

**The Society for the Study of the
Indigenous Languages of the Americas**

SSILA BULLETIN

An Information Service for SSILA Members

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Correspondence should be directed to the Editor

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67.1 CORRESPONDENCE

Wahsega

- From William Bright (william.bright@colorado.edu) 6 May 1998:

Regarding Linda Wolffe's query about the Georgia placename "Wahsega" (SSILA Bulletin #66.1): I'm compiling a book on US place names of American Indian origin, so I found this question interesting. The name "wahsega" doesn't seem to be in Krakow's 1994 book on Georgia place names, and I can only guess that it might be from Cherokee or one of the other Indian languages that were originally spoken in Georgia. However, it's also possible that it was transferred from the town of Watseka, Illinois, with a change in spelling. In fact the Illinois name has been applied to places in several other states. Supposedly Watseka was originally the name of a Potawatomi Indian woman, born in Illinois around 1810, and she in turn was named after the heroine of a Potawatomi legend. The word may mean something like "beautiful woman".

~Bill Bright
Boulder, Colorado
(william.bright@colorado.edu)

Inuktitut spatial terms

- From Hilary Young (hilaryy@ruf.rice.edu) 8 May 1998:

I'm beginning a project on Inuktitut spatial terms and am looking for any resources that might be useful. In particular, I'll be exploring the 'in front of'/'behind' relation in a Cognitive Grammar framework. I have Spalding's Inuktitut grammar, Fortescue's West Greenlandic grammar, Denny's article on spatial deixis, and I know of Cornillac's 'Systematique des constructions lexicales en inuktitut', Paillet's 'Deixis et representation de l'espace en Inuktitut' and Lowe's 'De l'espace au temps en Inuktitut'. If anyone knows of other resources on spatial terms in Eastern Arctic (or related) languages, I'd appreciate hearing from you.

~Hilary Young
Rice University, Houston, Texas
(hilaryy@ruf.rice.edu)

Support needed for Russian researcher

- From Nikolay B. Vakhtin (vakhtin@eu.spb.su) 12 May 98:

The Ethnology Department of the European University at St. Petersburg, Russia has a post-graduate student doing research on pre-Columbian cultures of South America, Ecuador and Columbia. She works with museum collections mostly, but it is important for her research to have an opportunity to do fieldwork in the area. She is looking for someplace to apply for a grant to support her travel to South America and stay for a period of one month or longer, or a position of any kind in the area. A part-time job of any sort which could support her during her stay there would be also a possibility. She speaks fluent English and some Spanish. A detailed CV is available on request. Does anybody have an idea how to help her?

~Nikolay Vakhtin
Vice-Rector, EUSPb
(nikolay@vakhtin.spb.su)

Hopi Dictionary

- From Henry Szymonik (heszy@jetcity.com) 15 May 1998:

I just spoke with someone at the University of Arizona Press and learned that the long delayed _Hopi Dictionary - Hopiikwa Lavaytutuveni: Hopiikwa Lavaytutuveni: A Hopi-English Dictionary of the Third Mesa Dialect_ is finally available. It may be ordered from your local bookstore or directly from the U of Arizona Press (1-800-426-3797; <http://www.uapress.arizona.edu>).

~Henry Szymonik

67.2 NATIVE LANGUAGE TEXTS NEEDED FOR TEACHING GUIDE

- From Bret Gustafson (bret@cidis.scbbs-bo.com) 4 May 98:

In coordination with the Programa de Educacion Intercultural Bilingue-Andes (PROEIB-Andes), located at the University of San Simon, Cochabamba, Bolivia, and the GTZ, we are working on a guide for indigenous language teachers for mother tongue education in bilingual-intercultural education programs in South America. I am submitting this call for collaboration for interested indigenous writers or specialists to contribute short texts (from a few lines of poetry or dialogue to short stories), with interlinear translation, for use as "examples" and demonstrative texts for illustrating different methodologies of primary level education for indigenous children, in native languages. Short samples of child-written text from school contexts are especially welcome, as well as original (short) creations from indigenous writers. Samples of native-language newspapers, publications, songs, translations of legislation, and otherwise are also desirable for illustrating expansive domains for L1. Contributors will of course be cited and credited, although there are no provisions for paying publication rights for material previously published. Any assistance would be appreciated. The book is written by Viviana Galdames, Aida Walqui, and Bret Gustafson, with coordination by Luis Enrique Lopez. It will serve primarily as a methodological guide, in terms of pedagogical, linguistic, and cultural issues in contexts of native language teaching in indigenous schooling. PROEIB-Andes is focused on the Andean region (Colombia, Ecuador, Peru, Chile, and Bolivia), although sample texts and contexts from throughout the Americas will be taken into consideration (especially Guatemala and Mexico, as well as North America). SE SOLICITA TEXTOS EN LENGUAS ORIGINARIAS PARA MANUAL DE L1 EN EIB. En coordinacion con el Programa de Educacion Intercultural Bilingue-Andes (PROEIB-Andes) ubicado en la Universidad de San Simon, Cochabamba, Bolivia, y el GTZ, estamos elaborando un manual para la ensen~anza de lenguas maternas indigenas en contextos de educacion bilingue en America Latina. Esta nota es una llamada para escritores indigenas o especialistas para contribuir textos cortos (sean unas lineas de poesia o dialogo hasta cuentos cortos), con traduccion interlineal, que se utilizaran como textos ejemplares y demostrativos para ilustrar diferentes metodologias pedagogicas para la educacion basica en escuelas indigenas. Textos escritos por nin/as son especialmente solicitados, asi como contribuciones cortas originales de escritores indigenas. Ejemplos de periodicos en lenguas nativas, publicaciones, canciones, traducciones de documentos oficiales u otros tambien buscamos, para ilustrar dominios expansivos de L1. Las contribuciones seran creditadas y citadas, aunque no hay provisiones para el pago de derechos de autor u otro. Cualquier apoyo sera muy agradecido y contribuira a un vacio grande en el campo de la EIB. El libro sera escrito por Viviana Galdames, Aida Walqui, y Bret Gustafson, coordinado por Luis Enrique Lopez. Servira primariamente como una guia metodo-logica para maestros indigenas, con consideraciones pedagogicas, linguisticas y culturales en contextos de ensen~anza de lenguas nativas. PROEIB-Andes esta centrado en la region andina, aunque textos de cualquier contexto indigena son bienvenidos (especialmente tambien Guatemala y Mexico, y Norte America).

~Bret Gustafson

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67.3 HISTORICAL LINGUISTICS CONFERENCE AT UBC IN 1999

From ICHL XIV (ichlxiv@unixg.ubc.ca) 1 May 1998:

The 14th International Conference on Historical Linguistics (ICHL XIV) will take place August 9-13, 1999, at the University of British Columbia, Vancouver, BC, Canada. Papers are invited on any topic in historical linguistics relating to any language or language family. Papers which address the question of "Problems for Historical Linguistics in the Twenty-first Century" are particularly welcome. Abstracts of no more than 250 words should be submitted (preferably via e-mail) before October 15, 1998. Proposals for workshops or special sessions are also welcome. Those wishing to organize a workshop should send their proposals to the Conference Organizer by the end of June 1998. Workshop organizers are responsible for soliciting/inviting papers. One day of the conference will be devoted to workshops. To receive the Second Circular, or for further information, contact the Conference Organizer:

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67.4 SOLAR POWER IN THE FIELD

Last month, Maria Eugenia Villalon (Caracas, Venezuela) wrote to the Bulletin with the following query:

Not long ago I saw a commentary about someone using solar batteries with a lap top. The person reported that they had worked well on the field. Do you have any information on such batteries? Where to get them? Whether they work with all lap tops?

Thanks to Tom Payne at the U of Oregon, we were able to get the following information from one of SIL's computer consultants:

- From Ernie Warnick (ernie_warnick@sil.org) 8 May 1998:
Many of our linguists are getting along on a single panel system using the following equipment:
1. One MSX60 solar panel
 2. One 12volt deep cycle battery
 3. One M-8-12v charge controller
 4. Fifty feet of 2 #16 cable
 5. One Prowatt 150 watt inverter

This system will provide about 300 watt hours per day which will run a 50 watt lap top computer 6 hours per day for each 6 hours of sunshine. This equipment will cost about \$600.

Please let us know if we can help you with any way with your questions on solar systems.
Glad to send you a catalog if you will send us your address

~Ernie Warnick
(ernie_warnick@sil.org)
704/843-6012

67.5 SOUND SYMBOLISM GROUP FORMING

From: Zylogy (Zylogy@aol.com) 16 May 1998:

Just letting you know an organization is in formation to serve folks interested in sound symbolism and other aspects of linguistic non-arbitrariness. So far we've got 32 signed on, many of them Americanists. If this sounds like something you'd like to participate in, or if you have any questions, please let me know.

~Jess Tauber
(zylogy@aol.com)

67.6 WEBSITES OF INTEREST

B.C. news story

- From Dennis King (donncha@eskimo.com) 6 May 1998:

Some of you might be interested in reading an article, primarily about efforts being made to preserve native languages of British Columbia, that appeared in the *_Vancouver Sun_* on Sunday, May 3: "At a loss for words" by Stephen Hume. The text is available online at: <http://www.vancouver.sun.com/newsite/notebook/1682233.html>

~Dennis King
Seattle, Washington
(donncha@eskimo.com)

Salish Conference site

- From Deryle Lonsdale (lonz@byu.edu) 7 May 1998:

As announced in SSILA Bulletin #65.4 the 33rd International Conference on Salish and Neighboring Languages will be held at the University of Washington, Seattle, August 5-7, 1998. Information on conference organizers, housing, submission, deadlines, and formats is now available on the web at: <http://humanities.byu.edu/icsnl/icsnl.htm>
Papers on all aspects of the study, preservation, and teaching of Salish and neighboring languages are welcome.

Mark Rosenfelder's pages (and others)

Mark Rosenfelder, a computer programmer from Oak Park, Illinois, who is an avocational linguist in his spare time, maintains a website with some very interesting "Languages and Linguistics" pages. The URL is: <http://www.tezcat.com/~markrose>
One of these pages has already been noted here ("The numbers 1 to 10 in over 2500 languages", cf. SSILA Bulletin #65.3). Also at the site are lucid and informative pages on "Fun facts to know and tell about Quechua" and "Amerindian words in English", and a very sane statistical investigation of the question "How likely are chance resemblances between languages?" (answer: "Quite likely, really"). The site also has grammars (and lexicons) of two thoroughly believable made-up languages, one of which, "Kebreni", resembles Marc Okrand's "Klingon" in having a grammar which deviates any way it can from English.

Fans of made-up languages should also know about the site maintained by Dirk Elzinga, a linguistics graduate student at the U of Arizona. Dirk is writing a dissertation is on Gosiute (Numic) and has been inspired to construct a language he calls "Tepa" that is based on the Numic languages. A grammar of Tepa is online at: <http://www.u.arizona.edu/~elzinga/tepa.html>

~V.G.

67.7 E-MAIL ADDRESS UPDATES

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