Jack sprayed paint on the wall vs. Jack sprayed
the wall with paint); (2) the unspecified object alternation (Mike ate the
cake vs. Mike ate); and (3) the causative alternation (the log rolled vs.
Brian rolled the log). Dixon has analyzed these phenomena in Jarawara
from a functional-typological perspective. V.’s approach is based on a
lexical semantics informed by generative grammar, which views argu-
ment structure alternations as sensitive to syntactic and/or semantic features
of verbs, and thus helpful in determining verb classes. The three alter-
ations studied are shown to be sensitive to broad semantic features, and a
list is provided of the verbs which participate in each alternation, divided
into tentative subclasses. This study, like Dixon’s, relied on texts and
spontaneous utterances rather than on elicited data. DAIA-64(9):3274.
| [AAT 3104772]

Most of the dissertations and theses abstracted in DAIA and MAI can be
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REGIONAL NETWORKS

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

GENERAL NORTH AMERICA

American Indian Language Development Institute (AILDI). Annual 4-week training institute (usually in June) at the U of Arizona, Tucson, for teachers of American Indian languages, with emphasis on the languages of the Southwest. Contact: AILDI, U of Arizona, College of Education 517, Box 210069, Tucson, AZ 85721-0069 (aildi@arizona.edu; www.ed.arizona.edu/AILDI).

American Indian Studies Research Institute. Research and publication on traditional cultures and languages of N America, primarily the Midwest and Plains. Contact: Raymond Demallie, Director, AISRI, Indiana U, 422 N Indiana Ave, Bloomington, IN 47401 (demallie@indiana.edu; www.indiana.edu/~aisri).

Native American Language Center, UC Davis. Research and special projects on N American Indian languages, with an emphasis on California. Co-Directors: Martha Macri & Victor Golla, D of Native American Studies, UC Davis, CA 95616 (cougar.ucdavis.edu/NAS/NALC/).

Indigenous Language Institute (ILI). (Formerly IPOLA). Coordinating organization for efforts to revitalize Native American languages. Sponsors workshops; other plans developing. Contact: ILI, 560 Montezuma Ave #201-A, Santa Fe, NM 87501 (ili@indigenous-language.org; www.indigenous-language.org).

Stabilizing Indigenous Languages. Annual meeting of educators and others working to revitalize American Indian and other indigenous languages. The 2004 meeting will be held at UC Berkeley, June 11-13. Contact Leanne Hinton (hinton@socrates.berkeley.edu) or visit the Teaching Indigenous Languages website (jan.unc.nau.edu/~jar/TL.html).

ATHABASKAN/ESKIMO-ALEUT

Athabaskan Languages Conference. Next meeting: Yellowknife, NWT, in late June 2005 (www.uaa.alaska.edu/alic/). [See “News from Regional Groups”]

Alaska Native Language Center. Teaching and research on Inupiaq and Yupik Eskimo, Alaskan Athabaskan languages, Eyak, Tlingit, and Haida. U of Alaska Fairbanks, Box 757680, Fairbanks, AK 99775-7680 (www.uaa.alaska.edu/anlc/).

Yukon Native Language Centre. Teaching and research on Yukon languages. Director: John Ritter (www.yukoncollege.yk.ca/ylnl/).
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