

**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

Correspondence should be directed to the Editor

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49.1 UNESCO GRANTS AVAILABLE FOR ENDANGERED LANGUAGE RESEARCH

>From Professor Stephen A. Wurm, 14 May 1997:

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| Applications to UNESCO (CIPSH) for Grants for the |
| Study of Endangered Languages for the Biennium 1998-1999 |
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I recently discussed the matter of UNESCO (CIPSH) grants for the Study of Endangered Languages personally with the Director-General of UNESCO, Frederico Mayor, in Paris, and was assured by him that the UNESCO funds earmarked for this purpose will increase considerably for next two-year period, 1998-1999. Applications for such grants are called for now.

Applications should be sent to:
M. Jean Bingen
Secretary-General, CIPSH, UNESCO
1 Rue Miollis
75732 Paris, France
(fax: 33-1-40659480)

They should be sent as soon as possible, and preferably by fax. (CIPSH stands for International Council for Philosophy and Humanistic Studies.)

The applications should constitute one page only, or maximally two. They should consist of:

- A title, e.g. "Application for financial support for the study of (language N) which is in danger of disappearing"
- Information on the person making the application: name, circumstances of work (institution, academic qualifications, full address, with fax and/or e-mail address if available)
- Name and circumstances of the language(s) to be studied: location, circumstances and grade of endangerment
- Whether unknown or studied to some extent by
- Number of speakers if known
- Intended work: grammatical, lexical, text collection (the latter, with interlinear and free translation, and recordings, is particularly important in the case of moribund languages)
- Are local persons or institutions collaborating and involved other than just as informants? (this is much desired by UNESCO)
- Are results expected to be published?
- What other information of relevance may be added.

Note that UNESCO never funds a research project alone, but expects that other financial help will be also available for it (university or other institutional funding, other grants, private funds, etc.)

At the end of the application, a single figure in US dollars should be given as the amount of the financial support applied for. No detailed budget should be submitted.

It should be kept in mind that the primary purpose of UNESCO grants is to make it possible for the specified research to be carried out with a view to its results becoming available through their being written up and eventually published in some form. Financial support - if granted for an application - will be paid separately for 1998 and 1999. Decisions on applications submitted now will be made in the first part of 1998.

All eleven applications to UNESCO for the Study of Endangered Languages in 1996-1997 were approved, although with cuts.

Stephen A. Wurm
Research School of Pacific and Asian Studies
Australian National University
GPO Box 4, Canberra, ACT 2601, Australia

49.2 INFLECTIONAL MORPHOLOGY DATA NEEDED

>From Daniel Nettle (daniel.nettle@merton.oxford.ac.uk) 25 May 1997:

I am currently interested in looking at how the distinctions expressed morphologically in languages with rich systems of morphological marking are realised in languages which lack it, if they are. In a language such as Mangarayi (Merlan 1980) where inflectional morphology is highly developed, morphology takes over almost all the marking of grammatical relations from syntax, but it also does much more. Nominal morphology replaces the category of PP, and allows pronouns in many sentences to be dropped, while verbal inflection replaces not only tense and aspect marking words but some adverbs.

The questions which obviously arise are:

- (a) diachronically, why do some languages come to achieve morphologically what others do syntactically; and
- (b) synchronically, what are the systemic consequences of having more or less developed inflection.

I am appealing for help in building up a cross-linguistic database relevant to these issues. The data required are a set of simple sentences translated into a large number of different languages. The languages of the Americas that I am interested in are listed below, and are drawn from a standard cross-linguistic sampling frame. I would like data from as many of them as possible, though I appreciate that in practice only a small proportion can be done.

To respond for a particular language requires both competence in the language (or access to native speakers) AND linguistic expertise on it (since phonological transcription and interlinear glosses are required).

I will be extremely grateful to readers of the SSILA Bulletin for their help on languages with which they are familiar. I will post results on the Internet and also make the data available to anyone who contributes and is interested.

The questionnaire is available at my website:

<http://users.ox.ac.uk/~mert0362>

or by e-mailing me at <Daniel.Nettle@merton.ox.ac.uk>; or by post from the address below.

Many thanks in anticipation to all!

Daniel Nettle
Merton College
Oxford OX1 4JD, England

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* List of languages *

North American Languages

Acoma, Atakapa, Chimariko, Chitimacha, Choctaw, Cree, Diegueno, Gitksan, Haida, Hanis, Ineseno, Karok, Kiowa, Kutenai, Lakhota, Luiseno, Maidu, Miwok (Southern Sierra), Natchez, Navajo, Nootka, Paiute (Southern), Papago, Pawnee, Pomo (Eastern), Quileute, Sahaptin, Salinan, Seneca, Shasta, Squamish, Takelma, Tlingit, Tonkawa, Tunica, Umpqua (Lower), Wappo, Washo, Wintu, Wishram, Yawelmani, Yuchi, Yurok, and Zuni.

Central and South American Languages

Axininca Campa, Canela-Kraho, Cashinahua, Cayuvava, Chontal, Guarani, Hixkaryana, Huallaga Quechua, Huave, Jaqaru, Jivaro, Mixe, Mixtec, Nambiquara, Pipil, Piraha, Tarascan, Tepehua, Tzutujil, and Yagua.

49.3 QUERY: NORTHWEST COAST WORDS

>From Madonna Moss (mmoss@oregon.uoregon.edu) 12 May 1997:

I have been doing some ethnohistorical research on George Catlin (the famous 19th century painter of the Plains Indians) who made a short trip to the Northwest Coast in 1853. He visited a tribe he calls the "Nayas" which I think is the "Nass," a gloss for mainland and possibly some island groups along the coast of central British Columbia. Catlin mentions a number of personal names (some with translation) that may make it possible for a knowledgeable linguist to identify the language of origin more specifically. The most likely candidates from the other sources (geographic clues, etc.) point to Heiltsuk, Oowekeno, or possibly southern Tsimshian origin. Haida and Kwakwaka'wakw are also possibilities. Here are the personal names:

Tsa-hau-mix-en - a man, "the rock that slides down the hill"
Eeh-zep-ta-say-a - a man
Kib-be - a woman, "night bird"
Yen-ne-yen-ne - a woman
Wuhxt - a man

I would greatly appreciate any insight linguists might be able to give me into the cultural affiliation of these words. Thanks so very much for your help.

Madonna Moss
Department of Anthropology
University of Oregon
Eugene, OR 97403-1218
mmoss@oregon.uoregon.edu

49.4 CORRESPONDENCE

Nahuatl in Finland

>From Frances Karttunen (fkarttunen@mail.utexas.edu) 25 March 1977:

During the academic year 1997-98 I will be Bicentennial Professor of North American Studies at the University of Helsinki, Finland. One of the courses I plan to teach is "Languages of North America: Indigenous and Immigrant," and I will include Mesoamerica in the definition of North America. I also hope to organize an intensive Nahuatl language course in the late spring/early summer of 1998 and would appreciate hearing from people interested in participating.

My address from mid-August 1997 will be:

Renvall Institute
P.O. Box 59,
FIN-00014 University of Helsinki
Finland.

My current e-mail address can continue to be used (I will arrange for e-mail forwarding from Texas), and I will inform SSILA of my Helsinki address when it is established.

Frances Karttunen

Revival of 'Dead' Languages

>From Rob Amery (ramery@arts.adelaide.edu.au) 27 May 1997:

I am a PhD student in Linguistics at the University of Adelaide looking at 'Reclaiming Aboriginal Languages from Historical Sources'. I am looking specifically at the Kaurna language, the language indigenous to Adelaide and the Adelaide Plains. The last speaker died in 1929 as far as we know, but it probably ceased being used on a daily basis in the 1860s. Almost all we know about Kaurna was recorded in the 19th century by German missionaries or other observers. Since 1990 people have been attempting to reclaim, relearn and reassemble the language on the basis of these historical documents (no sound recordings available.) We started with writing songs and producing a songbook and cassette. Then we introduced it into school programs. Momentum is slowing growing. It is now regularly used to deliver speeches at openings of conferences and other events. I've documented well over 100 such speeches. There are early signs that the language is beginning to spread beyond the formal Kaurna programs. Of course, progress is slow.

I was wondering if readers of the SSILA Bulletin know about similar cases in North America. Have any of you had contact with groups trying to revive their languages from written records? Has anyone heard anything about Timucua, Tunica-Biloxi, Wampanoag or Pequot, who I believe are trying to revive their languages?

I am particularly interested in knowing what is happening with Huron. I understand that they're trying to learn it on the basis of Jesuit documents. I saw Mark Abley's (1992) article in the Times Literary Supplement but haven't been able to find out anything further, and attempts to search for stuff on the Internet have been fruitless. Among other things, I would like to get in touch with Mark Abley.

Is there any literature on the topic that you can point me to? I have Leanne Hinton's Flutes of Fire (1994) and some of the Hebrew and Cornish literature, but I haven't been able to find many articles on these kinds of activities in North America. What about Central America or South America? Is anyone aware of anything like this happening down there?

Rob Amery
Linguistics, University of Adelaide
SA 5005, Australia

Cheyenne

>From Wayne Leman (wleman@mcn.net) 28 May 1997:

We can now state with certainty what is the origin of the word "Cheyenne." It does, indeed, come from a Sioux word, but that word means "little Cree." For further information on the linguistic facts here, and discussion of the other etymologies which have been suggested, visit my new page: <http://www.mcn.net/~wleman/origin.htm>

Wayne Leman

49.5 UPCOMING CONFERENCES

Workshop on Endangered Languages, York, England (July 26-27)

A Workshop on Endangered Languages will be held at the University of York, England, July 26-27, 1997, organized by the Foundation for Endangered Languages (FEL). Papers are invited on any aspect of linguistics that refers explicitly to language endangerment. The focus will be on the practical issues--not all obvious ones--that arise when the attempt is made to act on behalf of endangered languages. The Workshop welcomes case studies of individual areas, sociolinguistic surveys of areas with endangered languages, and discussion of programs and initiatives that serve to directly slow or reverse language endangerment, as well as of programs which raise the public awareness of the threat posed to global intellectual diversity.

For information on accommodations and registration, contact:

Mahendra Verma
Dept of Language and Linguistic Science
U of York
York YO1 5DD
England
(mkv1@york.ac.uk).

Abstracts and other queries should be sent to:

Mark Donohue
Dept of Linguistics
U of Manchester
Manchester M13 9PL
England
(mark.donohue@man.ac.uk).

Registrations are accepted until the conference itself, and should be directed to Mahendra. Abstracts for talks should be maximally 200 words long, and will be accepted either via hard copies, or (preferably) electronically. They will be accepted until June 10, and should be directed to Mark.

Int'l Conference on Linguistic Typology, Eugene, OR (Sept. 11-14)

The Second International Conference of the Association for Linguistic Typology (ALT) will be held in Eugene, Oregon, September 11-14, 1997. A number of papers on American Indian languages are on the program, most of them part of a Workshop on the Native Languages of Oregon. They include:

- Matthew Dryer (Buffalo), "Optional Ergative Marking in Hanis Coos"
- Noel Rude (Conf Tribes of the Umatilla), "Split Ergativity in Sahaptian"

- Janne Underriner (U of Oregon), "Adjectivals in Klamath"
- Timothy Thornes (U of Oregon), "Instrumental Prefixes in Northern Paiute"
- Scott DeLancey (U of Oregon), "Bipartite Verbs in Western North America"

Other Americanist papers on the Conference program are:

- Sidney da Silva Facundes (Buffalo), "Word order in Apurina (Maipuran)"
- Marianne Mithun (UC-Santa Barbara), "Noun and Verb in Iroquoian"

Many of the other 52 papers in the 3-day meeting will draw at least in part on American Indian language data. A special lecture will be also be delivered by Joseph H. Greenberg (Stanford U) on "The Relation of Historical Linguistics to Typology."

Registration fee for the conference will be \$20, which will be waived for students. There is no need for preregistration. For further information contact:

Scott Delancey
Dept. of Linguistics, U of Oregon,
Eugene, OR 97403
(delancey@darkwing.uoregon.edu).

For information on the Association for Linguistic Typology contact:

Johan van der Auwera
Linguistics, U of Antwerp
B-2610 Antwerp, Belgium
(auwera@uia.ua.ac.be),

or visit the ALT website at: <http://www.ling.lancs.ac.uk/alt>

California Indian Conference (February 27-March 1, 1998)

The 1997 California Indian Conference has been rescheduled from its usual October date to late February 1998. It will be held at Seven Hills Guest Center, San Francisco State University, Friday Feb. 27 to Sunday March 1, and will be jointly sponsored by SFSU (California Studies Program, American Indian Studies, Anthropology Dept.) and the California Indian Museum. 150 word abstracts for papers and proposals for special sessions should be submitted by January 15, 1998 to:

Lee Davis
Anthropology Dept.
San Francisco State Univ.
San Francisco, CA 94132.

49.6 E-MAIL ADDRESS UPDATES

[Since space limitations now make it difficult to include new and updated e-mail addresses in the SSILA Newsletter, this information will be regularly listed in the Bulletin from now on.]

New and Updated Addresses after March 27, 1997

Abbott, Mary Bates (NCN) ...ncn@ap.net
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