

**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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56.1 CORRESPONDENCE

Ojibwe dictionaries, on- and off-line

>From John Nichols (jnichol@ccm.umanitoba.ca) 26 Sept 97:

Re: Peter Bakker's note (SSILA Bulletin #55) about on-line dictionaries, SSILA readers should be warned that an Ojibwe dictionary claiming to be based on Nichols and Nyholm (1979), and most recently titled Ojibwewi-Ikidowinan: An Ojibwe Word Resource Book, is an illegal pirated version. No electronic version has been authorized by us. In the version I saw, many errors had been introduced by the copy typist. We attempted to stop the sale of a diskette version of this several years ago, but were not able to do so. They were charging hundreds of dollars for a bad copy. There appears to be no introductory information that lets users know that many citation forms in this dictionary are abstract stems, not actual inflected words. This electronic mess is not a reliable source of information on Ojibwe.

Sites offering an on-line Ojibwe dictionary, or links to it, should ensure that electronic reproduction has been authorized and that the dictionary has been competently edited and proofread.

Nichols and Nyholm (1979), meanwhile, has been completely replaced by Nichols and Nyholm, A Concise Dictionary of Minnesota Ojibwe, U of Minnesota Press, 1995. Buy a legal hard copy for the bargain price of \$10 and get accurate information! Most citation forms in this new dictionary are inflected words.

Suggestions about the design of a proper on-line dictionary would be appreciated.

--John D. Nichols
Department of Linguistics
University of Manitoba
Winnipeg, MB R3T 2N2 CANADA

URLs

>From Reinhold Aman (aman@sonic.net) 26 Sept 1997:

Here's a suggestion for the SSILA Bulletin. When you show a URL, please add <http://> to it, to make it "clickable." Without the <http://>, one must copy the URL, open the browser, and paste it before one can access or bookmark it.

-- Reinhold Aman
Maledicta Press
Santa Rosa, California

[Will do. --Ed.]

Poliespo?

>From (NGant914@aol.com) 28 Sept 1997:

There was a posting on NAT-LANG several years ago (in the NAT-LANG archives as <http://bioc09.uthscsa.edu/natnet/archive/ng/93/0017.html>) about a hybrid language, "Poliespo", that is supposed to be a cross between Esperanto and Cherokee. A book, Fundamentals of Poliespo was available at that time (1991) from "Global Network for Survival" in Freiburg, Germany, but the e-mail address given is long out of date.

Does anyone have any more recent information on Poliespo? Is the book still available? Does anyone know the current whereabouts of the inventor of the language, "N.I. Sequoya" (aka Billy Waldon)?

56.2 INDIGENOUS AMERICAN LANGUAGE STUDIES IN FINLAND

>From Frances Karttunen (frances.karttunen@helsinki.fi) 28 Sept 1997:

In the Spring term, 1998, Frances Karttunen, Bicentennial Fulbright Professor of American Studies at the Renvall Institute, University of Helsinki, will offer the following opportunities for studying Nahuatl:

* Beginning from the first week of February: weekly 2-hour meetings to discuss the grammatical structure of Nahuatl, Mesoamerican language area studies, the Uto-Aztecan language family, language and ethnohistorical research, and related topics. This will take place at the Department of General Linguistics.

* During the month of May: a Nahuatl-language intensive course for beginners and those wishing to review and consolidate previous knowledge of the language. The text for the course will be R. Joe Campbell and Frances Karttunen, Foundation Course in Nahuatl Grammar.

The May course is open to fifteen participants. Participants from outside the University of Helsinki are welcome. Academic credit can be arranged for those needing to transfer credit to a home institution.

There will be no charge for participation. Study material will be made available at cost. Purchase of a student card will provide discounts on university cafeteria meals. Partially subsidized housing for participants from outside Helsinki is under negotiation. There are no travel grants to Finland available from the Renvall Institute or the Department of General Linguistics.

Also during Spring 1998:

* Prof. Jan-Ola Östman of the Department of General Linguistics will offer an introductory course on the Hualapai (Yuman) language.

* Frances Karttunen will give a lecture course at the Renvall Institute on Endangered Language of North America (both indigenous and immigrant languages).

* There will be a number of researchers giving guest lectures and/or research seminars on American Indian languages at the Department of General Linguistics. For instance, Helena Halmari of Sam Houston University, Texas, will talk on Alabama and Coushatta/Koasati.

* Keith Batterbee of the University of Turku plans to bring together the several Fulbright scholars in Finland this year who share an interest in the indigenous peoples of the Americas with their Finnish

colleagues and the interested public.

For further information contact:

Frances Karttunen (frances.karttunen@helsinki.fi), Keith Batterbee (keibat@utu.fi), or Jon-Ola Ostman (joostman@ling.helsinki.fi).

There are also two Maya exhibits currently on in Finland. There is a small exhibit of Maya artifacts from Guatemala, complemented by maps, text, and a video made under the auspices of the National Geographic Society, and a modern Maya textile exhibit, at the Didrichsen Art Museum in Helsinki. In Tampere, the next biggest city in Finland, there is a much larger Maya exhibit, reported to be a very fine one indeed.

56.3 POSITIONS OPEN

* Phonetics/Phonology Position at U of New Mexico

>From Sherman Wilcox (wilcox@unm.edu) 30 Sept 1997:

The Department of Linguistics at the University of New Mexico seeks applicants for a tenure track Assistant Professor position beginning August 17, 1998, pending budgetary approval.

Minimum qualifications: specialization in phonetics and phonology; Ph.D. by date of appointment; program of research that is consistent with the functional and cognitive orientation of the Department.

Desirable qualifications: expertise in experimental phonetics or phonology; established record of research; research involving a language area of focal interest to the Department (Native American language--especially of the Southwest, a signed language, or Spanish); ability to contribute to core curriculum teaching; ability to communicate effectively with students and colleagues.

Interested candidates should send a letter of application detailing how they meet the position description, a curriculum vitae, samples of papers or publications, and names of three referees who have been asked to send letters of recommendation directly to the committee.

All application materials must be received by December 15, 1997. Send materials to: Search Committee, Dept. of Linguistics, Hum 526, University of New Mexico, Albuquerque, NM 87131-1196.

E-mail inquiries may be sent to Professor Joan Bybee, chair of the Search Committee, at jbybee@unm.edu.

The University of New Mexico is an Equal Opportunity/Affirmative Action employer.

* Syntax Position at U of Colorado

>From Barbara Fox (bfox@spot.colorado.edu) 2 Oct 1997:

The Department of Linguistics at the University of Colorado, Boulder seeks candidates for an Assistant Professor position in syntax. The successful candidate will demonstrate original contributions to syntactic theory, and will have thorough grounding in functional and formal approaches to syntax, including those that study interactions among semantics, pragmatics and syntax. Broad teaching interests and

proven successful teaching are also required. Strong research in one or more non-Indo-European languages, and interest in other areas of linguistics are highly desirable. Send application letter, resume and names and addresses of three references to Barbara Fox, Chair, Search Committee, Dept of Linguistics, University of Colorado, Boulder, CO 80309-0295, by December 1, 1997. Informal interviews at the LSA can be arranged.

We strongly support the principle of diversity. Applications from women, ethnic minorities, disabled persons, veterans and veterans of the Vietnam era are appreciated.

56.4 ENDANGERED LANGUAGE FUND ANNOUNCES AWARDS

>From Douglas Whalen (whalen@haskins.yale.edu) 1 Oct 1997:

The Endangered Language Fund is pleased to announce the recipients of its first round of grant awards. The Endangered Language Fund is a US nonprofit organization dedicated to the study and preservation of languages that are threatened with extinction. Through the generosity of its members, the ELF is able to promote work that would otherwise go undone. This year's ten grants were selected from a competitive field of more than 50 proposals, all with the goal of helping to stem the tide of language loss.

The projects are:

* Production of original television dramas in Choctaw and Creek.

Awarded to Alice Anderton of the Intertribal Wordpath Society. This project will produce two dramas starring native speakers of these two Native American languages, which are currently spoken in Oklahoma. Captioned versions will be shown on cable access channels, and video-tapes will be made available to the native speakers throughout the state.

* Making a rediscovered manuscript useful to the Comanche community.

Awarded to Ronald Red Elk, Comanche Language and Cultural Preservation Committee. In 1996, a manuscript dictionary of Comanche, containing over 4,000 entries, was discovered in the Smithsonian. With the help of the Endangered Language Fund grant, this work will be combined with other sources and corroborated with the remaining speakers of Comanche, so that future generations will have as complete a record of the language as possible.

* Recording the last two speakers of Klamath.

Janne Underriner, University of Oregon. As with many Native American languages, only the oldest members of the Klamath tribe can still speak the language. Younger members of the tribe have come to realize that this is truly their last chance to know this important part of their heritage. With the aid of this work by a professional linguist, the Klamath hope to preserve what they can.

* Further work on the Tohono O'odham (Papago) Dictionary Project.

Awarded to Ofelia Zepeda, University of Arizona and member of the Tohono O'odham Nation. This language is still the first language of most tribal members over the age of 25, but children are less likely to learn it.

When completed, the extensive dictionary will help reinforce the language skills of young parents and be a permanent resource to native speakers and others interested in the language.

* Recording the last fluent speakers of Kuskokwim in Alaska.

Awarded to Andrej Kibrik, University of Alaska. This little-studied Athabaskan language is down to three households which use it regularly. The linguistic work will aid in the teaching of the younger generation, especially through the audio recordings that will give a much better sense of the feel of the language than written sources can.

* Preserving Yuchi, a Native American isolate.

Awarded to Mary Linn, University of Kansas. Only nineteen fluent speakers remain of the Yuchi language. Once they are gone, the Yuchi tribe will be unable to learn more of their heritage, and linguists will be unable to solve the mystery of the last remaining language isolate of the Eastern US. Linn's dissertation work will help on both fronts.

* Work on the Wasur languages of Indonesia.

Awarded to Mark Donohue, University of Manchester. Language data collection will be conducted for several languages in a region that has only recently been officially recognized as a distinct ethnic region.

* Immersion programs in Micmac, Maliseet and Passamaquoddy.

Awarded to Karen Somerville, Gakeemaneh/Gignamoane, New Brunswick. The speakers of these Eastern Algonquian languages have joined forces to try to further the use of the languages by the young. The ELF grant will help purchase equipment for several language immersion programs that are being developed.

* Han language documentation project.

Awarded to Gary Holton, University of California, Santa Barbara. Han, an Alaskan Athabaskan language, has only a handful of native speakers, only one of whom is younger than sixty. This language is unusual in having preserved all four consonant series of proto-Athabaskan, yet it has only recently been recognized as a separate language. Holton's dissertation work will help solidify its position.

* Preparing language materials for Jingulu of Australia.

Awarded to Rob Pensalfini, MIT. Only about ten fluent speakers remain of this language, which is situated in the region between two major

language families. Influences of both those families appear in the language, giving it many unique characteristics. Texts and a dictionary are being prepared, and the schools there are ready to make use of them.

These grants totalled \$10,000 in awards and were made possible only because of the generosity of our members. No more proposals will be accepted for 1997. The 1998 Request for Proposals will appear later this autumn.

For more information about the Endangered Language Fund, please write: Endangered Language Fund, Department of Linguistics, Yale University, New Haven, CT 06520 USA (e-mail: elf@haskins.yale.edu). Or visit their website: <http://sapir.ling.yale.edu/~elf/index.html>

56.5 TERRALINGUA NEWSLETTER, WEBSITE

Terralingua Newsletter, the electronic publication of "TERRALINGUA: Partnerships for Linguistic and Biological Diversity", distributed its fifth issue on September 26. As of this issue, the newsletter is under the editorship of Anthea Fallen-Bailey, one of the co-founders of Terralingua, and a graduate student in Geography at the U of Oregon. A major update has also been made in the Terralingua website. The page on Internet resources related to linguistic diversity has been greatly expanded, and there are new translations of the organization's statement of purpose (into Icelandic and Votic, provided by member Ferenc Valsczy). The URL is:

<http://cougar.ucdavis.edu/nas/terralin/home.html>

For further information about Terralingua and its work write P.O. Box 122, Hancock, Michigan 49930 (e-mail: anfallen@ursula.uoregon.edu, or gws@mail.portup.com).

56.6 NEW WEBSITES OF INTEREST

* Cheyenne & Arapaho

The Cheyenne and Arapaho Tribes of Oklahoma now have an official Website at (<http://www.cheyenneandrapaho.org/>). Language pages are maintained for both Cheyenne and Arapaho. The Southern Cheyenne page is:

<http://www.cheyenneandrapaho.org/cheylang.html>

The page for the Arapaho language is:

<http://www.cheyenneandrapaho.org/araplang.htm>

The pages for both languages have links to lists of nouns, numbers, birds, etc.

People interested in Cheyenne can also visit linguist Wayne Leman's Cheyenne Language Web Site (<http://www.mcn.net/~wleman/cheyenne.htm>). Wayne has a page at this site where he discusses the differences between Northern Cheyenne (spoken in Montana) and the Oklahoma variety:

<http://www.mcn.net/~wleman/dialects.htm>

* Learning Endangered Languages

The Endangered Languages Fund (see item #56.4 above) maintains a page listing regularly taught courses in endangered languages. Many of these are (North) American Indian languages. The URL is:

<http://sapir.ling.yale.edu/~elf/study.html>

Other information of a similar nature (but more concerned with language pedagogy generally) can be found at the University of Minnesota Less Commonly Taught Languages page:

<http://carla.acad.umn.edu/lctl/lctl.html>

* Learning Nahuatl

People interested in learning Nahuatl--or learning about it--can have many of their FAQs answered by visiting "How Can I Learn Nahuatl?" at:

<http://www.public.iastate.edu/~rjsalvad/scmfaq/nahuatl.html>

You'll find serious information about teaching and reference grammars and dictionaries, collections of texts, pedagogical materials, SIL's work, immersion courses in Mexico, and how to subscribe to the NAHUAT-L list.

This useful website is maintained by two very sharp guys (computer scientist Victor Mendoza-Grado and Iowa State agronomist Ricardo J. Salvador). Mendoza-Grado maintains a number of other sites, including an interesting one with data on Pre-Columbian Mesoamerican calendars (<http://www.ironhorse.com/~nagual/calendar/>), and another on the Codex Mendoza (<http://www.ironhorse.com/~nagual/codex/>).

* URL change for Cahto site

The URL for Bill Anderson's Cahto (California Athabaskan) Home Page is changing (see Bulletin #52.4). The new URL is:

<http://www.geocities.com/Athens/Parthenon/6010>

56.7 E-MAIL ADDRESS UPDATES

Anderson, William R.wranders@iname.com
Bender, Margaretmcbender@ou.edu
Gomez de Garcia, Julegarciajm@spot.colorado.edu
Guillaume, Antoine.....antoine@darkwing.uoregon.edu
Holsinger, David J.djholsin@students.wisc.edu
Karttunen, Francesfrances.karttunen@helsinki.fi
Malone, Terrymalone_hotz@sil.org
Nelson, Tiffany.....nels1005@maroon.tc.umn.edu
Wodarg. Ankeawodarg@u.arizona.edu