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

*** SSILA BULLETIN ***

An Information Service for SSILA Members

Editor - Victor Golla
Associate Editor - Scott DeLancey

Number 20: June 22, 1995

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20.1 LATEST PROGRAM UPDATES FOR ALBUQUERQUE MEETINGS

* ~~SSILA Summer Meeting~~

Paper withdrawn: Tim Montler

* ~~Hokan-Penutian Workshop~~

Revised schedule for Thursday, July 6:

9:00 am Richard Rhodes, "Southern Sierra Miwok Verb Agreement,
Gestalts, and Construction Grammar"
9:30 am Marvin Kramer, "The Development of Head-Marking in
Eastern Miwoꞑan: Implications for Contact with
Proto-Yokuts"
10:00 am Break
10:30 am Catherine A. Callaghan, "Yok-Utian Revisited"
11:00 am Amy Miller, "Chochoeno Lexical Structure"
11:30 am Lunch
1:30 pm Anthony P. Grant, "Morris Swadesh and his Penutian
Vocabulary Survey; Aims and Results"
2:00 pm Marie-Lucie Tarpent, "Reattaching Tsimshianic to Penutian"
2:30 pm Break
3:00 pm Sally McLendon, "Fluid Case-Marking ('Fluid S-marking')
in Eastern Pomo"
3:30 pm William H. Jacobsen, Jr., "Inventory of Washo Lexical
Prefixes"
4:00 pm Mauricio Mixco, "Cochimi-Yuman"

* ~~J. P. Harrington Conference~~

The Harrington Conference will consist of a single session, Friday morning, July 7, 9 am to noon (Bobo Room, Hodgkin Hall). It will be an open discussion of Harrington, his work, and the joys and difficulties of working with his notes. There will be a special update on the progress of the NAA's transfer of JPH's aluminum disks to tape.

* ~~Special presentation of Assiniboine CD-ROM~~

Brenda Farnell will demonstrate her interactive CD-ROM, "Wiyuta: Assiniboine Storytelling with Signs" (soon to be available through the Univ. of Texas Press) and will discuss the potential for presenting extensive linguistic documentation—including collections of narrative texts, lexicons, and cultural data—in this format. This presentation will take place at 1 pm, Friday, July 7, tentatively in the Bobo Room, Hodgkin Hall. (There is a good possibility that a better facility will be available; if so, it will be announced.)

20.2 CENSUS ERRORS

>From George Aaron Broadwell (g.broadwell@albany.edu) 20 June 1995:

Many readers of this Bulletin will probably have seen my note in the latest issue of IJAL (Jan. 1995) on "1990 Census Figures for Speakers of American Indian Languages." One of the points I tried to make in this

note is that there are significant distortions in the numbers of speakers the census reports for some languages. Some of the numbers are quite surprising, such as 88 speakers of Klamath, or 108 speakers of Mountain Maidu.

One of the sources of error that I briefly mentioned (but didn't elaborate on) was the census sampling techniques. As I understand this, they only tabulated results of the language question from a sample of the forms, and then extrapolated the results to the population at large. I don't know the equation they used -- it doesn't seem to be a simple multiplier, given figures like 3, 4, 5 (for Chemehuevi, Kalispel, and Clallam, respectively). But at any rate, we do know that when a figure like 108 is listed for Mountain Maidu that the actual number of people who put this down is some fraction of the number, and that 108 is the census projection based on the sample.

Then there is the matter of which languages are listed separately, and which grouped together. I mention in the note the case of Choctaw and Chickasaw being treated as one group. I wonder if the Americanist community could prevail upon the Census Bureau to change some of these classifications before the next census (e.g., to count Choctaw and Chickasaw separately). Perhaps this is something we might discuss at the summer meetings or in the SSILA Newsletter or Bulletin.

George Aaron Broadwell
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20.3 INFORMATION PLEASE!

* New Words in Native Languages

>From Laura Roller (laura.roller@asu.edu) 10 June 1995:

I am a graduate student in the Department of Anthropology at Arizona State University, working under the direction of Dr. Elizabeth Brandt. I am researching new words coined in Native American languages (including Native Hawaiian) for their semantic content. This research is part of a larger project investigating Native American language renewal. I am seeking examples of newly coined words, along with their morphological and semantic analysis. If you have this kind of information, I would like to hear from you! (Return of information will be considered your consent to participate in the research. Besides the initial contact, some follow-up questioning via e-mail or by telephone may be necessary.)

* Names For Days

>From Jan Tent (TENT_J@usp.ac.fj) 9 June 1995:

Last November I sent a request to the LINGUIST list asking subscribers whether they could supply me with the deictic day names of languages they were familiar with. I was quite overwhelmed by the response. More than 60 people replied, providing me with data from 77 languages. Unfortunately, I received only a few examples of Amerindian languages, those being Quechua, Maliseet-Passamaquoddy, Cahuilla, Cherokee, Luiseno, and Northern Paiute.

In the hope of getting some examples of American Indian languages I put in a request on the SIL list. The response was good. I received data for the following languages: Chickasaw, Mayo, Chibcha, Capanahua, Asheninka, Naskapi, Cheyenne, Choctaw, and Guahibo.

However, I would still like to get more examples from both North and South America.

This is the sort of thing I'm after:

English:

```
~~~~~
the day before yesterday  -2
yesterday                 -1
today                     0 present diurnal span
tomorrow                  +1
the day after tomorrow    +2
```

Dutch:

```
~~~~~
(eer-eergisteren)       +3
eergisteren             +2
gisteren                -1
vandaag                 0 present diurnal span
morgen                  +1
overmorgen              +2
(over-overmorgen)      +3
```

Kalam (PNG):

```
~~~~~
paben atk               -6
tuguj atk               -5
goŝon atk               -4
ason atk                -3
menk atk                -2
toytk                  -1
mŝi                    0 present diurnal span
toy                     +1
toy menk                +2
ason                   +3
goŝon                  +4
tuguj                  +5
paben                   +6
```

Hausa:

```
~~~~~
she'ka'ra"n ji'y"a     -2
ji'ya                  -1
ya'u                   0 present diurnal span
go"be                  +1
ji'bi                  +2
ga't'a"                +3
ci'tta"                +4
she ka'ra"n ci'tta"    +5
```

I am interested in symmetrical and especially asymmetrical systems of deictic day names. I have found that systems can exhibit symmetry or asymmetry at a numerical level (i.e., in the number of day names recognised either side of today) or at a morphological level.

The only systems that I have found that have only one day named either side of today (i.e., -1 0 +1 systems) are in Cheyenne, Luiseno, Cherokee and Cahuilla. I'm interested in finding out how many more such systems exist.

I thank you in anticipation.

Mr. Jan Tent
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20.4 CALL FOR PAPERS FOR THE LSA/SSILA MEETING IN SAN DIEGO

* ~~SSILA Annual Meeting~~

SSILA will hold its annual meeting this winter with the Linguistic Society of America, in San Diego, California, January 4-7, 1996. This will be a joint meeting of the two societies. The SSILA sessions will be organized separately from the LSA sessions, but will run concurrently and will be included in the LSA Meeting Handbook. Participants in the SSILA sessions will be required to pay the LSA meeting registration fee (\$50; \$20 for students), but will not have to be members of the LSA. All registered participants are welcome to attend sessions of either group. SSILA participants are also eligible for the special hotel rates negotiated by the LSA.

Paper proposals are invited from all members of SSILA in good standing. The following information must be provided to the SSILA program committee:

- NAME OF AUTHOR (OR AUTHORS)
- AFFILIATION
- FULL MAILING ADDRESS, TELEPHONE, FAX, AND E-MAIL ADDRESS
- TITLE OF PAPER
- THREE KEY WORDS IDENTIFYING THE SUBJECT OF THE PAPER
- AUDIOVISUAL REQUESTS: Overhead projector; carousel slide projector; cassette tape recorder; reel-to-reel recorder. (Only the equipment listed can be provided at no cost. If other equipment is needed, it may be possible to arrange for it for an extra charge.)
- ABSTRACT FOR REVIEW (up to 250 words)
- SHORT ABSTRACT (FOR PUBLICATION IN THE MEETING HANDBOOK)

The format of the short abstract is of particular importance. It must conform to the photo-reproduction requirements of the LSA, and should be submitted on the form that will be distributed with the July SSILA Newsletter. This form is nearly identical to the Short Abstract form on p. 64 of the LSA Bulletin, No. 146, December, 1994, and the latter may be used.

Submissions should be mailed to:

Victor Golla, SSILA
Department of Ethnic Studies
Humboldt State University
Arcata, California 95521

Submissions must reach SSILA mailbox no later than Friday September 8, 1995. Registration and hotel forms supplied by the LSA will be included

with the SSILA mailing, and must be separately returned to the LSA or the hotel. SSILA abstracts must NOT be sent to the LSA.

Presentation of a paper in an SSILA session will not preclude presentation of another paper in an LSA session. Submissions will be separately reviewed by the two program committees. To minimize overlap with the LSA sessions on Field Reports/Endangered Languages (see below), the LSA program committee will strive for a complementary focus on the languages of Africa, Eurasia, and Oceania, as well as languages of predominantly non-Native communities in the Americas.

* ~~Field Reports/Endangered Languages Papers (LSA Sessions)~~

At last year's LSA Annual Meeting in New Orleans, the Committee on Endangered Languages and their Preservation presented a two-part organized session titled 'Field Reports/Endangered Languages.'

Beginning with this year's Meeting (San Diego, January 4-7, 1996), 'Field Reports/Endangered Languages' is listed on the LSA Abstract Submittal Form as one of the 'primary areas' of linguistics, addressed by regular submissions to the LSA Annual Meeting in San Diego. If enough abstracts designating this category are accepted, then 'Field Reports/Endangered Languages' may be the title of one or more regular sessions at the meeting.

Papers in this category are expected to report on the results of recent field work, especially (but not necessarily) on languages that are endangered, and to focus on any of the major themes in the work of field linguists. These include: (a) The scientific importance of specific field results, including new phenomena or facts; (b) The nature of language endangerment and shift, such as the sociolinguistics of endangered languages communities, the distribution and speaker strength of languages or dialects in a given area, or attitudes toward language death; (c) The ways communities and linguists have responded to these conditions, including language preservation or revitalization efforts; (d) Methodological issues, such as dictionary making, natural text representation, survey methods; and (e) Ethical issues.

Abstracts designating this category should indicate briefly the communities and languages involved, the vitality of the language, the nature, goals, and location of the field work, and major prior linguistic documentation (if any).

Because SSILA will meet jointly with the LSA in 1996, it is hoped that Field Reports/Endangered languages session(s) this year will have a complementary focus on languages of Africa, Eurasia, and Oceania, as well as languages of predominantly non-Native communities in the Americas (e.g., sign languages, pidgins/creoles, and varieties of overseas languages). Accordingly, those with reports on Native American languages are encouraged to submit them to SSILA if at all possible.

The deadline for receipt of abstracts is *Sept. 1, 1995*. Please note that this date is a week and a half earlier than in previous years. Like all submissions, these abstracts will be reviewed by the LSA Program Committee in consultation with outside referees. Submission is open to any LSA member. For further details see the LSA Bulletin, No. 146, December, 1994, pp. 61-66.

The Committee on Endangered Languages and their Preservation considers it vitally important that this new category be supported by a strong

complement of abstract submissions from interested LSA members. This is the only way for "Field Reports/Endangered Languages" to become an established part of LSA programs in years to come. Please direct any questions to Tony Woodbury (email: acw@mail.utexas.edu; phone: (512) 471-1701 or (512) 472-5305.)

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